

# The ALLIANCE

Inside:  
2008  
LEGISLATIVE  
SCORECARD

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www.mainepeoplesalliance.org

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## MPA Members Help Pass Toxics Bill

This spring MPA and key allies added another victory to our growing list of groundbreaking chemical reform legislation. For the past six months, MPA and the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine led the fight to pass LD 2048, *An Act to Protect Children's Health and the Environment from Toxic Chemicals in Toys and Children's Products*. The passage of LD 2048 continues Maine's leadership in moving towards a statewide comprehensive chemicals policy that prioritizes public health and safety over chemical company profits.

Over the course of this year's legislative session, MPA members generated hundreds of phone calls to key legislators, held in-district meetings with elected officials, wrote opinion pieces in local papers, and came to the capitol to lobby. Our *TOXICS* continues on pg. 2

## Advocates Win Passage of Strong Minimum Wage Bill

A new minimum wage law, LD1697, will increase Maine's minimum wage from the current \$7.00/hr to \$7.25/hr later this year and to \$7.50/hr in 2009. Just as significant, the bill extends minimum wage and overtime protections to thousands of workers who did not have them before. It applies overtime protections to hotel and restaurant workers, and both minimum wage and overtime protections to domestic service workers and to employees of educational and publicly supported nonprofit organizations.

The original draft of the bill contained a larger wage increase, indexing to inflation, strengthened enforcement provisions, and a greater wage increase for tip earners—but those provisions were unfortunately stripped from the bill before passage. Still, national minimum wage advocates took notice, and MPA was proud to be part of a broad coalition that worked to pass this bill (which included the Maine AFL-CIO, Maine State Building and Construction Trades, MSEA-SEIU, Maine Equal Justice Partners, Maine Women's *WAGE* continued on pg. 2



MPA Executive Director Jesse Graham (second from right) watches the LD 2048 signing ceremony. Photo Courtesy of Steven Taylor.

## LD 1072: A Victory for Universal Healthcare

One of MPA's core goals is the establishment of a universal single-payer healthcare system. Under a single-payer system, while providers of healthcare remain private, the system of paying for healthcare becomes public — everyone pays into one pool, and there is one "single" payer that covers healthcare bills for everyone. In 2002, the State conducted a feasibility study of establishing a universal-single payer healthcare system in Maine and the study found that a single payer system would result in net savings in Maine healthcare spending within five years.

LD 1072 directs the legislative council to update the 2002 study with current numbers in time for next year's legislative session. After a very successful press event and passage by a wide margin in the House (90-52) in January, it took months for the bill to come up for a vote in the Senate. MPA leaders made it the focus of our efforts on our Lobby Day in February and we generated numerous letters to the editor and constituent calls into Senators to ensure the bill's passage. We celebrated when the bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 19-16 on April 16th. Now that the *VICTORY* continued on pg. 2

## LD 2247: Dirigo Healthcare Coverage Continues

This was the most important Dirigo Health bill during 2008 and was vital to the program's continuation. In order to continue coverage for the 18,000 people currently enrolled in the Dirigo program, the state needed to identify an enhanced funding formula this session. In the context of a difficult fiscal year for the state, that was a real challenge. Fortunately, the legislature did reach a compromise before the end of the legislative session. The passage of this bill guarantees that the 18,000 people now covered under Dirigo will not lose their coverage.

As enacted, the bill provides sustainable funding for Dirigo that will allow for limited new enrollment of small businesses and sole proprietors, perhaps as soon as late summer or early fall (unfortunately, the program will remain closed to individuals). Total enrollment is likely to remain at between 17,000 and 18,000. The bill replaces the Savings Offset Payment (SOP) with a more predictable funding strategy that includes a surcharge on health insurance claims and taxes on manufacturers of beer, wine, and soda syrup.

MPA's support was important for this *DIRIGO* continued on pg. 2

## Informed Growth Act Defended

Large retail stores often have negative effects on the communities in which they are located.

"Big-box" stores like Wal-Mart and Home Depot can hurt local economies by driving down prices, altering the labor market and putting local small businesses at risk. In 2007, the Maine legislature *IGA* continued on pg. 2

## LD 1047 and LD 1760: High Risk Pools Defeated

These bills attempted to establish a version of high-risk insurance pools, which are state-subsidized coverage for people insurance companies decide not to cover, usually due to preexisting conditions or age. Insurance companies love high-risk pools because they shift the responsibility of caring for the sick onto taxpayers and the state, leaving them to cover only the people least likely to need medical care and allowing them to make even more excessive profits.

These bills would have put anyone with a medical condition (identified by an insurance carrier) into separate high risk pool products (i.e., less coverage at higher rates), changed our community rating laws to make older people or people with identified medical conditions pay much higher rates, and changed our guaranteed issuance laws so that people with medical conditions would only have access to the high risk pool products. Many have said this was the most serious threat that we have faced to our consumer protections in years. MPA, along with the Consumers for Affordable Healthcare Coalition, was successful in educating legislators on why high risk pools are *not* real healthcare reform. In one night alone, we generated nearly 100 constituent calls to a group of legislators who were on the fence about these bills! Those calls paid off — both bills were defeated!

## Consumer Protection Bill Passes

This past April the legislature approved LD 2189, "An Act to Protect Homeowners from Equity Stripping during Foreclosure," sponsored by Rep. Charlie Priest. Maine People's Alliance supported this bill as a member of the Homeowners Protection Act Coalition (HOPA). The bill was the second successful effort by this broad coalition to pass legislation that addresses concerns about predatory lending and the mortgage crisis.

Predatory lenders disproportionately target low-income and working class people and communities of color with loans and foreclosure purchasing contract rules that make it impossible for people of limited income to save their home from foreclosure. Families end up faced with interest rates and fees that often lead to eviction and loss of equity accrued in the property. This law ensures that consumers are well informed about risky offers that propose to keep them in their homes and protect them from foreclosure. MPA was proud to work with allies to pass this important bill.

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## MPA is...

The Maine People's Alliance is a non-profit citizen action organization made up of more than 32,000 members. MPA's purpose is to involve citizens in our democracy and to strengthen individual participation in decision-making processes that affect our lives. We are dedicated to advancing economic, environmental, racial and social justice. We strive to involve all who share our values in our work for a better Maine.

### Our Board...

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### TOXICS continued from pg. 1

grassroots pressure in support of the bill was so strong that only nine legislators dared vote against the bill, despite the efforts of big business to stop it from becoming law. Chemical companies, pharmaceutical interests and toy manufacturers all took steps to kill the bill, but their attempts were in vain. In the end it was the people's voice that was heard above the rest, soundly calling for the protection of Maine children over corporate profits.

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to set policies that lead toward the elimination of toxic chemicals from children's toys and products. It focuses on chemicals already identified as being of high concern by independent scientists and prioritized as the "worst of the worst" based on children's exposure. Maine now requires out-of-state chemical manufacturers to disclose the use of these priority chemicals and can require the use of safe alternatives if they are available, effective, and affordable.

### VICTORY continued from pg. 1

bill has passed, work must be done with the Legislative Council to identify funding sources to conduct the study. This will be another big effort – but passing the bill is a major milestone in Maine's fight for universal single-payer healthcare!

### DIRIGO continued from pg. 1

bill's passage and the survival of the Dirigo program. At the bill's hearing in March, MPA presented individual stories from Dirigo enrollees talking about the life-saving impact of the program. While there is much still to do to build on the Dirigo Health program and expand coverage to even more people, ensuring that those already enrolled will be able to keep their coverage was an important victory.

### WAGE continued from pg. 1

Lobby, the League of Young Voters, Engage Maine, and the Maine Center for Economic Policy, among others). MPA would also like to recognize local activist Cliff Ginn for his part in passing this important law.

### IGA continued from pg. 1

passed the Informed Growth Act (IGA), a law that mandates that stores over 75,000 square feet must first fund a community impact study for citizen review. Completed by an independent research firm, the

study's findings give citizens the tools to choose what is right for their community. This year opponents of the IGA law attempted to allow municipalities to opt out of the law by referendum. MPA is a member of the Maine Fair Trade Campaign, which led a broad coalition of labor, community and environmental groups who worked tirelessly against the bill. Our coalition celebrated when LD1962 died between legislative bodies—proving that Mainers continue to favor informed, sustainable economic growth!

### Fusion Voting: Not This Year

A coalition of organizations including MSEA/SEIU, AFL-CIO, League of Young Voters and MPA supported LD 1799, the Open Ballot Voting bill. The legislation would have allowed different parties to nominate the same candidate, yet keep their own place on the ballot.

Given the variety of important items being debated this past session, it was not a surprise that open ballot voting, also known as "fusion" voting, did not get the attention it was due. Although the legislature did not find time to debate the bill (meaning it did not pass) we are proud of the work we did to build a foundation of support for fusion voting. We'll need to build upon this support, since the basic technical problem fusion helps us address—the "spoiler" and "wasted vote" dilemmas that otherwise plague third parties – is not going away. We are eager to work on this issue in the future and to ensure it gets the legislative attention it deserves.

### No Reprieve in Sight for Sick Workers

This past legislative session the Maine legislature disappointed working Maine families by not enacting LD 1454, a bill that would have given every Maine worker the right to paid sick days. Similar legislation either exists or is pending in 14 other states. Approximately half of full time, private sector workers lack paid sick days, as do 86% of employees in some of Maine's most important service industries.

The Maine Women's Lobby fought fiercely to pass this bill, and MPA members worked hard to help generate constituent calls and meet with key legislators. Unfortunately, corporate lobbyists succeeded in convincing legislators that it was not the government's responsibility to set workplace standards or to look after the well-being of low-wage families.

The Maine Women's Lobby and the thirty-five members of the Maine Work and Family Coalition (which includes MPA) are dedicated to achieving fair workplace standards for all Maine workers and we will work towards this goal every legislative session.

### Budget & HOME Fund

Our work around Maine's state budget continues to be one of the biggest ongoing challenges we face. Although MPA worked hard with allies to rescue some programs from the chopping block this legislative session, the reality is that the legislature ended up having the same backwards budget debate they have every year – a back and forth about whether health care is more worthy than education for kids or whether food and shelter are more important than mental health services.

The budget that passed significantly harms critical programs for people with mental illness, people with disabilities and k-12 education. Because the Governor and Legislature chose to rely solely on cutting programs rather than adopting a balanced approach that also included strategic new revenue sources and use of the Budget Stabilization Fund (savings which were deliberately set aside for this purpose), lawmakers put people, local governments, and our economy at increased risk.

The budget also allowed for multiple raids to the Housing Opportunities for Maine (HOME) Fund. We were especially disappointed about the HOME Fund raids made possible by passage of LD 262, the Historic Preservation Tax Credit bill, which raids over \$12 million from the HOME Fund over the next five years and thereby consumes a significant portion of the fund. Paying for LD262 through the HOME Fund will encourage expensive, luxurious homes, attractive to those who can afford it but inaccessible to many Mainers. This Fund has been dedicated to creating access to housing, but could now contribute to the opposite. MPA members will be working hard to hold accountable the legislators that made this bad choice for Maine communities.

### REAL ID: A REAL Problem for Immigrants and All Mainers

This past legislative session, the Department of Homeland Security succeeded in pressuring Governor Baldacci to begin implementing REAL ID by passing LD 2309. The REAL ID program opens the door to new costly and unproven identification technologies that threaten individual privacy and further strain state budgets.

Last year the legislature voted to reject REAL ID, putting Maine in the national spotlight. This year Homeland Security used scare tactics around undocumented immigrants and terrorism to shift support among legislators. This debate is a perfect example of how we all lose when we allow ourselves to be divided along lines of immigration status and race. MPA will continue its efforts to fight REAL ID and the myth that immigrants, documented or otherwise, are a threat to national security.

#### MPA: Our Values

For 26 years, MPA has worked on dozens of local, state and national campaigns. From holding corporate polluters accountable, to demanding affordable housing reforms, to organizing for universal health care, to standing up for human and civil rights, MPA members have joined neighbors and friends to stand up for the kind of world in which we want to live.

At the heart of all of our work is our vision of a country where individuals and families find strength through supportive communities; where all people feel shared responsibility for a better future; and where nobody is forced to make unfair decisions in a struggle to provide for the basic needs of their family. MPA members know that we are stronger when we work together than when try to go it alone.

We are 32,000 households strong and we win concrete improvements in Mainers' lives every year. Thank you for your support!

# MPA Legislative Scorecard 123rd Legislature, 2nd Session

Maine People's Alliance has always believed that voters should know how their representatives are voting on issues that affect their daily lives. Each session we choose a variety of bills that we feel represent issues of concern to all Mainers and put together a scorecard of the votes cast on these bills. Some of the bills were actively opposed or supported by MPA members, while other bills were priorities for allied organizations. The outcome of all these bills means a lot to the daily lives of Mainers.

Through this process we capture both House and Senate votes. There are many more bills that we did not capture but we urge readers to look up the voting record of your representative at <http://janus.state.me.us/Legis/LawMakerWeb/search.asp>; you can find the outcome of all bills submitted for the 123rd session through this site. Many MPA allies also produce similar scorecards, specific to their issues; for links to MPA allies' website, please visit: [http://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/aboutmpa/allies\\_and\\_partners.html](http://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/aboutmpa/allies_and_partners.html).

To compile our voting index, we select bills that have roll calls and that directly affect issues relating to MPA's core campaigns. After identifying the particular votes that best reflect a legislator's position on these issues, we mark a "+" for votes that MPA sees as the right choice and a "-" for incorrect votes. Unless officially excused from a vote on the roll call website, we consider missing a vote on an

important issue to be an incorrect choice.

It is important to note that not all bills have a floor vote or roll call. Legislators must request a roll call and a fifth of the body must agree. It is rare that a roll call is requested and denied but many votes go by without the request. Some very important legislation never makes it to a roll call or is voted down in one legislative branch, eliminating the need for a roll call in the other branch. There may be a House roll call on a bill and no recorded Senate vote on the very same bill, or vice-a-versa.

This past legislative session there were many standout performances in both the House and Senate. **Rep. Hannah Pingree** of North Haven sponsored the definitive toxics bill LD 2048 which will help to keep toxics away from Maine children. **Rep Ann Perry** of Calais co-sponsored LD 2048 as well as a variety of other bills aimed at keeping lead out of children's toys and protecting health care consumers. Always a friend of MPA, **Senator Phil Bartlett** continues to be supportive of our core issues and has demonstrated a career long dedication to renewable, clean energy sources that will bolster Maine's economy. **Rep. Emily Ann Cain** has always been receptive to MPA's goals, and this session helped protect the HOME fund by voting to fund low income rental programs elsewhere.



Sen. Phil Bartlett



Rep. Ann Perry



Rep. Emily Ann Cain



Rep. Hannah Pingree



### Heroes of the Senate

Senate members with a 100% rating, based on the 2nd half of the 123rd Legislature.

- Joseph Brannigan
- Beth Edmonds
- Lisa Marrache
- Margaret Rotundo
- Ethan Strimling

### Heroes of the House

House members with a 100% rating, based on the 2nd half of the 123rd Legislature.

- Herbert Adams
- Seth Berry
- Lawrence Bliss
- Andrea Boland
- John Brautigam
- Sheryl Briggs
- Richard Burns
- Emily Ann Cain
- Marilyn Canavan
- Michael Carey
- Herbert Clark
- Glenn Cummings
- Timothy Driscoll
- Robert Eaton
- Jane Eberle
- Sean Faircloth
- Charles Fisher
- Stan Gerzofsky
- Charles Harlow
- John Hinck
- Theodore Koffman
- Elaine Makas
- Boyd Marley
- Elizabeth Miller
- David Miramant
- Jacqueline Norton
- Peggy Pendleton
- Ann Peoples
- Ann Perry
- Hannah Pingree
- Benjamin Pratt
- Charles Priest
- Ann Rand
- Deborah Simpson
- Charles Theriault
- Sharon Treat
- Pamela Trinward
- John Tuttle
- Richard Wagner
- David Webster

### Maine Clean Election Act Made Stronger!

MPA worked with Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) to support passage of LD 2015—a bill that addressed the issue of candidates paying their spouse out of their Clean Election funds. The outcry over Barbara Merrill paying her husband close to 10% of her Clean Election distribution in 2006 made this an urgent legislative priority. The final version of the bill that passed is a broad ban on this practice (with one very narrow and appropriate exemption).

The battle to fully fund Maine's Clean Election Act will continue into the next session. Two Maine governors and legislatures have borrowed from the Clean Election Fund to pay for unrelated state programs, and that leaves a big gap for the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature to fill. With MPA's help, MCCE will mount a vigorous effort to make sure our public funding system is in place for the 2010 gubernatorial and legislative elections.



DON'T FORGET  
TO VOTE  
NOVEMBER  
4th.

#### KEY to the 2008 Legislative Scorecard

- + indicates a correct vote, in agreement with MPA's position;
- indicates an incorrect vote, not in agreement with MPA's position;
- X indicates the legislator was absent for the vote. Absent votes are scored as wrong because the legislator, by his or her absence, did not support MPA's position;
- E indicates the legislator was excused from the vote due to conflict of interest, written medical excuse, or was away on official legislative business. Excused absences do not count against a legislator;
- \ indicates the legislator did not hold office at the time.

## Hero of the House: Deborah Simpson



This past legislative session House Representative Deborah Simpson of Auburn has exemplified MPA values. As her voting record shows, she exhibits a great understanding of the issues facing Mainers and cares about the future. Rep. Simpson believes that government has a positive role to play in our lives and should guarantee all citizens' basic rights. She was inspired to run for office when she saw the lack of representation in Augusta for working families: there are "so many people still struggling to raise a family and work, and their views should be represented in Augusta." Rep. Simpson believes that health care should be a right, not a privilege. She supports the goals of the Dirigo Health legislation stating, "I am proud that, in the absence of federal action to solve our national health care crisis, in Maine we've moved toward a solution. For the 16,000 people Dirigo covers, it is working. With time we'll make it more efficient, cost effective and accessible to more Maine families and small businesses." Ultimately Rep. Simpson sees a universal single-payer system as the solution to Maine's health care crisis.

Simpson is serving her fourth term in the Legislature and her second term as House chair of the Judiciary Committee. We at the Maine People's Alliance would like to congratulate Deb Simpson on a not only getting a 100% on our legislative scorecard, but also for all the work she does for Maine people!



Dist #	Member	Party	123rd 2nd	123rd 1st	122nd	LD 1072	LD 1294	LD 1760	LD 2048	LD 1454	LD 2247	LD 1697	LD 2309	LD 1047	LD 1962
121	CYNTHIA A DILL of Cape Elizabeth	D	50%	75%	\	+	X	X	X	+	+	+	X	+	X
126	TIMOTHY E DRISCOLL of Westbrook	D	100%	100%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
13	ROBERT S DUCHESNE of Hudson	D	60%	100%	94%	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	X
18	MICHAEL E DUNN of Bangor	D	90%	88%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X
39	BRIAN M DUPREY of Hampden	R	0%	38%	6%	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	X
34	ROBERT N EATON of Sullivan	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
123	JANE E EBERLE of South Portland	D	100%	100%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4	PETER EDGECOMB of Caribou	R	10%	38%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	HAROLD IAN EMERY of Cutler	R	0%	13%	0%	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17	SEAN FAIRCLOTH of Bangor	D	100%	100%	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
130	DAVID W FARRINGTON of Gorham	D	90%	88%	88%	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
84	EDWARD D FINCH of Fairfield	D	70%	88%	88%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
85	DONNA W FINLEY of Skowhegan	R	20%	63%	\	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	JEREMY R FISCHER of Presque Isle	R	80%	100%	75%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X
21	CHARLES D FISHER of Brewer	D	100%	88%	81%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
29	STACEY ALLEN FITTS of Pittsfield	R	10%	25%	0%	-	-	-	+	X	-	-	-	-	-
54	KENNETH C FLETCHER of Winslow	R	10%	25%	13%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
82	PATRICK S A FLOOD of Winthrop	R	10%	50%	19%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
66	STAN GERZOFSKY of Brunswick	D	100%	88%	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
12	JEFFREY A GIFFORD of Lincoln	R	0%	13%	\	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	JAYNE CROSBY GILES of Belfast	R	10%	63%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
146	BONNIE S GOULD of South Berwick	R	10%	25%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	CHRISTIAN D GREELEY of Levant	R	10%	38%	6%	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	+
65	CAROL A GROSE of Woolwich	D	70%	100%	88%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	X
100	JAMES M HAMPER of Oxford	R	0%	25%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
59	STEPHEN P HANLEY of Gardiner	D	40%	88%	0%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	X	+
116	CHARLES W HARLOW of Portland	D	100%	100%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
117	ANNE M HASKELL of Portland	D	60%	63%	\	+	+	+	X	-	X	+	+	+	X
94	TERESE M HAYES of Buckfield	D	70%	75%	\	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
149	DAWN HILL of York	D	70%	75%	\	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
118	JON HINCK of Portland	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
132	GEORGE W HOGAN SR of Old Orchard Beach	D	90%	88%	81%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
1	TROY DALE JACKSON of Allagash	D	60%	75%	81%	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	+	-	+
139	LAWRENCE E JACOBSEN of Waterboro	R	10%	13%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	JOHNSON of Greenville	R	10%	100%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
83	PATRICIA JONES of Mount Vernon	D	90%	\	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9	HENRY L JOY of Crystal	R	0%	13%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
124	BRYAN T KAENRATH of South Portland	D	90%	88%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
81	L GARY KNIGHT of Livermore Falls	R	10%	63%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	THEODORE S KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor	D	100%	88%	75%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
75	SCOTT E LANSLEY of Sabattus	R	0%	25%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
148	SARAH O LEWIN of Eliot	R	10%	25%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	X
6	JACQUELINE A LUNDEEN of Mars Hill	D	77%	88%	81%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	E	X
61	W BRUCE MacDONALD of Boothbay	D	70%	100%	\	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
71	ELIANE MAKAS of Lewiston	D	100%	75%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
131	DONALD G MAREAN of Hollis	R	0%	13%	0%	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
114	BOYD P MARLEY of Portland	D	100%	88%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
47	EDWARD J MAZUREK of Rockland	D	90%	88%	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
127	JOHN F McDONOUGH of Scarborough	R	30%	50%	\	+	-	X	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
30	HOWARD E McFADDEN of Dennysville	R	10%	25%	0%	-	-	-	+	X	-	-	-	-	-
51	JONATHAN B McKANE of Newcastle	R	10%	50%	13%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	EVERETT W McLEOD SR of Lee	R	0%	13%	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
52	ELIZABETH S MILLER of Somerville	D	100%	100%	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
95	H SAWIN MILLETT JR of Waterford	R	10%	38%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
89	JANET T MILLS of Farmington	D	90%	100%	63%	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+
46	DAVID MIRAMANT of Camden	D	100%	88%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
102	GARY W MOORE of Standish	R	10%	25%	19%	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
97	ROBERTA M MUSE of Fryeburg	R	10%	63%	13%	X	X	-	+	X	-	-	-	X	-
144	JOAN M NASS of Acton	R	10%	63%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	JACQUELINE R NORTON of Bangor	D	100%	88%	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
92	JOHN L PATRICK of Rumford	D	70%	88%	81%	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	+
128	PEGGY A PENDLETON of Scarborough	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
125	ANN E PEOPLES of Westbrook	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
64	LEILA J PERCY of Phippsburg	D	90%	88%	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X
31	ANNE C PERRY of Calais	D	100%	75%	88%	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	E	+
50	WENDY PIEH of Bremen	D	80%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
133	DONALD E PILON of Saco	D	20%	100%	88%	+	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	+
87	RAYMOND G PINEAU of Jay	D	0%	38%	88%	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X
36	HANNAH M PINGREE of North Haven	D	100%	100%	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
88	WRIGHT H PINKHAM of Lexington Township	R	11%	25%	0%	-	-	-	+	E	-	-	-	-	-
45	JOHN F PIOTTI of Unity	D	90%	75%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+
111	GARY E PLUMMER of Windham	R	10%	38%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	BENJAMIN M PRATT of Eddington	D	100%	75%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
60	KERRI L PRESCOTT of Topsham	R	10%	38%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
63	CHARLES R PRIEST of Brunswick	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
120	ANNE M RAND of Portland	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
48	CHRISTOPHER W RECTOR of Thomaston	R	22%	63%	25%	+	-	-	+	E	-	-	-	-	-
23	DAVID E RICHARDSON of Carmel	R	20%	25%	0%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	WESLEY E RICHARDSON of Warren	R	10%	38%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
53	PETER L RINES of Wiscasset	D	90%	75%	81%	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+
103	JOHN C ROBINSON of Raymond	R	0%	38%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	KIMBERLY C ROSEN of Bucksport	R	10%	38%	19%	-	-	-	+	X	-	-	-	-	-
70	MARK PAUL SAMSON of Auburn	D	40%	88%	\	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
99	RALPH W SARTY of Denmark	R	10%	\	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	-	-	-
112	DAVID G SAVAGE of Falmouth	R	20%	25%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
90	THOMAS B SAVIELLO of Wilton	U	10%	43%	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	JAMES M SCHATZ of Blue Hill	D	90%	100%	81%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
56	KIMBERLY E W SILSBY of Augusta	D	33%	100%	\	E	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-

69	DEBORAH L SIMPSON of Auburn	D	100%	88%	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
96	LAWRENCE G SIROIS of Turner	D	90%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
80	NANCY E SMITH of Monmouth	D	80%	75%	81%	+	+	+	+	X	+	-	+	+	+
108	MEREDITH STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland	R	10%	38%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	PATRICIA B SUTHERLAND of Chapman	D	80%	88%	\	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
98	RICHARD M SYKES of Harrison	R	10%	25%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	JOSHUA A TARDY of Newport	R	10%	50%	0%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	CHARLES KEN THERIAULT of Madawaska	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
42	MICHAEL THIBODEAU of Winterport	R	10%	38%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	DOUGLAS A THOMAS of Ripley	R	0%	25%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	JOSEPH L TIBBETTS of Columbia	R	10%	25%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
79	SHARON A TREAT of Farmingdale	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
77	PAMELA J TRINWARD of Waterville	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
143	JOHN L TUTTLE of Sanford	D	100%	100%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
134	LINDA M VALENTINO of Saco	D	70%	100%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+
105	MICHAELA VAUGHAN of Durham	R	10%	25%	13%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
73	RICHARD V WAGNER of Lewiston	D	100%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
44	ROBERT P WALKER of Lincolnville	R	10%	50%	\	X	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
62	THOMAS R WATSON of Bath	D	90%	88%	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X
150	WINDOL C WEAVER of York	R	10%	25%	\	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
106	DAVID C WEBSTER of Freeport	D	100%	100%	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
41	LANCE WEDDELL of Frankfort	D	90%	100%	\	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+
151	WALTER A WHEELER SR of Kittery	D	90%	63%	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
107	RICHARD G WOODBURY of Yarmouth	U	40%	65%	\	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+

### Governor's Scorecard

Governor John Baldacci signed some important bills this session, including: LD1697 to increase the minimum wage, LD 2048 to start banning toxic chemicals in kids' toys, LD2247 to continue funding for DirigoHealth, and LD1072 to update the single payer feasibility study. We are glad that he stood with Mainers on these important issues. We are very disappointed in his decision to move Maine along the path toward implementing REAL ID. We hope he will show stronger leadership on expanding DirigoHealth in the 124th Legislature.

# 80%

Bill #	Vote
LD 1072	+
LD 2048	+
LD 2247	+
LD 1697	+
LD 2309	-



Governor John Elias Baldacci

### Bill Descriptions Pg. 7

### 2008 Portland Rising Tide Dinner



MPA staff and volunteers ready the feast!



Rep. Deb Simpson and Congressman Tom Allen pose for the camera.



Statewide Organizer Ben Chin talks with MPA members.



Rep. Hannah Pingree and Executive Director Jesse Graham discuss important issues.



Everyone enjoying the great food!



Ellis Paul gives a rousing performance!

# Bill Descriptions

More information on any of the following bills and the specific roll calls can be obtained by going to <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/lawmaker-web/search.asp>. From this site, you can enter any of the LD numbers and search the text of the bills, the amendments and any roll call votes.

Each bill description is followed by the final vote which led to its enactment or failure. *These votes are not necessarily the roll call showed in the scorecard above.* The scorecard is meant to show the nuanced distinctions between legislators, not necessarily the history of a bill's life or death. Each scorecard roll call was carefully picked and reviewed by MPA and its allies to demonstrate the definitive struggles within each bill. For example, while a bill may pass unanimously in the end, roll call votes on amendments prior, may be very telling.

*LD 1072: An Act To Establish a Single-payer Health Care System, sponsored by Rep. Paulette Beauoin*

LD 1072 allows for a study of the feasibility of establishing a universal single-payer healthcare system in Maine. The bill directs the Legislative Council to contract with a qualified consultant to update the 2002 study conducted by Mathematica Policy Research. Estimates from the 2002 Mathematicamodelindicatedthattheestablishment of a single-payer system in Maine would ultimately result in net savings in healthcare spending within five years. The updated study will be submitted no later than December 3, 2008 to the First Session of the 124th Legislature. MPA supported this bill and it was passed. The roll calls in the Scorecard are the final enactment votes. House: Yeas 90, Nays 52, Absent 9. Senate: 19 Yeas, 16 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 451, House # 205.

*LD 2247: An Act to Continue Maine's Leadership in Covering the Uninsured, sponsored by Rep. Hannah Pingree*

This was the most important Dirigo Health bill during 2008 and is vital to the program's continuation. The bill provides funding to maintain enrollment in the DirigoChoice Program at current enrollment levels. In addition, it creates a pilot project to offer a less expensive insurance package targeted at young adults, and it also establishes what is called a "reinsurance mechanism" in the individual health insurance market. The reinsurance mechanism would insulate insurers from major losses and thereby allow them to lower premiums for consumers without affecting the quality of the product they provide. MPA supported this bill and it passed. The roll calls in the Scorecard are the final enactment votes. House: 75 Yeas, 64 Nays, 12 Absent. Senate: 18 Yeas, 17 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 449, House # 423.

*LD 1294: An Act To Establish a Health Care Bill of Rights, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Treat*

LD 1294 aimed to make changes to the laws regulating individual and small group health plans to give patients more rights by regulating insurance company practices and placing greater controls on insurer profits and the rate-setting process. MPA supported this bill but it did not pass. The legislation did pass in the House, but in the Senate they took up the minority ought not to pass recommendation. By doing this they killed the bill. House: 85 Yeas, 58 Nays, 8 Absent. Senate: 25 Yeas, 10 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 454, House # 427.

*LD 1760: An Act To Restore Competition to Maine's Health Insurance Market, sponsored by Rep. Donald Pilon*

*LD 1047: An Act To Lower the Cost of Health Insurance, sponsored by Rep. Michael Vaughan*  
These bills attempted to establish a version of high-risk insurance pools, which are state-subsidized coverage for people insurance companies decide to exclude, usually due to preexisting conditions or age. Insurance companies love high-risk pools because they shift the responsibility of caring for the sick onto taxpayers and the state, leaving them to cover the people least likely to need medical care and allowing them to make even more excessive profits. MPA opposed both of these bills and they both failed. LD 1760 votes were as follows: House: 79 Yeas, 63 Nays, 9 Absences. Senate: 18 Yeas, 17 Nays, 0 absences. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 456, House # 428. Enactment roll calls are the same. LD 1047 votes are as follows: House: 78 Yeas, 60 Nays, 13 absences. Senate: 18 Yeas, 17 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 453, House # 397. Enactment roll calls are the same.

*LD 2048: An Act to Protect Children's Health and the Environment from Toxic Chemicals in Toys and Children's Products sponsored by Rep. Hannah Pingree*

LD 2048 authorizes and requires the Department of Environmental Protection to set policies leading to the elimination of toxic chemicals from children's toys and products. Specifically, the bill focuses on toxic chemicals already identified as being of high concern by independent scientists and prioritized as the "worst of the worst" based on children's exposure. Manufacturers will now be required to disclose the use of priority chemicals, and the State could require the use of safer alternatives if available, effective, and affordable. MPA supported this bill, and it passed. House: 129 Yeas, 9 Nays, 13 absent. Senate: 35 Yeas, 0 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 452, House # 422. Enactment roll calls are the same.

*LD 1454: An Act to Care for Working Families, sponsored by Rep. Jacqueline Norton*

LD 1454 would have guaranteed a minimum number of paid sick days for workers in businesses with 25 or more employees. Nearly one out of every two full-time workers in Maine is denied even one paid sick day, including Mainers working at corporations such as the Olive Garden, Sears, and K-Mart. MPA supported this bill, but it failed. House: 63 Yeas, 72 Nays 16 absent. No vote took place in the Senate. Scorecard Roll Calls: House # 340. Enactment roll calls are the same.

*LD 1697: An Act To Ensure Fair Wages, sponsored by Senator Ethan Strimling*

LD 1697 increases Maine's minimum wage from the current \$7.00/hr to \$7.25/hr later this year and to \$7.50/hr in 2009. The bill also extends minimum wage and overtime protections to thousands of workers who did not have them before. It applies overtime protections to hotel and restaurant workers, and both minimum wage and overtime protections to domestic service workers and to employees of educational and publicly supported nonprofit organizations. MPA supported this bill, and it passed. House: 77 Yeas, 65 Nays, 9 absent. Senate: 18 Yeas, 17 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate # 450, House # 414. Enactment roll calls are the same.

*LD 1962: "An Act To Amend the Informed Growth Act", sponsored by Senator David Hastings III*

This bill would have enabled municipalities to opt out of the Informed Growth Act (IGA) by

referendum. This victory not only ensures that ALL towns will have the tools they need to assess the impacts of a proposed big box store before permitting, but is an affirmation of the Informed Growth Act itself and its value to Maine. MPA did not support this bill, and it failed. In the Senate there was a vote on the ought not to pass report, which failed to get the necessary 18 votes. The same vote in the House prevailed, thus the bill died between bodies, in non-concurrence. House: 73 Yeas, 59 Nays, 19 absent. Senate: 10 Yeas, 25 Nays. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate #289, House #235.

*LD 2309: An Act to Enhance the Security of State Credentials Governor's Bill (sponsored by Boyd Marley)*

Otherwise known as REAL ID, this bill would alter Maine driver's licenses, making them adhere to new federal standards. The national program opens the door to costly and unproven identification technologies that could threaten individual privacy, further strain state budgets and further complicate our broken immigration system for immigrants. Last year the legislature voted to reject REAL ID, putting Maine in the national spotlight. MPA did not support this bill, but it passed. In final passage the vote was House: 79 Yeas, 58 Nays, 14 absent. Senate: 15 Yeas, 19 Nays, 1 absent. Scorecard Roll Calls: Senate #459, House #425.

## Helpful Resources

### To find your legislator:

House of Representatives: <http://janus.state.me.us/house/hbiolist.htm>

Senate <http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate/>

### For more information about these bills go to:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/LawMakerWeb/billtext-search.asp>

### To leave a message for your legislator:

House of Representatives: (800) 423-2900

Senate: (800) 423-6900



MPA members discuss the new Civic Engagement Plan at the 2008 Summer Retreat.



MPA members protest the beverage tax veto in Portland.



# No Thanks! Maine Wants Healthcare!

Right now, a group called the “Fed Up With Taxes” coalition, supported by special interest out-of-state beer and soda corporations (read: Pepsi...Coke...) is fighting fast and hard to collect enough signatures to repeal the new beverage tax.

### Why does this concern us?

First of all, these large corporations are meddling in local Maine business to keep their own prices low with no consideration for our state!

Second, this beverage tax goes 100% into funding health insurance for Mainers . Vetoing this funding could mean 18,000 adults and children lose health coverage, and an additional 40,000 Mainers could discover their coverage is unaffordable.

Here are the price increases:

- + Less than 3¢ for a bottle of beer
- + Less than 4¢ for a can of soda
- + Only 7¢ on an entire bottle of wine.

This bill does not raise taxes on milk, water or coffee.

This bill has not yet gone into effect. Recent price increases are going into beverage industry profits-not to help Mainers.

Ask everyone you know to tell the beverage companies:  
No thanks to the “beverage petition” to veto health coverage!

We know that most Maine people will say “no thanks” to signing this petition because the health of Maine kids is worth more than a few pennies on beer, wine, and soda. But we need your help to spread the word!

## Donate Your Stimulus Check!

Everyday, Mainers are finding it harder and harder to scrape together the money to take care of their families. People are forced to make tough choices between filling prescriptions or making mortgage payments, saving for college or putting gas in the family car.

President Bush is making choices too. He’s chosen to spend billions on the Iraq War and on bailing out corporate finance firms. He’s chosen not to help families in foreclosure or kids who need health insurance.

Just because the Bush administration’s priorities are upside down, doesn’t mean yours have to be. We are asking MPA supporters to donate part--or all--of their stimulus checks to MPA as soon as it arrives. This election year provides us with a unique opportunity to influence national priorities.

Invest in MPA. Invest in Democracy.  
Donate now at [www.mainepeoplesalliance.org](http://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org)

If you are interested in **volunteering** with MPA during this busy election year, please contact one of our organizers:

- Greater Portland:** Ali Vander Zanden, 797-0967
- Lewiston-Auburn:** Kate Brennan, 782-7876
- Greater Bangor:** Adam Goode, 990-0672
- Statewide:** Ben Chin, 782-7876

## SUMMER JOBS Activists, Students, & Others!

Work for social justice and the environment at Maine People’s Alliance. Help us to win on issues that matter to Maine: environmental protection, health care, affordable housing and more!

Full & Part-Time Career Opportunities  
\$300-\$450/Wk

**Call Charlie in Portland at 797-0967**  
**Call Ryan in Bangor at 990-0672**



### Receive your next Alliance by email.

Go to:  
[www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/alliance\\_signup.html](http://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/alliance_signup.html)  
and send us your email address. Then look for a link to the next Alliance (in PDF format) to arrive in your Inbox.



**Help MPA save money and paper.**