

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Meeting 1.24.23
Agenda
January 24, 2023**



MEMBERS
Mayor Kate Snyder, Chair
Councilor April Fournier
Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Regina Phillips

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

To attend the meeting remotely, visit <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/87377216395>

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the Meeting of January 10, 2023
- b. Minutes from the Meeting of January 17, 2023

III. Delegation / Committee Discussion

- a. Discussion: Legislation sponsored by Portland Delegation
- b. Discussion: Delegation/Committee Meeting Schedule

IV. Other Committee Business

- a. Review New LDs (Bernstein Shur)
- b. Request for Testimony in Support of LD 166
- c. Staff Feedback: LD 130 and LD 96
- d. Background: Legislative/Nominating Committee 2022 Legislative Priorities

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Meeting 01.10.23
Minutes
January 10, 2023**



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, Chair
Mayor Kate Snyder
Councilor Pious Ali

I. Call to Order

Chair Kate Snyder called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

Mayor Kate Snyder (Chair), Councilor April Fournier, Councilor Regina Phillips, Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

a. Draft minutes from the January 3, 2023 Meeting

Councilor April Fournier made a motion to Approve the minutes from the January 3, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mayor Kate Snyder, vote (4-0).

III. Legislative Update

a. Review of Proposed State legislation (Bernstein Shur)

Committee members reviewed new bills produced by the Revisor's Office and advised Bernstein Shur on which they would like tracked over the course of the 131st Legislative session. Staff plans to provide additional feedback on bills determined to be operational priorities within the coming weeks.

The Committee requested that new LDs be sorted by Council priority in the future.

IV. Other Business

a. For Review: Delegations of the 131st Legislature

Mayor Snyder provided a list of the delegations of the 131st Legislature to Committee members for their review.

V. Adjournment

Councilor Regina Phillips made a motion to Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor April Fournier, vote (4-0).

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
January 17, 2023



MEMBERS

Mayor Kate Snyder, Chair
Councilor April Fournier
Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Regina Phillips

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:03am. In attendance were Mayor Kate Snyder (Chair), Councilor Regina Phillips, Kate Knox and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), and Dena Libner (Chief of Staff). A quorum was not present.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes from the Meeting of January 10, 2023

There was no quorum at the Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting on January 17, 2023, therefore approval of meeting minutes was postponed to the meeting of January 24, 2023.

III. Legislative Update

- a. Discussion re: 2023 Federal Policy Priorities

Staff explained the purpose of federal policy priorities and answered Committee members' questions.

- b. Review of proposed State legislation (Bernstein Shur)

Committee members requested that LD 130 be tracked.

IV. Other Business

- a. Discussion: 2023 Work Plan (Kate Snyder, Chair)

The work plan was not available for discussion, so this matter was postponed to a later date.

Staff reviewed LR 745 (a concept draft to "require information on fossil fuel usage for commercial, industrial, and multi-unit buildings") and advised that they would consider it in-depth when the full bill language was available.

V. Adjournment

Mayor Snyder mad a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Phillips. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31am.

Memorandum

[LD 166](#) (HP107)

An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects (Sen. Jill Duson)

[LD 182](#) (SP86)

An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults
Without Dependents

[LD 183](#) (SP87)

An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program into
Municipal General Assistance Programs

[LD 199](#) (HP123)

An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare (Rep. Talbot Ross)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

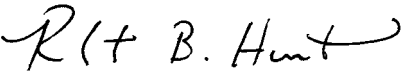
No. 166

H.P. 107

House of Representatives, January 13, 2023

An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: RIELLY of Westbrook, SUPICA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland, Senators:
CHIPMAN of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2019, c. 648, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3), division (c) to read:

(c) To acquire, construct, maintain and operate public parking areas; and

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2019, c. 648, §2, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (3), division (c-1) to read:

(c-1) To provide for property tax relief;

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2019, c. 648, §2, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (3), division (c-2) to read:

(c-2) To acquire, construct, maintain and operate capital infrastructure projects; and

SUMMARY

This bill allows the revenue collected from parking meters to be used to provide property tax relief and to pay the costs of constructing, maintaining and operating capital infrastructure projects.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 130

S.P. 69

In Senate, January 10, 2023

An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §683, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 478, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Exemption amount.** Except as provided in subsection 1-C and except for
5 assessments for special benefits, the just value of \$10,000 of the homestead of a permanent
6 resident of this State who has owned a homestead in this State for the preceding 12 months
7 is exempt from taxation. Notwithstanding this subsection, a permanent resident of this
8 State who loses ownership of a homestead in this State due to a tax lien foreclosure and
9 subsequently regains ownership of the homestead from the municipality that foreclosed on
10 the tax lien is deemed to have continuously owned the homestead and may not be
11 determined ineligible for the exemption provided in this section due to the ownership of
12 the homestead by the municipality. In determining the local assessed value of the
13 exemption, the assessor shall multiply the amount of the exemption by the ratio of current
14 just value upon which the assessment is based as furnished in the assessor's annual return
15 pursuant to section 383. If the title to the homestead is held by the applicant jointly or in
16 common with others, the exemption may not exceed \$10,000 of the just value of the
17 homestead, but may be apportioned among the owners who reside on the property to the
18 extent of their respective interests. A municipality responsible for administering the
19 homestead exemption has no obligation to create separate accounts for each partial interest
20 in a homestead owned jointly or in common.

21 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §683, sub-§1-C** is enacted to read:

22 **1-C. Exemption amount for persons over 65 years of age.** Notwithstanding
23 subsections 1 and 1-B, for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2024, the
24 exemption amount for a homestead of a permanent resident of this State who is 65 years of
25 age or older and who has resided in the homestead for at least the preceding 10 years is the
26 just value of \$75,000.

27 **Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §6281**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 751, §1, is amended by enacting
28 at the end a new paragraph to read:

29 This chapter applies only to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023.

30 SUMMARY

31 This bill provides that the law enacted in 2022 providing a process for stabilization of
32 property taxes for permanent residents of this State who are 65 years of age or older and
33 have owned a homestead in the State for at least 10 years applies only to the property tax
34 year beginning April 1, 2023. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2024,
35 the bill replaces the stabilization program with an increased homestead property tax
36 exemption of \$75,000 just value.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 96

H.P. 64

House of Representatives, January 9, 2023

**An Act to Ensure Release of Relevant Background Investigation
Material to Current Employers of Law Enforcement and
Corrections Officers**

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2805-B, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 256, §2, is amended to read:

5. Release of the results of a background investigation or polygraph examination.

When a background investigation or polygraph examination has been performed on a law enforcement officer or corrections officer and the results indicate probable cause to believe that the officer is or has been involved in criminal activity, the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that conducted the investigation or examination or for whom the investigation or examination was performed shall release the results of the investigation or examination to the head of the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that employs the law enforcement officer or corrections officer.

SUMMARY

Like current law applicable to notification of polygraph examination results, this bill requires a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that performs a background investigation on a law enforcement officer or corrections officer to notify the head of the agency, facility or jail that employs the officer if the results indicate probable cause to believe that the officer is or has been involved in criminal activity.

City of Portland | Executive Department

Danielle West, *Interim City Manager*



To: Legislative/Nominating Committee

From: Dena Libner, Chief of Staff

Date: September 26, 2022

Re: 2022 Legislative Priorities

The following recommendations were developed by staff, and reviewed by the Council's Legislative/Nominating Committee on September 20, 2022. The items on this list represent the shared priorities of both staff and Committee members.

As always, the Legislative/Nominating Committee and City staff intend to provide regular feedback on proposed legislation during the session, once it is released by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

- **Local Option Sales Tax**

Approximately 38 states allow for the collection of local sales taxes. Arguments in favor of this – other than creating alternative sources of revenue to support a growing demand for municipal services and oversight – include the relative transparency of retail sales taxes to members of the public.

In 2019, the Legislature considered LD 1110, which sought to allow “a municipality to impose a local option sales tax if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality.” This proposal died in the Committee on Taxation.

- **General Assistance**

- **Amending General Assistance Statute to Clarify Municipality of Responsibility**

There is staff interest in addressing the requirements surrounding “municipality of responsibility.” We recommend a thorough review of the statute in order to better balance responsibility among municipalities and make support more regional in nature.

- **Establish Department of Refugee/Asylum-Seeker/Resettlement Services**

We recommend that this Department be charged with strategically connecting this population to services and housing, as well as the administration of any programs that serve the purpose of GA for this specific population. We also believe this

Department would be a natural home for a centralized GA application process (see below).

The creation of a centralized administrator is key to moving forward on these issues. The services required by this population are unique, and cannot be accomplished effectively within the current shelter system.

- **Establish Centralized GA Application Intake Process**

The current process contributes to a dysfunctional system that leaves individuals underserved, and some municipalities overburdened. Centralizing the GA application intake and review process may help ensure the program is administered more fairly across the state.

- **Increasing the General Assistance Reimbursement Rate**

Staff recognize legislators' hard work in pursuing increases to the reimbursement rate for general assistance costs. In 2021/2022, Rep. Brennan sponsored LD 910, which originally sought a 90% reimbursement rate for municipal GA costs; the chaptered law included a one-time expenditure of \$10 million toward unanticipated fiscal and operational costs, distributed proportionally to municipalities.

Staff strongly support the reconsideration of the original language of LD 910. In the absence of any additional funding, Portland faces a \$10 million annual budget gap.

- **Funding for the Portland Harbor Dredge Project**

Rep. Michael Brennan has been a committed advocate for this project, and we are grateful for his leadership in securing \$10 million toward its completion. Given the economic importance of this project to the City, region, and State, staff feel it is important to continue to advocate for the additional funding needed to undertake this project. (Currently, there is an \$8 million gap in funding.)