

CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Agenda – May 7, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

Legislative Conference Room, adjacent to Welcome Center,
Maine State House, Augusta, Maine

- A.** Introductions
- B.** Review/Discuss Proposed Legislative Bills/Priorities:
 - 1. Overdose medication legislation
 - 2. Vaccinations re: consideration of Testimony submitted by Toho Soma, Acting Director of Public Health
 - 3. Local Option Tax.
 - 4. Electric Car Charging
 - 5. Electronic Cigarettes
 - 6. Bonds
 - 7. **State Budget.**
 - a. General Assistance
 - b. Revenue Sharing
 - c. School funding
 - d. Fund for Healthy Maine
 - e. School-based Health Centers (funded with Fund for Healthy Maine)
 - f. Higher Education
 - 8. Transportation funding
 - 9. Concealed weapon permits
 - 10. Homeless Shelter funding
 - 11. Minimum Wage
- C.** Set time, place and date for New Meeting.

ATTACHMENT A

BILL DETAILS:

1. Overdose medication legislation:
 - a. **LD812** “An Act To Prevent Drug Overdose Deaths by Enhancing Access to Opioid Antagonists” Sponsor Sen. Gratwick, Penobscot. This bill allows the possession, prescription and administration of drugs that counteract opioid overdoses with immunity from prosecution. **Reported out ONTP/ “Dead”**
 - b. **LD140** “An Act To Expand Access To Lifesaving Opioid Overdose Medication” Sponsor: Rep. Beck of Waterville. This bill allows friends of someone at risk of a drug overdose to receive the antidote as a prescription to have it available to administer and to receive limited immunity from prosecution. **Voted in Committee, Divided Report**
2. **LD476** “An Act To Require Pharmacies To Provide Disposal Receptacles for Used Hypodermic Apparatuses” Sponsor Rep. Farnsworth, Portland. This bill requires the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to make rules that needle exchange programs require dispensing pharmacies to provide a container to dispose of used needles.
3. Local Option Tax. RELATED BILLS:
 - a. **LD594** “An Act To Create a Local Option Sales Tax by Referendum” Sponsor Sen. Valentino, York. This bill allows a 1% sales tax, annual or seasonal, be allowed by local vote, with exceptions including airplanes, cars and large household appliances. **Work Session 4/27/2015**
 - b. LR 1707 “An Act To Allow Municipalities To Administer a Local Option Sales Tax” Sponsor Rep. Brooks,. Lewiston
 - c. **LD29** “An Act To Establish a Local Option Real Estate Transfer Tax” Sponsor Rep. Goode, Bangor. This bill allows a City to establish by referendum a local option transfer tax of up to 1% on the transfer of real property. **Reported Out ONTP**
 - d. LR813 “An Act To Maintain Support to Municipalities and Assist with Property Taxes” Sponsor Sen. Alfond, Portland
4. Electric Car Charging
 - a. **LD593** “An Act To Allow the Resale of Electricity by Electric Vehicle Charging Stations” Sponsor Sen. Millett, Cumberland. This bill exempts an electric vehicle charging station from the definition of electricity provider; and allows installation and charging from a submeter for kilowatt hours used. **Signed by Governor: Public Law Chapter 29**
5. Schools.
 - a. **Longfellow School /Hall School construction**
 - b. **Teacher retirement contribution** Related Bill: LR 891 “An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers” Sponsor Sen. Millett, Cumberland; and

LD60 “An Act To Ensure Proper Funding for Teacher Retirement” Sponsor Rep. Kumiega, III, Deer Isle. This bill repeals measures that required public and private schools to pay for teacher retirement. **Divided Report OTP-AM/ONTP, voted ONTP in Senate 18-17; voted OTP-AM 119-27 in House and 4/23/15 ACCEPTED, passed to be engrossed in Senate: needs to be enacted then 10 days for Governor’s action;** and LR707 “An Act To Return the Obligation To Fund Teacher Retirement Costs to the State” Sponsor Rep Stearns, Guilford.

(1) Shift to municipalities is **OPPOSED** in report from Commission on School Funding, per email from Sen. Haskell

- c. **Charter Schools** – LR1248 “An Act To Restore Local Control of Education to Towns” Sponsor Rep. McCabe, Skowhegan OR LR1787 “An Act To Amend the Education Laws” Sponsor Rep. McCabe, Skowhegan
- d. **Higher Education (USM) – LD99** “An Act To Stabilize the Faculty and Programs at the University of Southern Maine” Sponsor Sen. Alfond; This Emergency bill provides \$2 million in FY15 for a marketing and recruitment program to stabilize enrollment at USM **Reported Out ONTP**; and LR1516 “An Act To Increase Accountability and Efficiency at the University of Maine System” Sponsor Rep. Chipman, Portland; supporting increased funding for classroom instruction.
- e. **Electronic cigarettes** -- LR1517 “An Act To Bring the Tax on Electronic Cigarettes into Conformity with the Excise Tax on Tobacco Products” Sponsor Rep. DeChant, Bath; and **LD1108** “An Act To Protect Children and the Public from Electronic Cigarette Vapor” Sponsor Rep. McCabe, Skowhegan **Work Session 5/1/2015**
- e. From Rep. Russell, now **at Education and Cultural Affairs Committee: LD17** “An Act To Restore Programs and Faculty to the University of Maine System” (Emergency) Sponsor Rep. Diane Russell. **Reported Out ONTP**

6. **Bonds:**

- a. **LD271** “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Intermodal Transportation Facilities” Sponsor Rep. Farnsworth, Portland. This bond issue would provide \$28 million to develop Portland intermodal transportation facilities – specifically in Thompson’s Point, where the train and bus systems and highways intersect.
- b. **LD845** “An Act To Address Unmet Public Transportation Needs” Sponsor Rep. Jorgensen, Portland. This bill provides \$3 million in FY2016 and a \$500,000 transfer from the Multimodal Transportation Fund annually thereafter for public transportation providers statewide. **Voted OTP-AM**
- c. **LD254** “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Waterfront Development,” Sponsor Sen. Haskell. This bond issue would provide \$10 million for a grant program investing in economic activity, environmental protection and community development along Maine waterfronts, modeled after the Riverfront Community Development Program.

- d. **LD931** “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development for the University of Maine System” Sponsor Sen. Alfond. This bond issue would provide \$2 million to UM for R&D.
7. **LD78** “An Act Regarding Limitations on Certain Storm Water Fees” Sponsor Rep. Libby, Androscoggin This Bill repeals certain MDOT exemption to the stormwater fees in effect in 2007 and imposed by a city on owners of large areas of impervious property. A March 5 Work Session and March 6 committee vote as **Reported Out OTP-AM. Enacted and Engrossed.** The amendment allows municipal stormwater fees for parking lots, office buildings, maintenance facilities owned by MDOT and MTA, but exempts the highways.
8. **LD247** “An Act To Create Corridor Districts for the Purpose of Funding Transportation and Transit Services” Sponsor Rep. Chipman. This concept draft would create transportation districts along travel routes to manage and fund various shared transportation services, with membership approved by local referendum. **TABLED**
9. **LD590** “An Act To Exempt a Fee for a Paper or Plastic Single-use Carry-out Bag from Tax” Sponsor Sen. Saviello. Atty. Kate Knox requested the Portland Delegation support on this bill, which requires a 2/3 majority to pass, before the Portland bag fee goes into effect on April 15, 2015. Hannaford Brothers has been told sales tax will be charged on bags sold at their stores in Portland. Reported out **OTP-AM; Passed in Senate to be engrossed as amended.**
10. **LR439** “An Act To Prohibit Excessive Idling of Passenger Trains” Sponsor Sen. Gerzofsky. The bill prohibits passenger train idling, with a few exceptions, and authorizes a fine of \$2,500. Michael Bobinsky to write a letter requesting assistance to U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree and U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King re: PanAm freight idling problems in North Deering.
11. **LD652** “An Act To Authorize the Carrying of Concealed Handguns without a Permit” Sponsor Sen. Brakey. This bill removes the requirement that a person carrying a concealed weapon have a permit to do so. This Bill is opposed by Portland Police Chief Michael Sauschuck, who testified at the Public Hearing April 8 at 1 p.m., and opposed by the Legislative Committee, which submitted written testimony. **Voted Divided Report 5/1/2015**
12. **LD 443.** “An Act To Help Stabilize Homeless Shelters in Maine” Sponsor Sen. Alfond. This bill funds homeless shelters, through the Maine State Housing Authority, in the next two fiscal years with \$3.5 million annually. **Tabled.**
13. **LD36** “An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage” Sponsor Rep. Evangelos, Friendship. This bill raises the minimum wage to \$9 an hour October 1, 2015, to \$10 one year later, and adds an annual increase at the rate of inflation as measured by the CPI-W, Northeast Region. **LD52** “An Act To Adjust Maine’s Minimum Wage” Sponsor Rep. Martin, Sinclair. This bill raises the minimum wage to \$9.50 on October 1, 2015. **LD843** “An Act To Raise the Minimum Wage and Index It to the National Average Wage” Sponsor Rep. Melaragno, Auburn. This bill raises

the minimum wage in annual increments to \$12 by Oct. 2019, and ties it to the national average wage index after that. It also eliminates the tip credit incrementally over five years. All three (and others) **TABLED as of March 31, 2015**

a. LD1361 “An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency”

Governor’s Bill, Sponsor Sen. Cushing. Mayor Brennan gave testimony in opposition to this bill, which would not permit the enactment of a local minimum wage. **Work Session May 7, 2015**

14. **LD514** “An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Location of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Collection for Motor Vehicles Owned by Public Utilities” Sponsor Rep. Buckland, Farmington. Utilities now pay all vehicle excise taxes in the place the utility is registered or where its main office is located. This bill would require excise taxes to be paid where the vehicles are kept at a utility’s permanent location. **Voted OTP-AM:** amendment is effective date of Jan. 1, 2017. **Passed to be engrossed**
15. **LD1120** “An Act To Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code” Sponsor Sen. Davis, Piscataquis. This bill repeals MUBEC, which was adopted in 2007, and amends other laws to make them consistent with law prior to that enactment. It does not re-enact the Maine Model Building Code or energy efficiency standards previously in place. City Staff recommend that the committee oppose this bill. **Tabled.**
16. **LD724** “An Act To Authorize Municipal Fire Districts To Impose Service Charges” Sponsor Sen. Saviello. **Reported out ONTP**