

Bill # LD 2010-102

Bill Sponsor: Samuel Putney

Bill Co-Sponsor: Devin Ward, Casey Thornton, Pat Brown

School / Club / YMCA: Maine School of Science and Math

Endorsed By: Sharon Gerrish

Fiscal Impact: \$ +\$20,000,000

Referred to the Committee on: Business & Labor

An Act Relating To:

Support for Local Food Retail Sales Businesses

Bill Summary:

The State of Maine will give local retail food sales businesses an economic advantage over supermarkets such as Shaw's Star-Market and Hannaford by regulating sales tax.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2010 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** The State of Maine will issue a 2% sales tax on food sold at large grocery stores based outside of the state or that have more than 5 locations worldwide.
3. **SECTION 2:** 66% of the revenue created by this bill will be granted to small, local business owners and entrepreneurs to quickly boost growth of their businesses. This is to assure that the citizens of Maine will be able to comfortably begin shopping at local stores without feeling any financial pressure from the new taxes at the supermarkets they may frequent.
7. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Local foodservice businesses in Maine and throughout the United States have difficulty competing with large, public corporation department stores and supermarkets such as Wal-Mart.
10. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Many people drive longer and further to shop at larger stores because the closer, local stores have gone out of business or do not have as large a selection of items.
12. Giving local stores an advantage will help to greatly reduce the burning of fossil fuels in the state of Maine.
14. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In the year 2002, an estimate of \$16,053,515,000 worth of retail goods were sold within the state of Maine. The Maine State Planning Office estimates that 25% of retail sales in Maine are sales of food, or approximately \$4000,000,000/yr.
17. **STATEMENT OF OPINION:** Large supermarkets are an asset to the State of Maine because of the jobs they create. However, there is a balance that can be met to allow local businesses to thrive without hurting or intimidating larger businesses. One intention of this bill is that jobs will be slowly redistributed into local business in a controlled manner.
21. **FISCAL IMPACT:** Assuming that 75% of the foodservice goods sold in the state of Maine were sold at larger, chain grocery stores, the 2% tax issued on those goods will produce a positive revenue of approximately \$60,000,000 for the state. Therefore, \$40,000,000 will be set aside to support local businesses, while \$20,000,000 will go to the state.
25. **REFERENCES:**
26. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/23000.html>
27. http://choosebangor.com/assets/Retail_Sales.pdf

Bill # LD 2010-208

Bill Sponsor: Zachary Lounsbury

Bill Co-Sponsor: Mackenzie Brogan, Caitlin Dunn

School / Club / YMCA: Kennebunk High School

Endorsed By: Christopher Babbidge

Fiscal Impact: \$ +/- \$120,000

Referred to the Committee on: Education

An Act Relating To:

The establishment of weekly late starting school days for all secondary schools in Maine.

Bill Summary:

This bill will enact a law which establishes a late start day in all secondary (middle and high) schools.

One day every week, all secondary schools in the state of Maine will start between 1 hour and fifteen minutes to 1 hour and forty five minutes late, allowing students to sleep in, and giving time for staff to hold meetings, workshops, conferences, or preparation periods.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2010 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** The State of Maine will mandate that one set day every week, High Schools and Middle Schools will start their school day late.
2. **SECTION 2:** The school day, for students, will be delayed between 1 hour and 15 minutes to 1 hour and 45 minutes.
3. **SECTION 3:** On these late start days, the school day will end at the regular time.
4. **SECTION 4:** Teachers and staff will be mandated to work the same school hours, using the free hours for teacher workshops and/or conferencing and/or preparation.
5. **SECTION 5:** The school district will pick a week day that will be the designated late start day for the school year.
6. **SECTION 6:** Bus routes will be kept the same, but delayed an equal amount of time to accommodate the late arrival time for students.
7. **SECTION 7:** The salaries of staff that will not have changed work hours will not be affected.
8. **SECTION 8:** The above law will become effective August 1, 2010, preceding the 2010 – 2011 school year.
9. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Lack of sleep, especially in students, has many detrimental effects. Not getting between 8 and 10 hours of sleep every night will cause consequences such as a higher aptness to contract illness, higher stress levels, lower academic performance, poorer driving, and increased mental health issues. Giving students one day to allow their body to fully rest is essential in allowing them to live a healthy lifestyle.
10. **FISCAL IMPACT:** Theoretically, the cost of implementing this law would be minimal to nothing.
11. Considering there may be some inconvenience caused by this change, one can approximate a maximum of \$1,000 cost per school district. If there are approximately 120 school districts in Maine, the fiscal impact may lie around \$120,000.00
12. **REFERENCES:** <http://www.uhs.uga.edu/sleep/index.html>,
13. <http://www.maine.gov/education/schools/sau.htm>

Bill # LD 2010-309

Bill Sponsor: Gregory Ramey

Bill Co-Sponsor: Darius Haskell

School / Club / YMCA: Maine School of Math and Science

Endorsed By: Sharon Gerrish

Fiscal Impact: \$

Referred to the Committee on: Financial Affairs

An Act Relating To:

Amend the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, MRSA Title 32, Chapter 109-A

Bill Summary:

To amend the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act(FDCPA) to define both original creditors and Attorneys-at-law as debt collectors, and to partially redefine validation of a debt.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2010 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** §11003. Exclusions. 4. Officers or employees of a creditor. Any officer or employee of a creditor while, in the name of the creditor, collecting debts for that creditor;
3. **SECTION 2: §11003.** Exclusions. 6. Attorneys-at-law collecting debts on behalf of a client.
4. **SECTION 3: §11014.** Validation of debts. 1. Written Notice. F. A copy of a document signed by a representative employed by the original creditor. The document shall include the following; the date the debt first became delinquent, the amount of the debt at the time of transfer to the collector, and proof that the original creditor has attempted at least twice to notify the debtor(s) of the delinquent debt before selling or assigning it to a third party.
9. **SECTION 4:** Original creditor defined-- the same definition used in §11002. Definitions, for 10. "Creditor".
11. **SECTION 5:** The modifications made to current law will become effective 30 days after this bill 12. is signed into law.
13. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** It is well known that debt collectors often use illegal collection tactics.
14. However, original creditors and Attorneys currently do not fall under the debt collector 15. category, even when collecting a debt.
16. **FISCAL IMPACT:** *Minimal* - The Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection is already in place 17. to enforce violations of the Maine FDCPA.
18. **REFERENCES:**
19. Maine Revised Statues, <<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/>>.
20. Federal Trade Commission, <<http://www.ftc.gov/credit>>

Bill # LD 2010-406

Bill Sponsor: Chris Plaisted

Bill Co-Sponsor: Chloe Barnett

School / Club / YMCA: Washington Academy

Endorsed By: Sam Leavitt

Fiscal Impact: \$ 1,261,000 maximum

Referred to the Committee on: Health & Human Services

An Act Relating To:

Taking Chalk Boards Out of all Schools in Maine

Bill Summary:

The use of all chalkboards within any school in the State of Maine will be forbidden. The use of dry erase white boards or any other similar dry erase material(s) will NOT be forbidden from being used in a school building. The State of Maine will provide \$1,500 to any school in Maine that can prove it has chalkboards that need replacing. The maximum fiscal impact of this bill will be \$1,261,000.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2010 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **PREAMBLE:** Chalk dust that results from using a chalkboard enters the air and circulates throughout the room. The result is that everyone in the room breathes in the dust. This dust then accumulates in the respiratory system and can aggravate or create a serious respiratory disease or complication such as asthma. If not treated quickly, an asthma attack can cause death.
2. **SECTION 1:** The use of all chalkboards within any school building in the State of Maine will forevermore be forbidden.
3. **SECTION 2:** The use of dry erase white boards or any other similar dry erase material(s) will NOT be forbidden from being used in a school building. The State of Maine will encourage all schools in Maine to install said dry erase boards and similar material(s).
4. **SECTION 3:** The State of Maine will provide \$1,500 to any school in Maine that can prove it has chalkboards that need replacing or resurfacing so that they may comply with the previous sections of this bill. The money will only be awarded to the school if said school can prove it has a chalkboard that needs replacing or resurfacing.
5. **SECTION 4:** Replacing defined – removing a chalkboard from a school building and putting a dry erase white board or similar dry erase material(s) in its place.
6. **SECTION 5:** Resurfacing defined – placing a new surface on an existing chalkboard so that it can be used as a dry erase white board.
7. **SECTION 6:** The above law will become effective on September first (1st), 2010. Schools will have until this date to replace or resurface their chalkboards. If any school does not comply with the above law, 1% of its state funding will be cut for every year that it does not comply. For example, if a school does not comply for 5 years, 5% of their funding will be cut that year.
8. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In the 1990's, concern over allergies and other potential health risks posed by chalk dust prompted the replacement of many chalkboards with dry erase white boards.
9. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** According to schoolnurse.com asthma is responsible for more total school absences than any other chronic health condition. Also, students who had asthma had more absences than those who didn't have asthma throughout the school year.
10. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** According to Mr. Steve Fitzgerald, director of classroom management at the University of Massachusetts in Boston's Twin Cities campus, "Electronic equipment in classes with blackboards have to be cleaned twice as often (as those with dry erase white boards) and rooms with chalk dust cost more to clean. Dust gets sucked into electronics, causing them to overheat and then fail. After 10 or 12 hours of use with chalk and blackboards, a room can get coated - literally - with white powder."
11. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The chemicals found in dry erase markers are only harmful to the human body if overexposure is experienced. Overexposure is only possible, however, if the user inhales the chemicals in close proximity to the tip.
12. **FISCAL IMPACT:** There are currently 836 schools in Maine. If all these schools needed the \$1,500 to replace or resurface chalkboards, the maximum fiscal impact would be \$1,254,000. An additional

38. \$7,000 for printing and publishing results in a total maximum fiscal impact of \$1,261,000.
39. **REFERENCES:** <http://maine.educationbug.org/private-schools/>
40. <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/2002indicators/maine/edlite-maine.html>
41. <http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/safety/MSDS/PENTEL-DRY%20ERASE%20MARKER.html>
42. http://schoolnurse.com/med_info/AsthmarelatedSchoolAbsences1202402253.html
43. <http://www.troydryerase.com/Chalk-Dust-Healthresearch.htm>
44. <http://www.wisegeek.com/is-chalk-dust-harmful.htm>
45. <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-the-history-of-the-chalkboard.htm>

Bill # LD 2010-508

Bill Sponsor: Hiba Bilal

Bill Co-Sponsor: Tyler Delano

School / Club / YMCA: Houlton HS

Endorsed By: Tim Tweedie

Fiscal Impact: \$

Referred to the Committee on: Justice

An Act Relating To:

Lagazation of Physician Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia

Bill Summary:

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2010 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** Voluntary Physician Assisted Suicide shall be legalized for terminally ill patients.
2. **SECTION 2:** If a person has been given an inoperable condition, he/she shall be given the choice ending their life.
4. **SECTION 3:** A terminally ill disease is described as an active and malignant disease that cannot be cured or treated and is reasonably expected to result in the death of a patient.
6. **SECTION 4:** In addition to prescription drugs, a physician should give a terminally ill patient the option of physician assisted suicide or euthanasia.
8. **SECTION 5:** Euthanasia is defined as a painless death and the lethal needle is given by a doctor.
9. **SECTION 6:** Physician assisted suicide is when the doctor provides the needle but the patient themselves injects it.
11. **SECTION 7:** Physician assisted suicide is a show of compassion. Compassion is defined as a desire to alleviate the suffering others.
13. **SECTION 8:** Every competent person shall be allowed to make an informed decision about what they want to happen to their body. This is call respect for autonomy.
15. **SECTION 9:** Physician assisted suicide allows for justice. In the case of terminally ill patients, they have the right to refuse medication so they can shorten their suffering, but for some this is not enough.
18. **SECTION 10:** Studies have suggested that the physician assisted suicide is already occurring, but in private. Legalizing it will allow for advancements in safety.
20. **SECTION 11:** A doctor's description is to alleviate the suffering of people. Physician assisted suicide does exactly this.
22. **SECTION 12:** Not allowing physician assisted suicide is a breach of the 8th Amendment. Forcing a person to live in pain is a form of cruel and unusual punishment.
24. **SECTION 13:** There must be two doctors overseeing the process of physician assisted suicide.
25. **SECTION 14:** In order to qualify for physician assisted suicide, one must be competent, have less than eight months to live, not be depressed or coerced into the decision.
27. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Oregon, Washington, Montana currently allow physician assisted suicide.
28. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** There have been no problems with any of the 129 physician assisted suicides that have taken place in Oregon since the law was enacted in 1998.
30. **REFERENCES:** <http://www.deathwithdignity.org/news/news/11.14.03.asp>

Bill # LD 2010-601

Bill Sponsor: Devin Ward

Bill Co-Sponsor: Casey Thornton, Patrick Brown

School / Club / YMCA: Maine School of Science and Math

Endorsed By: Sharon Gerrish

Fiscal Impact: \$ 1,000,000

Referred to the Committee on: Natural Resources

An Act Relating To:

To Revise the "Efficiency Maine Trust Act" (Title 35-A, Part 8, Chapter 97)

Bill Summary:

This bill will revise the "Efficiency Maine Trust Act". It will now include private Geothermal Energy Systems used for heating larger buildings. The repeal date will also be extended to 2012.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2010 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** Geothermal Energy Systems will be added to the "Efficiency Maine Trust Act".
2. **SECTION 1A:** A Geothermal Energy System is defined as, a system that uses steam taken from fractures in the ground to spin a turbine and drive a generator, a system that uses boiling water taken from the ground to obtain steam to run a turbine and generator, and a system that uses the heated water from the ground to boil another, environmentally safe, organic substance that will produce steam to spin a turbine and generator.
7. **SECTION 2:** Requirements for the Geothermal Energy Systems to be registered for the rebate are as follows.
 9. **SECTION 2A:** All Geothermal Energy Systems must include a system to return unused water to the ground to be reheated.
 11. **SECTION 2B:** The returned water must be of drinking quality, for the region of Maine the system is located in.
 13. **SECTION 2C:** The system must be installed by a certified master technician, and be inspected after installment by a different certified master technician for overall integrity and safety.
 15. **SECTION 2D:** The building or site being heated by the system must be more than 2000 square feet in area.
 17. **SECTION 2E:** OR the building or site being heated must have an overall yearly energy bill of over \$2000 for any method of heating.
19. **SECTION 3:** The repeal date will be extended to December 31, 2011.
20. **SECTION 3A:** The repeal date extension may be overridden if the program runs out of funding, or the program is not working properly by a two-thirds vote of both houses.
22. **STATEMENT OF OPINION:** Geothermal Energy Plants do not produce the suggested detrimental addition to a landscape such as wind and solar sometimes do.
24. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Geothermal Energy Plants can be put almost anywhere, where as solar and wind farms are usually specifically placed.
26. **RESOURCES:** <se.org/extensions/state_facts/fact_sheets/ME.pdf>,
<<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec10112.html>>,
<http://www.daviddarling.info/encyclopedia/D/AE_dry_steam_geothermal_plant.html>,
<<http://www.technologystudent.com/energy1/geo4.htm>>,
30. http://www.daviddarling.info/encyclopedia/B/AE_binary_cycle_geothermal_plant.html

