

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda
March 24, 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 March 21, 2023

III. Legislative Update

- a. Presentation: City of Portland FY24 Budget (Danielle West, Interim City Manager)

IV. Other Business

- a. Discussion: SNAP Benefits
- b. Continue Review of LDs from March 21, 2023 Meeting

- i. LD 1153 (An Act to Allow Municipalities to Tax Personal Solar Energy Equipment Under 5 Megawatts)
- ii. LD 1170 (Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters)
- iii. LD 1176 (An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing)

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
March 21, 2023



MEMBERS

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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Kate Snyder, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:01am. In attendance were Councilor Pious Ali, Councilor Regina Phillips, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), and Chief Heath Gorham (Portland Police).

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of March 14, 2023

Chair Snyder postponed approving of meeting minutes because a quorum was not yet in attendance.

III. Legislative Update

- a. Discussion/Vote: LD 937 (Resolve, to Establish the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine)

The Committee agreed to review and submit testimony after the meeting.

- b. Discussion: LD 1046 (Decriminalize Public Drinking)
c. Discussion: LD 1056 (Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata)
d. Discussion: LD 199 (Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program)

The Committee agreed to review and submit testimony after the meeting. Staff were asked to provide feedback regarding the impact of this bill on Portland residents.

- e. Review of New LDs (Bernstein Shur)

Staff advised that LD 1101 would be discussed the following week, including testimony recommended by staff for a March 30, 2023 public hearing.

- f. Review: Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

The Committee asked that testimony on the following bills be drafted and submitted:

- LD 1060 (support)

- *LD 1050 (oppose)*
- *LD 199 (support)*

IV. Other Business

- Discussion: Federal Priorities (in preparation for Hill Day, March 28, 2023)

Committee members approved the priorities list as presented in the backup materials.

V. Testimony

- Testimony in support of LD 787 (An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development)

The Committee agreed to review and submit testimony after the meeting.

- Testimony in support of LD 37 (An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application)
- Testimony in support of LD 89 (An Act to Clarify Eligibility for Property Tax Stabilization for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older)
- Testimony to oppose LD 130 (An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption)
- Testimony in support of LD 937 (Resolve, to Establish the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine)

The Committee agreed to review and submit testimony after the meeting.

VI. Adjournment



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

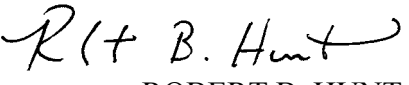
No. 1153

H.P. 725

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

An Act to Allow Municipalities to Tax Personal Solar Energy Equipment Under 5 Megawatts

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.
Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York.

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §655, sub-§1, ¶U, as amended by PL 2021, c. 181, Pt. C, §2, is further amended to read:

U. ~~Solar and wind~~ Wind energy equipment that generates heat or electricity if all of the energy is:

- (1) Used on the site where the property is located; or
- (2) Transmitted through the facilities of a transmission and distribution utility, and a utility customer or customers receive a utility bill credit for the energy generated by the equipment pursuant to Title 35-A.

On or before April 1st of the first property tax year for which a taxpayer claims an exemption under this paragraph, the taxpayer claiming the exemption shall file a report with the assessor. The report must identify the property for which the exemption is claimed and must be made on a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor or substitute form approved by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor shall furnish copies of the form to each municipality in the State and make the forms available to taxpayers.

SUMMARY

This bill removes the municipal personal property tax exemption for solar energy equipment that generates heat or electricity if all of the energy is used on the site where the property is located or the energy is transmitted through the facilities of a transmission and distribution utility, and a utility customer or customers receive a utility bill credit for the energy generated by the equipment.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1170

H.P. 742

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SACHS of Freeport,
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York,
PIERCE of Cumberland.

Sec. 1. Study by Department of Transportation. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall, in coordination with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, conduct a study to evaluate improvements to the passenger rail service between Brunswick and Boston, referred to in this resolve as "the service." The study must identify potential changes to the service to facilitate commuting by rail and to increase the overall usability of the service.

1. The study must:

A. Examine the level of departure frequency needed to service the majority of commuters on the service;

B. Evaluate the frequency of train departure times and identify the specific measures required to achieve additional departure times;

C. Identify the optimal schedule needed to accommodate commuters and increase overall usability of the service. This section of the study must include an evaluation of peak use by commuters and design a schedule catering to peak use;

D. Take into consideration local transit and parking options in coordination with the proposed schedule or schedules;

E. Identify optimal trip times for the service that would be competitive with the average driving time between Brunswick and Boston, including specific measures to reduce the trip duration and to reduce delays in order to make trip duration comparable to a drive;

F. Identify any potential station locations that may increase access to the service;

G. Address improvements to the rail system used by the service;

H. Address improvements to the operation of the service; and

I. Evaluate the economic impact of increasing the number of trips offered by the service.

2. The Department of Transportation shall submit a report on the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over railroad matters by January 1, 2024.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, to conduct a study to evaluate improvements to the passenger rail service between Brunswick and Boston.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1176

H.P. 748

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

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

Sec. 1. 28-B MRSA §1101, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 645, §4 and amended by c. 669, §5, is amended to read:

C. Money credited to the fund may be expended by the Department to shall on an annual basis provide 20% of the money credited to the fund as reimbursement to a municipality for qualifying expenses incurred as a result of the municipality's municipalities opting to permit the operation of some or all adult use cannabis establishments within the municipality. For the purposes of this paragraph, "qualifying expenses" means legal fees and costs associated with the drafting and adoption of a warrant article or the adoption or amendment of an ordinance, including the conduct of a town meeting or election, by a municipality that opted to permit the operation of some or all cannabis establishments within the municipality. Each municipality may receive funds, not to exceed \$20,000, only once for the reimbursement of qualifying expenses in accordance with this paragraph. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require the department to reimburse qualifying expenses incurred by a municipality if the department determines there are insufficient funds available to provide reimbursement. Under no circumstances may a municipality submit an initial application for the reimbursement of qualifying expenses more than 3 years after the municipality adopts a warrant article or adopts or amends an ordinance to allow for the operation of some or all adult use cannabis establishments within the municipality. The department may adopt rules to implement and administer the reimbursement of qualifying expenses to municipalities. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department may not reimburse qualifying expenses under this paragraph accrued after July 1, 2027. The department shall distribute the reimbursement equally to all municipalities that qualify for the reimbursement.

SUMMARY

This bill directs that 20% of the money credited to the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund be provided to municipalities that opted to permit some or all adult use cannabis establishments.