



## MMA 2024 Legislative Priorities

The Second Regular Session is scheduled to conclude in mid-April. Public Hearings for carry-over bills from 2023 and newly introduced legislation will begin in January 2024. Over 400 bills were carried over from the last session and several others will be introduced and approved by the Legislative Council for this upcoming second (short") session.

Beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>, the Maine Medical Association convenes a weekly joint-legislative call on Thursdays from 6-7 pm. with the Maine Osteopathic Association. The Maine Medical Weekly Update newsletter will include one weekly legislative summary article and one bill of interest article that will be up for discussion at the weekly legislative meeting. For those interested in learning how to get involved with MMA advocacy or would like to join the weekly legislative calls or sign up for the Doctor of the Day program please contact Sarah Lepoff, [slepoff@mainemed.com](mailto:slepoff@mainemed.com).

To support physician advocacy and MMA efforts at the State Legislature please fill out [our Key Contact Form](https://forms.gle/WSKRG5GwGq8pJtbo7), <https://forms.gle/WSKRG5GwGq8pJtbo7>.

### 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature Makeup:

- 186 Legislators; 131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature
  - 22 D, 13 R in Senate
  - 80 D, 68 R, 2 Independents, & 1 Vacancy in House
- 151 members of the House of Representatives, each representing ±8,800 citizens
- 35 Senators, each representing ±38,000 citizens
- All elected every 2 years for a maximum of 4 consecutive terms.
- Governor: elected every 4 years for a maximum of 2 terms
- Impact of term limit & MCEA public campaign financing laws

### TWO Physician Legislators:

- Representative Sam Zager, M.D. (D – House District 116, part of Portland)
- Representative Jane Pringle, M.D. (D – House District 107, part of Windham)

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) has identified several legislative priorities for 2024. These priorities include:

### State Issues

- Reducing administrative burden by improving the Prior Authorization Process (L.D.796), enforcing current law, and establishing a provider complaint process.
- Reducing youth tobacco use by banning the sale of flavored tobacco.

• **SUPPORT** Maine Physicians • **ADVANCE** the quality of medicine in Maine • **PROMOTE** the health all Maine people

- Expanding access to behavioral and mental health services.
- Protecting health data.
- Supporting and expanding the rural healthcare workforce in Maine.
- Increasing access to affordable and quality health care.
- Improving access to Substance Use Treatment.

#### Federal Issues

- Medicare payment issues: The MMA supports efforts to address Medicare payment issues to ensure that physicians are fairly compensated for their services.
- Health care reform: The MMA supports healthcare reform efforts that prioritize patient-centered care, reduce administrative burden, and improve access to care.
- Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates, National Harbor, MD, November 11-14, 2023: The MMA will participate in the AMA House of Delegates interim meeting to advocate for policies that benefit Maine physicians and patients.
- AMA National Advocacy Conference, Washington, D.C., April 12-14, 2024: The MMA will participate in the AMA National Advocacy Conference to advocate for policies that benefit Maine physicians and patients.

For more information or questions, please contact:

- Andrew B. MacLean, J.D. CEO: [amaclean@mainemed.com](mailto:amaclean@mainemed.com); 207-215-7462 (Mobile)

The MMA Legislative Committee will hold an organizational meeting in anticipation of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature on **Thursday, December 14, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m. at** the Frank O. Stred Building, 30 Association Drive in Manchester. The Committee will discuss the MMA's legislative agenda and priorities. Medical specialty societies are strongly encouraged to have one or more representatives at the meeting, and any interested members are also welcome. Please RSVP to Sarah Lepoff at [slepoff@mainemed.com](mailto:slepoff@mainemed.com) or 622-3374, ext. 213.

The MMA advocacy team monitors and influences hundreds of bills affecting the practice of medicine in Maine each legislative session. Our Legislative Summary of the highlights of the First Regular Session is available on the MMA website:

[https://www.mainemed.com/sites/default/files/content/2023%20Legislative%20Summary\\_8.4.pdf](https://www.mainemed.com/sites/default/files/content/2023%20Legislative%20Summary_8.4.pdf).

Additionally, MMA Staff are available to provide a Legislative PowerPoint presentation to groups and specialty societies.

***Thank you!***