THE 2015 WATCHDOG INDEX

Editor's note: This is the Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting's third annual Watchdog Index, modeled after Harper's Magazine's "Harper's Index" ©, a listing of "ironic statistics arranged for thoughtful effect."

• Total contributions to Republicans and Democrats in the Maine Legislature from internet provider Time Warner between 2008-2015: $240,000

• Cost of a room at a Cape Elizabeth resort paid for by Time Warner for legislators who attended its January Winter Policy Conference: $205-$355

• Maine's rank in internet speed among the 50 states: 49

• Number of words in 248-word wind power bill written by a wind lobbyist that sponsor Sen. Justin Alfond changed: 0

• Amount of money donated to Alfond leadership PAC by the wind industry: $9,100

• Estimated payments made in 2012-13 to Maine residents improperly receiving unemployment benefits because they may not have submitted proof they were looking for work: $130 million

• Percentage of 8,801 residents on unemployment who failed to provide proof of work searches and were subsequently denied benefits in 2014: 7

• Amount Irving Oil reduced the $250,000 owed by state Rep. John Martin, D-Eagle Lake, for deliveries to a gas station he co-owned that was in bankruptcy: $150,000

• Number of the bill Martin introduced to ease restrictions on land an Irving firm wants to mine in northern Maine: L. D. 1853

• Number of years it took the legislature to grant residents of Maine partial restoration of their right to object to industrial wind projects near their homes: 3

• Number of years it took to pass the state law allowing fast-tracking of industrial wind projects: 1

• Number of state legislators holding a closed-door meeting to discuss the state budget on May 28, 2015: 5

• Number of those closed-door meetings in May and June: 7

• Rank of lead poisoning among all childhood health hazards: 1

• Rank of Androscoggin County in children with lead poisoning: 1

• Number of children in that county diagnosed with lead poisoning in 2009-2013: 109

• Number of Maine newborns to five year olds diagnosed with lead poisoning, 2003-2013: 1,512

• Number of enforcement actions in New England since 2010 of the federal law requiring contractors to use safe lead removal practices: 3

• Amount allocated to remove lead from 224 older buildings in Lewiston-Auburn: $3.4 million

• Estimated amount of dollars a Lewiston official said it would take to remove lead from all 16,400 older units in the two cities: "a gazillion"

• Number of Maine acres owned by Irving family companies: 1.25 million

• Irving's rank among all Maine landowners: 1

• Number of Irving gas stations in Maine: 138

• Number of lobbyists representing Irving interests in 2015 in the Maine legislature: 12

• Irving rank in number of lobbyists at Maine statehouse: 1

• Amount Irving spent on lobbying for failed mining bill: $250,000

• Amount spent in town of Waite (pop. 101) per capita on lottery tickets in 2014: $1313

• Amount spent per capita in Kennebunkport: $6

• Portion of Waite residents living in poverty: 1 in 5

• Portion in Kennebunkport: 1 in 100

• Amount state spends on lottery gambling addiction: $0

— By John Christie, editor in chief

Sources: All facts in the index are based on 2015 stories by the Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting