

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Meeting 1.31.23
Agenda
January 31, 2023**



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

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

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I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of January 24, 2023

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review of new LDs (Bernstein Shur)

IV. Other Business

- a. Review: Committee Work Plan (Chair Snyder)
- b. Review: Delegation/Committee Meeting Schedule (Chair Snyder)

V. Adjournment

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



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

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), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), Rep. Ed Crockett, Rep. Grayson Lookner, Sen. Jill Dusenbury, Rep. Sam Zager, and Rep. Ben Collins were present.

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

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

Chair Snyder recommended considering the approval of minutes until later in the agenda.

III. Delegation / Committee Discussion

- a. Discussion: Legislation sponsored by Portland Delegation

Members of the Portland Delegation discussed legislation they are sponsoring in the 131st Session.

- b. Discussion: Delegation/Committee Meeting Schedule

After discussion with the Delegation and Committee members, Chair Snyder recommended that the Legislative/Nominating Committee's fourth meeting of every month be held on Friday at 8am instead of Tuesday, to better accommodate Delegation members' schedules.

IV. Other Committee Business

- a. Review New LDs (Bernstein Shur)

The Committee reviewed new LDs provided by Bernstein Shur, and received staff feedback.

b. Request for Testimony in Support of LD 166

Based on staff feedback, Sen. Duson advised that testimony in support of LD 166 was no longer requested. Staff confirmed they would provide Sen. Duson with data regarding parking meter fee revenue and related expenditures.

c. Staff Feedback: LD 130 and LD 96

Staff advised that their review of LD 130 was still underway, and that PD was supportive of LD 96 but was not recommending that it be prioritized for testimony at this time. Councilor Ali requested additional information from staff regarding the reasons for their support of the bill.

d. Background: Legislative/Nominating Committee 2022 Legislative Priorities

Councilor Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of January 10, 2023 and January 17, 2023, seconded by Councilor Phillips, vote (4-0).

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58am.

LD 226 (HP147)

An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis

LD 235 (HP156)

An Act to Promote Economic Development in the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging Project in Portland Harbor

LD 236 (HP157)

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support the Economic Development of the Fishing Industry and the Portland Harbor Dredging Project

LD 250 (SP116)

An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options

LD 268 (SP127)

An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs

LD 276 (HP174)

An Act to Assist Municipalities in Preventing Damage from Storm Water

LD 286 (HP184)

An Act to Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Municipal Buildings

LD 288 (HP186)

An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes

Concept Draft

LD 293 (HP191)

An Act to Revise the School Funding Formula

Concept Draft

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
81	GA	An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General	Meyer	HHS	Bill Text	Staff to review				160		
182	GA	An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Opposed				1564	Staff concerned would great barriers to individuals that rely on GA	
183	GA	An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program into Municipal	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Opposed				1562	Staff concerned would great barriers to individuals that rely on GA	
199	Healthcare	An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program	Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text	Support				509		
2	Housing	An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis	Talbot Ross	LH	Bill Text	Monitor				345		
3	Housing	An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid	Talbot Ross	AFA	Bill Text	Support/ Submitted	12/21/22 1:00 PM	Work session held	1/4/23 Public Law	601		
45	Housing	An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions	Carney	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor				47		
107	Housing	An Act Regarding Municipal Efforts to Avert Evictions and Heating Shut-offs During Winter (Emergency)	Ankeles	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor				491		
25	Other	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	Hickman	ACF	Bill Text	Monitor	1/25/23 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB			82		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
34	Other	An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Pouliot	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor				214	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
52	Other	An Act to Allow Certain School Employees to Carry Firearms on School Property	Foster	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor				7	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
96	Other	An Act to Ensure Release of Relevant Background Investigation Material to Current Employers of Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers	Cyrway	CJPS	Bill Text	More info needed from staff	1/30/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH			115		
109	Other	An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences	Landry	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor/ Staff to review	1/30/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH			348	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
116	Other	An Act to Establish a Minimum Wage for All Health Care Workers Including All Support Staff	Baldacci	LH	Bill Text	Monitor				597	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
127	Other	An Act to Eliminate Television Recycling Fees for Charitable Entities	Stewart	ENR	Bill Text		1/30/23 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB			386	Tracking requested by April	
37	Revenue	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application	Pouliot	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor/ Staff support				211		
88	Revenue	An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues	Paulhus	TAX	Bill Text	Testify				488	Strong support from staff	
89	Revenue	An Act to Clarify Eligibility for Property Tax Stabilization for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older	Moriarty	TAX	Bill Text	Need Clarification				218		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
130	Revenue	An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Bennett	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor				29		
166	Revenue	An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects	Williams	SLG	Bill Text	Support	1/31/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB			302	Senator Duson testifying	
112	Schools	An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance (Emergency)	Dodge	LH	Bill Text					207	Tracking requested by April	

City of Portland | City Council

Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 1/25/2023

Re: Section C-4, Part R of LD 206

Testimony in opposition to Section C-4, Part R of LD 206, HP127, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Senators Rotundo and Chipman, Representative Sachs and Williams, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Taxation:

I join you today to testify on behalf of the City of Portland in opposition to Part C of LD 206, HP127, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023.

Section C of LD 206 proposes to re-allocate \$10,000,000 that was originally allocated to rehabilitate Portland Harbor's working waterfront and sustain an estimated \$1B in economic activity. This project would see Portland Harbor dredged for the first time in over 70 years to protect the berthing that waterfront industries need to operate, as well as the construction of a Confined Aquatic Disposal cell to responsibly store the contaminated sediment.

Dredging will stabilize losses and expand the potential of the harbor for fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, and emerging opportunities in the local, regional, and state "Blue Economy."

The project would benefit 30 private commercial properties, directly supporting dozens of businesses, hundreds of jobs, thousands of vessels, and millions of dollars in annual economic activity for decades to come.

The City of Portland urges you not to re-allocate the \$10,000,000 originally allocated for these purposes, which are vital to not just the City of Portland's economic future, but also the region and State's.

Thank you for your consideration.

City of Portland, City Council Legislative & Nominating Committee

2023 Work Plan_Draft

Context:

2023 City Council Goals:

Always using a lens that prioritizes racial, social and justice equity, the City Council's annual goals focus their work on:

- Housing • Homelessness • Climate & Sustainability

In addition, Council work will focus on:

- Implementation of voter-approved Charter Amendments and Ordinance Amendments •
- FY24: CDBG Budget, CIP Budget, Annual Operating Budget • City Manager Search and Hire
- Opening of Homeless Services Center • Engagement with 131st Legislative Session

Legislative Goals (reviewed September 26, 2022 and January 24, 2023):

Primary:

- General Assistance
 - Amending General Assistance Statute to Clarify Municipality of Responsibility
 - Establish Department of Refugee/Asylum-Seeker/Resettlement Services
 - Establish Centralized GA Application Intake Process
 - Increasing the General Assistance Reimbursement Rate

Secondary:

- Funding for the Portland Harbor Dredge Project
- Local Option Sales Tax

Legislative Committee:

1. Committee meetings every Tuesday morning at 8:00am during Legislative Session;
2. Prepare and Deliver Testimony from City of Portland;
3. Joint Meetings with Legislative Delegation every fourth Friday of the month at 8:00am;
4. Review Staff-generated Federal Priorities Memo;
5. Committee meetings as needed outside of Legislative Session;
6. Coordinate In-Person Meeting with Legislators and Councilors post-Session.

Nominating Committee:

1. Work with City Clerk to establish interview dates and processes throughout the year, as needed, for candidates seeking nominations to Boards & Commissions;
2. Forward Committee recommendations for nominations to full City Council for consideration and appointment.

Commentary: Maine's housing crisis requires urgent action, and we're ready to get to work

pressherald.com/2023/01/28/commentary-maines-housing-crisis-requires-urgent-action-and-were-ready-to-get-to-work/

Teresa Pierce and Traci Gere

January 28, 2023



The truth is unavoidable: Maine is facing a statewide housing crisis. Every Mainer deserves a safe, warm place to call home. This is most acutely felt during these cold winter months. But the climbing cost of housing is making it increasingly difficult for people to find places to live within their price range. That's why the Legislature recently created the Joint Select Committee on Housing, which will take a comprehensive look at all components of Maine's housing needs, finding emergency fixes and long-term solutions to ongoing, systemic problems.

Every Mainer's housing needs are unique. Young families should be able to afford to buy their first home in a community their kids can thrive in. Older Mainers deserve to be able to age in their homes with dignity, or move into a safe and welcoming alternative when they need it. Working Mainers need to be able to afford to live near their jobs. Others need the

flexibility to make room for aging parents or family members who need extra help. And our most vulnerable neighbors need to be able to rely on safe, well-funded shelters, warming centers and emergency housing.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Teresa Pierce is a Democratic state senator from Falmouth, and **Traci Gere** is a Democratic state representative from Kennebunkport. They co-chair the Joint Select Committee on Housing.

The impacts of the housing crisis extend throughout our communities. Without available housing, we are struggling to staff our schools and public safety and health care facilities. The volunteers who work in fire departments, on town committees and in nonprofits are becoming hard to find. And the biggest problem facing our businesses is hiring and keeping employees who struggle to afford housing. People can't work in Maine if they can't afford to live here.

The policies we consider will aim to thoughtfully reflect and respond to all these needs. We're organizing the work before us into three main categories: First, we are tackling the urgent situation facing people who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused. We are hearing from those working on the ground so that we can craft policies to immediately address those needs.

Second, the Joint Select Committee will work on ways to preserve existing housing while producing more housing in ways that respond to needs in different parts of the state. The construction of all types of housing has dramatically slowed over the past 20 years, in part because of the Great Recession as well as rising building costs resulting from the pandemic. We have simply not produced enough housing for our population. There are systemic challenges we must overcome to assure that we create adequate housing moving forward.

The third category of our work will be to improve the laws and processes for how Maine plans for land use, development and sustainability. This includes modernizing our approach to planning at the state, regional and municipal levels, and putting needed tools and systems into the hands of the people who do this important work.

Our current housing crisis is not isolated to one part of the state or any individual group or demographic. Housing is a complex issue that affects so many things, including our state's economy, our workforce and behavioral and mental health needs. As a Joint Select Committee, we will be working for the next two years to fully understand the issues, hear from people across the state working on and affected by the housing crisis and collaborate with all facets of the housing world to create solutions. We're eager to collaborate with other legislative committees, state agencies and governments at the local, regional and federal levels. We will be open to all perspectives and fresh ideas.

The Housing Committee is made up of an extraordinary group of Mainers with diverse experience and expertise within all elements of the housing arena. We are ready to find and implement short-term and long-term solutions that maximize the livability, health and well-being of Mainers from every walk of life. There's much work to be done over the next two years. Our ultimate goal is to have a positive impact on Mainers' daily lives. Housing is the first step on everyone's journey to reach their fullest potential.

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