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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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Ronald B. Russell

Maine

State Representative, HD-017 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

ME Legislative Scorecard 2024

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote

Vote

1. Creates a refundable income tax credit for investments in Minor League Baseball facilities to keep teams in the state.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD2258 · 04/17/2024

2. Imposes new rules on the development of renewable energy transmission in northern Maine.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD1963 · 04/15/2024

3. Mandates that all health-insurance plans in Maine that cover prescription drugs must also cover both prescription and nonprescription oral hormonal contraceptives approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD2203 · 04/11/2024

4. Prohibits unauthorized paramilitary training in Maine. It makes it a crime (Class D) to intentionally train others in using weapons or combat techniques if the trainer knows it will be used for "civil disorder." It also bans assembling for such training with the intent of furthering "civil disorder."



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD2130 · 04/03/2024

5. Enters Maine into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · LD1578 · 04/02/2024

6. Modifies Maine's labor laws regarding the selection of collective-bargaining representatives for state, university, and judicial employees.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD2032 · 03/05/2024

Scorecard Votes: 17%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Corporate-welfare Tax Credit

LD2258 creates a refundable income tax credit for investments in Minor League Baseball facilities to keep teams in the state. Businesses investing at least \$1 million in stadium improvements between 2023 and 2026 can receive a tax credit of 1.33% of their investment per year, up to \$133,000 annually and \$1.995 million total over 15 years.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD2258 on April 17, 2024 by a vote of 92 to 52. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill enacts state subsidies for professional and semiprofessional sports teams, which is beyond the limited purpose and scope of government.

2. Renewable Energy Transmission

LD1963 shifts renewable energy transmission permitting to the DEP, establishes a structured bidding process, and mandates new lines connect 1,200 MW of renewable energy to the New England grid. It prioritizes “energy equity,” requires labor agreements for stability and safety, and promotes regional collaboration and federal funding to advance Maine’s “climate goals.”

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD1963 on April 15, 2024 by a vote of 75 to 65. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill prioritizes government-defined “economic benefits” and “energy equity” over free markets, mandates costly labor agreements, and increases dependence on federal oversight through regional collaboration and subsidies under the guise of Marxist “climate goals.”

3. Mandatory Birth-control Coverage

LD2203 mandates that all health-insurance plans in Maine that cover prescription drugs must also cover both prescription and nonprescription oral hormonal contraceptives approved by the FDA. Coverage must be provided without deductibles, copayments, or other cost-sharing.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD2203 on April 11, 2024 by a vote of 81 to 64. We have assigned pluses to the nays because protecting tecting human life—not ending it—is the government’s highest duty, as affirmed by the Declaration of Independence and the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Forcing insurers to cover specific prescriptions grossly infringes on the free market.

4. Prohibit Paramilitary Training

LD2130 prohibits unauthorized paramilitary training in Maine. It makes it a crime (Class D) to intentionally train others in using weapons or combat techniques if the trainer knows it will be used for “civil disorder.” It also bans assembling for such training with the intent of furthering “civil disorder.”

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD2130 on April 3, 2024 by a vote of 72 to 71. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill violates the First and Second Amendments. It restricts peaceful assembly and infringes on the right to bear arms by criminalizing weapons training based on intent. Granting the government power to dictate who may train with arms undermines the very freedoms the Constitution protects.

5. National Popular Vote

LD1578 enters Maine into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which would allocate the state’s electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote—if enough states join to form a majority of electoral votes. It also updates Maine’s ranked-choice voting procedures for presidential elections to align with the compact.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD1578 on April 2, 2024 by a vote of 73 to 72. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the National Popular Vote undermines the Electoral College, violating state sovereignty and enabling majority tyranny. The Constitution (Article I, Section 10) bars interstate compacts without Congress, and election changes require an Article V amendment. Ranked-choice voting is unconstitutional, weakens integrity, and allows wins without true majorities. Maine’s election process should be legislative, as Article IV, Section 4 ensures a republican government based on law, not majority rule.

6. Collective-bargaining Changes

LD2032 modifies Maine’s labor laws regarding the selection of collective-bargaining representatives for state, university, and judicial employees. It establishes a “majority sign-up” process, allowing unions to be recognized without an election they have majority support through signed authorizations.

The Maine State House of Representatives passed LD2032 on March 5, 2024 by a vote of 85 to 55. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill undermines freedom of association by replacing secret ballots with a coercive “majority sign-up” process, forcing union representation on unwilling employees. It increases costs, reduces accountability, and shifts power to government-backed unions at taxpayer expense. Labor agreements should be determined by the free market, not collective bargaining.