



State Representative Gary Hilliard

Proudly Representing District 76

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Spring Forward

Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour this weekend, as most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March (March 12, 2017) and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November (November 5, 2017).

Also, this is a great time to check and change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Maine Community College System

The mission of the Maine Community College System is to provide associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs directed at the educational, occupational, and technical **needs of the State's citizens and the workforce needs of the State's employers**. The primary goals of the System are to create an educated, skilled, and adaptable labor force that is responsive to the changing needs of the economy of the State, and to promote local, regional, and statewide economic development. ([Public Law, Chapter 431](#))

Students

- Students enrolled in courses: 17,311 (fall 2016)
- Percent Maine residents: 94%
- Percent who enroll part time: 61%
- Percent enrolling directly from high school: 48%

- More than half of students report working more than 20 hours a week.
- Percent of full-time, degree-seeking students who receive financial aid: 76%

Alumni

- Percent of employed graduates working in Maine: 92%
- Percent of employed graduates who take a State or national licensure exam are successful in earning the certification they need to work in their chosen field: 98%
- Students who graduated from a Maine community college with an associate degree during one recent three-year period earned an average first-year wage of approximately \$34,000.

Tuition and Fees

- Cost per credit hour: \$92
- Average cost of tuition and fees for a year of full-time study: \$3,600

Colleges and Programs

- Percent of residents who live within 25 miles of a Maine community college: 92%
- Number of program options: nearly 300
- Percent of programs that are the only ones of their kind in the State: over 75%

For more information, click [here](#).

Legislative Process

Legislative documents (L.D.) go through an extensive process following their submission for consideration by lawmakers. For a brief overview of this process, click [here](#). If you wish to access a more in-depth explanation of this process, click [here](#).

Should you have an interest in knowing what bills are currently being deliberated at the State House, the [Legislative Information Office's events calendar](#) lists public hearing and work session schedules, as well as other events occurring at the capitol.

To testify in support of or in opposition to specific legislation, details on testifying at a legislative hearing can be found online [here](#).

Free or Low-Cost Prescriptions

There are various resources available to assist those on fixed/low incomes obtain free and/or low-cost prescriptions.

For a comprehensive listing and descriptions of these offerings, click [here](#).

AARP Tax Assistance

AARP provides confidential, free tax preparation, answers tax questions, and files electronic forms. Help is available for those who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Sites are operational through April 15, and arrangements can be made to assist homebound disabled persons.

Dial 2-1-1 Maine or visit [AARP Tax-Aide Locator](#) to find a tax preparation site nearest to your location. Consumers can search the Tax-Aide Locator by address, zip code, or county. The recommended search strategy is by zip code. The name of the site, address, phone number, site schedule, handicap access, information on making an appointment, and other pertinent information is included in the search results.

Governor LePage to Celebrate Maine Maple Season

The Annual Governor's Tree Tapping to take place March 13th.

DETAILS: The Governor's tree tapping is an annual tradition to promote Maine maple syrup and highlight its contributions to Maine's economy. Several Maine maple syrup producers bring their families to join Governor LePage in tapping a sugar maple tree on the Blaine House lawn. The event also serves as a prelude to Maine Maple Sunday, which will celebrate its 34th anniversary on March 26. Sugarhouses throughout the State are participating in Maine Maple Sunday.

WHO: Governor Paul R. LePage, Commissioner Walt Whitcomb, legislators, and Maine Maple Producers

WHAT: 2017 Governor's Blaine House tree tapping to promote Maine maple syrup

WHEN: Monday, March 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: On the Blaine House lawn, Augusta

"Maine's maple industry is growing in output and importance," said Governor Paul R. LePage. "Since 2010, Maine maple syrup production has more than doubled (114% increase). The extended 2016 season yielded 675,000 gallons, up from 315,000 gallons in 2010. During that same time period, the number of taps has increased 26.5% (going from 1.47 million to 1.86 million)."

For more information about Maine Maple Producers, click [here](#).

For more information about the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, click [here](#).

House Republican Office Links

To connect with the House Republican Office on the Web, you can visit <http://mehousegop.org/>, find us on Facebook here, or follow us on Twitter: @MaineHouseGOP.