



Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Committee

How to Look Up a Bill (LD#) and Understand the Process

Every bill submitted to the Maine Legislature goes through a formal process that begins before the public ever sees it. Here's how it works:

1. How a Bill Becomes an LD (Legislative Document)

- **Bill is Proposed by a Legislator:**
Any member of the Maine House or Senate can propose a bill. They submit a bill request (also called a "request to draft") to the nonpartisan Office of the Revisor of Statutes.
- **Bill is Drafted and Assigned an LD#:**
The Revisor's Office works with the legislator to draft the legal language of the bill. Once the draft is finalized and approved for introduction, it's assigned an LD number (Legislative Document number).
 - For example: *LD 315, "An Act To Support Small Businesses"*
- **Bill is Introduced and Referred to Committee:**
The bill is then introduced in either the House or Senate and referred to a Joint Standing Committee that handles related topics (e.g., Taxation, Health, Labor).

2. How to Find and Follow a Bill (Once It Has an LD#)

- **Go to the Maine Legislature's Bill Status Search:**
<https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/>
 - **Search using:**
 - LD number (e.g., *LD 315*)
 - Keywords in the bill title
 - Legislative session (*choose the current year*)
 - **Click on a bill to view:**
 - The full text of the bill
 - Sponsor and co-sponsor names
 - Committee assignment
 - Timeline of actions (*introduced, hearings, amendments, etc.*)
 - Links to testimony, amendments, and roll call votes (if available)
-

Helpful Tips for Members

- **Want to track bills related to your industry?**
Consider using keywords like “tax,” “labor,” “healthcare,” or “education” when searching.
- **Multiple versions of a bill?**
Some bills are reintroduced in new sessions with new LD numbers—check the year/session to be sure you’re following the current one.
- **Not sure where to start?**
Reach out to the Chamber for help identifying the high-impact legislation we’re following this session.