



Legislative Committee Meeting 5-13-2019
Meeting
May 13, 2019

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Approval of May 6, 2019 Meeting minutes
- b. Approval of May 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review of Portland Education Non-Funding LD's
- b. Review of New LDs/Bill Tracker
- c. Staff Update

IV. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next Meeting May 20, 2019 @ 8:00 AM in Room 209, City Hall

V. Public Comment

VI. Adjournment

**CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
May 6, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

The May 6, 2019 Meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ali at 8:01 a.m. in Room 209, Portland City Hall, Portland, Maine

A. Attendance/Introductions:

Committee Chair and City Councilor Pious Ali; City Councilor Jill Duson; Mayor Ethan Strimling; Kate Knox, Bernstein Shur team by phone; Chris Feeney, Bernstein Shur team; Alysia Melnick, Bernstein Shur team by phone; Board of Education member Laurie Davis; Mike Murray(Staff);

B. Approval of minutes:

April 29, 2019 minutes - motion by Councilor Duson; second by Mayor Strimling; 3-0 approved.

C. Review of legislative bills bills/bill tracker:

LD 1675 – Monitor; request staff input;
LD 1680 – Request staff input;

Other LD discussion:

LD 839 – Request clarification why staff presented testimony with committee taking a position on LD 839;

LD 988 – Staff request for committee support; staff to provide more background information;

LD 1371 – Request staff input;

D. Next Meeting Date

May 10, 2019 @ 8:00 AM – Room 209, City Hall

E. Adjournment

Councilor Duson moved to adjourn; second by Mayor Strimling; vote 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

**CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
May 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

The May 10, 2019 Meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ali at 8:06 a.m. in Room 209, Portland City Hall, Portland, Maine

A. Attendance/Introductions:

Committee Chair and City Councilor Pious Ali; City Councilor Jill Duson; Mayor Ethan Strimling; Rep. Erik Jorgensen; Kate Knox, Bernstein Shur team by phone; Chris Feeney, Bernstein Shur team; Alysia Melnick, Bernstein Shur team by phone; Board of Education member Laurie Davis; Superintendent of Schools Xavier Botana; City Manager Jon Jennings; Mike Murray(Staff);

Legislative Review:

General update and discussion of budgetary matters from Rep. Jorgensen

D. Next Meeting Date

May 13, 2019 @ 8:00 AM – **Room 24**, City Hall

E. Adjournment

Mayor Strimling moved to adjourn; second by Councilor Duson; vote 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.



Memorandum

TO: Chair Ali and Members of the Legislative Committee
FROM: Michael Murray, Assistant to the City Manager
CC: Jon Jennings, City Manager
SUBJECT: Staff Updates on LD's
DATE: May 10, 2019

The following is a summary of staff comments on LD's that are under consideration by the Legislative Committee:

LD 839 – “An Act To Increase Funding for Multimodal Transportation”; testimony submitted without Legislative Committee review; LC requesting additional information on LD and testimony protocols;

LD 988 – “An Act To Reduce the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste”; staff requests LC support; staff to provide background information;

LD 1371-“An Act To Ensure Nondiscriminatory Treatment of Public, Educational and Governmental Access Channels by Cable System Operators”; staff input requested;

LD 1444 – “An Act To Make the Distance to Schools for Marijuana Establishments Consistent with the Liquor Laws”; no public hearing scheduled as of 4-19-2019; request staff review; staff indicates local ordinance has been reduced to 500 feet from the 1,000. The 300' change itself would not make that big of a difference, but the change in how the measurement takes place could be. Essentially, this will allow marijuana stores to locate right next to school property (playing fields, courtyards, etc), so long as the door to the school was at least 300' off the property line; 5-6-2019 work session tabled;

LD 1652 – “An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Taxation of Marijuana”; Staff input requested; staff indicates that the technical changes do not impact the city; public hearing scheduled for 5-6-2019;

LD 1662 – “An Act To Save Lives by Establishing the Low Barrier Opioid Treatment Response Program”; staff input requested; public hearing 5-2-2019; staff supports LD 1662 and can provide written support for work session;

LD 1675 – “An Act Regarding Building Codes”; staff input requested; staff is opposed to exempting any building constructed before January 1, 2007 or



any modifications completed prior to January 1, 2007. Staff is also opposed to not allowing the municipality the ability to require architectural plans;

LD 1680 –“An Act To Authorize Auxiliary Liquor Licenses for the Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages within Designated Entertainment Districts”; staff input requested;



You're on your way.

Testimony to the Taxation Committee
On: LD 839 "An Act to Increase Funding for Multimodal Transportation"

April 24, 2019

Paul H. Bradbury, Airport Director Portland International Jetport

Good morning Chairman Chipman, Chairman Tipping, and members of the Taxation Committee. My name is Paul Bradbury and I serve as Airport Director for the Portland International Jetport. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Committee. Today I will be providing testimony against LD 839, noting the concerns it raises for the Portland International Jetport.

The Portland International Jetport provides an important connection for Maine residents, businesses, and visitors to the national and international air transportation systems. It provided this connection to more than 2.13 million individuals in 2018, an all-time record. The ability to quickly and efficiently connect Maine to the world is vital to the State's economy. The Jetport's economic benefit was calculated in our 2016 sustainable airport master plan at over \$1.04 billion annually, supporting more than 8,200 jobs. A number which has certainly grown with our passenger volume increases of 20% since 2016.

The Portland International Jetport is an enterprise fund of the City of Portland. It is self-sustaining and does not receive any financial support from City of Portland taxpayers. All debt is backed only by Jetport revenues which are generated by passengers who, in a competitive market place, choose the Jetport as their connection to the air transportation system.

It is critical that the Jetport be responsive to all our users if we hope to remain the airport of choice for travelers flying into and out of Maine. It wasn't too many years ago that this distinction was held by Boston Logan International. The summer and fall season is a critical part of our business, and a key component of this business is travelers who arrive and tour our great state. There is only one way for most visitors to tour Maine – rent a car. I am concerned the increase in rental car taxes from 10% to 15% a dramatic 50% increase proposed under LD 839 will make the Jetport less competitive relative to its out of state peers when it comes to providing this service. Why fly to Portland if the overall cost for your trip is less via Manchester-Boston Regional Airport or Boston Logan International? In New Hampshire there is 9% surcharge on rental cars and in Massachusetts there is a 6.25% sales tax and \$12 in fees and surcharges. Both are lower than Maine's current sales tax of 10%, so our business model is already strained relative to our out of state competitors. I know from experience that today's travelers are very sophisticated and use technology to find the lowest total cost to fulfill their travel plans.

Additionally, beyond our regional peers this increase to 15% appears to move our rental car sales tax to the highest in the nation. If local taxes and surcharges are included a 15% sales would rank us the 5th highest total tax on rental cars in the U.S.

Multimodal Transportation funding is very important to our state, but it would be disappointing to increase this tax so dramatically that it causes our rental car market to stagnate or decline and negatively impacts the market for air travel into Maine. Please give the Portland International Jetport and all Maine airports the ability to remain competitive on the complete travel package and reject this proposed increase in the rental car tax.