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Christopher J. Kessler

Maine

Representative, HD-121 (D)

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17
Lifetime Freedom Score

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ME Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote **Vote**

1. LD340 Speedy Trials (Passed 77 to 69 on 6/13/2025). Creates the “Maine Speedy Trial Act,” setting strict deadlines for when criminal trials must begin after arraignment, with shorter timelines phased in over several years depending on the severity of the charge. **YES** ★

2. LD260 Equal Rights Amendment (Failed 74 to 65 on 4/23/2025). Proposes adding an “Equality of Rights” amendment to the Maine Constitution.
Estimated cost per household: **-$0.55/year.** **YES** ✗

3. LD538 Abortion-drug-prescriber Protection (Passed 75 to 71 on 5/20/2025). Amends prescription-drug labeling rules to allow the prescriber’s name to be removed specifically for mifepristone, misoprostol, and their generic equivalents. **YES** ✗

4. LD1948 MaineCare Funding (Passed 93 to 50 on 5/20/2025). Enacts an emergency measure that immediately provides a one-time allocation of $117.6 million to fund MaineCare for fiscal year 2024-25.
Estimated cost per household: **-$191.00/year.** **YES** ✗

5. LD265 Defend the Guard (Rejected 109 to 33 on 4/24/2025). Prohibits Maine’s National Guard from being sent into active-duty combat overseas unless Congress issues a formal declaration of war. **YES** ✗

6. LD522 Status of Women Commission (Passed 82 to 63 on 4/15/2025). Requires the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to study how much gender segregation exists in Maine’s workforce. **YES** ✗

Scorecard Votes: 17%

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$290,897

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of June 12, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Speedy Trials

LD340 sets strict deadlines for when criminal trials must begin after arraignment, with shorter timelines phased in over several years depending on the severity of the charge. If a trial does not begin on time, the court must dismiss the case, either with or without prejudice, after considering factors such as the seriousness of the offense and victims input.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD340 on June 13, 2025 by a vote of 77 to 69. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because nothing should interfere with the Bill of Rights and, in this case, the Sixth Amendment guarantee that “the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial.” Despite concerns about staffing, resources, and potential miscarriages of justice, none of these challenges justify infringing upon an individual’s constitutionally protected rights.

2. Equal Rights Amendment

LD260 proposes adding an “Equality of Rights” amendment to the Maine Constitution that would bar the State or any political subdivision from denying or restricting "equal rights" on the basis of a person’s actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin.

The Maine State House of Representatives rejected LD260 on April 23, 2025 by a vote of 74 to 65 (a two-thirds majority of the House was required for the bill to pass). We have assigned pluses to the nays because our rights are already protected under the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, which secure equal protection for every individual—not for groups defined by subjective or perceived traits. Measures such as LD260 open the door to the same radical reinterpretations seen at the federal level, where broad “equality” language has been used to advance anti-constitutional policies.

3. Abortion-drug-prescriber Protection

LD538 amends prescription-drug labeling rules to allow the prescriber’s name to be removed specifically for mifepristone, misoprostol, and their generic equivalents. At the prescriber’s request, the pharmacy label may list the name of the prescriber’s healthcare facility instead of the individual practitioner.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD538 on May 20, 2025 by a vote of 75 to 71. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill conceals the identities of prescribers who dispense abortion-inducing drugs, shielding them from accountability and further normalizing the destruction of innocent human life. The care of human life—not its destruction—is the highest duty of government.

4. MaineCare Funding

LD1948 is an emergency measure that immediately provides a one-time allocation of $117.6 million to fund MaineCare for fiscal year 2024-25.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD1948 on May 20, 2025 by a vote of 93 to 50. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill pours more taxpayer money into an unconstitutional program. By rushing through an emergency bailout for MaineCare, LD1948 deepens the state’s reliance on federal Medicaid dollars and props up a failing government-run healthcare model. MaineCare, as part of Medicaid, is not authorized anywhere in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

5. Defend the Guard

LD265 prohibits Maine’s National Guard from being sent into active-duty combat overseas unless Congress issues a formal declaration of war or takes an official action authorized under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The Maine State House of Representatives voted to uphold a committee recommendation "not to pass" LD265 on April 24, 2025 by a vote of 109 to 33. We have assigned pluses to the nays because under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, only Congress—not the president—has the authority to declare war, raise and support armies, and call forth the militia. Clauses 11, 12, and 15 specifically limit these powers to Congress.

6. Status of Women Commission

LD522 requires the Commission on the Status of Women to study how much gender segregation exists in Maine’s workforce—meaning whether men and women tend to be clustered in different occupations—and to determine whether this segregation leads to differences in pay or workplace safety.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD522 on April 15, 2025 by a vote of 82 to 63. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government bureaucracy by directing yet another state commission to study supposed gender segregation in the workforce—an exercise that assumes inequality and invites policymakers to engineer outcomes through further regulation. As the Declaration of Independence affirms, “all men are created equal” and endowed with God-given rights; government’s role is to secure those rights, not to divide people into categories or use data studies to justify more interference in the free market.