

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda**
March 28, 2023



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

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

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Webinar ID: 868 9178 0909

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

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

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review of New LDs (Bernstein Shur)
- b. Review of Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)
- i. LD 793, An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing (hearing scheduled for March 30, 2023)

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
March 24, 2023



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

I. Call to Order

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 8:03am. In attendance were Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Brendan O'Connell (Finance Director), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), Rep. Ed Crockett, Rep. Michael Brennan, Sen. Jill Dusenbury, Rep. Benjamin Collings, Councilor Pious Ali, Aaron Townsend (Co-Interim School Superintendent), Melea Nalli (Co-Interim School Superintendent), Rep. Grayson Lookner, Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross, Sarah Lentz (School Board Chair), and Councilor Regina Phillips.

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2023

Councilor Regina Phillips made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 21, 2023, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (0-3).

III. Legislative Update

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

Interim City Manager West and Brendan O'Connell shared information related to matters that were expected to significantly impact the FY24 City budget, specifically General Assistance, a decrease in revenue sharing, and ELL funding.

IV. Other Business

- a. Discussion: SNAP Benefits

Speaker Talbot Ross discussed the impact of a recent reduction in SNAP benefits on residents, and a bill to fund a "sunset" reduction to accomplish a less abrupt loss of revenue to recipients.

- 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)

Staff feedback regarding concern that this would deter residents from installing infrastructure important to sustainability goals. Kate Knox agreed to review MMA feedback on this matter.

- ii. LD 1170 (Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters)

Chair Snyder recommended postponing discussion of this bill to Tuesday, March 28.

iii. LD 1176 (An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing)

Staff expressed support for this bill. Chair Snyder recommended that this bill be discussed on March 28, as well. Alysia Melnick indicated she would get information re: amendments to LD 88 and this bill.

V. Adjournment

Councilor Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chair Snyder, vote (0-3). The meeting adjourned at 9:02am.

**Bernstein, Shur,
Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.**
45 Memorial Circle
PO Box 5057
Augusta, ME 04332

T (207) 623-1596
F (207) 626-0200

Memorandum

To: Portland, City of

From: Bernstein Shur

Date: March 22, 2023

Re: New Legislative Bills Report

Please find below the new legislative documents (LD) printed this week that we have flagged to be of possible interest to your organization. Please indicate to us which bills you would like included on your tracking report.

Thank you.

[LD 1101](#)

An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System

[LD 1265](#) (HP813)

An Act to Make Adjustments to Affordable Housing Requirements

[LD 1268](#) (HP816)

An Act to Provide for a Local Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons

[LD 1283](#) (SP520)

Resolve, to Reestablish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System

[LD 1286](#) (SP523)

Resolve, to Establish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's

Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century

LD 1288 (SP525)

An Act to Create a 2-year Motor Vehicle Registration

LD 1289 (SP526)

An Act to Facilitate Property Redevelopment and Encourage Affordable Housing by Allowing the Conveyance of Unfinished Commercial Condominium Units

LD 1290 (SP527)

An Act to End the Maine Information and Analysis Center Program

LD 1293 (HP818)

An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund

LD 1294 (HP819)

An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals

LD 1296 (HP821)

An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Allow Firefighters to Have Increased Lighting on Their Personal Vehicles

LD 1297 (HP822)

An Act to Notify School Boards and Select Boards That Lobbying Associations Are Not Governmental Agencies

LD 1298 (HP823)

An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing

LD 1300 (HP825)

An Act to Give the Governing Board of a Municipality Input into the Budget Developed by a School Board

LD 1310 (HP835)

An Act to Establish a State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
787	Asylum seekers	An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and	Bennett	IDEA	Bill Text	Support	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB			904	Testimony	
1050	Asylum seekers	Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Request a Federal Waiver to Allow Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers	Brakey	LH	Bill Text	Support	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Work session held 3/22/23	Voted 3/22/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	1577	Testimony	
235	Dredging	An Act to Promote Economic Development in the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging Project in Portland Harbor	Brennan	TRAN	Bill Text	Support				864		Y
236	Dredging	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support the Economic Development of the Fishing Industry	Brennan	AFA	Bill Text	Support				865		Y
812	Elections	An Act to Assist Clerks in Facilitating Elections and to Improve Access to In-person Absentee Voting for Working People by Increasing Time for Absentee Ballot Processing and In-person Voting	Skold	VLA	Bill Text		3/13/23 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/20/23 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	ONTP Reported out 3/24/23	2039	Leaning in direction of supporting components – requesting info from clerk	
1055	Elections	An Act to Prohibit the Use of Ballot Drop Boxes	Brakey	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose	3/22/23 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/31/23 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH		2301	Testify	
1097	Elections	An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds in Municipal Referenda with Lower Approval Thresholds	Bridgeo	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor				1025		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
894	Energy	An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor	Harrington	SLG	Bill Text	Oppose	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	3/23/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	Tabled 3/23/23	1475	Testify	
81	GA	An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program	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	Oppose and testify				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 General Assistance Programs	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Oppose and testify				1562	Staff concerned would great barriers to individuals that rely on GA	
268	GA	An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Oppose and testify				628	Staff believe this would restrict use and push people onto the streets.	
454	GA	An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Municipal General Assistance	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Opposed				627		
199	Healthcare	An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program	Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text	Support	3/28/23 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB			509		
2	Housing	An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis	Talbot Ross	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	4/4/23 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB			345		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
3	Housing	An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program (Emergency)	Talbot Ross	AFA	Bill Text	Support/ Submitted testimony	12/21/22 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH	Work session held 12/21/22	1/4/23 Public Law Ch. 1	601		
45	Housing	An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions	Carney	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH		47		
107	Housing	An Act Regarding Municipal Efforts to Avert Evictions and Heating Shut-offs During Winter (Emergency)	Ankeles	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				491		
226	Housing	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Millet	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				791		
250	Housing	An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options	Pouliot	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				1223		
314	Housing	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	Hickman	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				2107		
330	Housing	An Act to Ensure Legal Representation for Residents Facing Eviction	Tipping	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH		2017		
337	Housing	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Golek	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				1984		
388	Housing	An Act to Require the State and Municipalities to Reimburse Landlords for Unpaid Rent During Eviction Moratoriums	Blier	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				876	Given minimal detail re: eligibility and other parameters, this bill is too broad to determine the financial impact or to prevent abuse of such a program	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
462	Housing	An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government	Madigan	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				956		
492	Housing	An Act to Repurpose Vacant Shopping Mall and Retail Space to Mixed-use Housing and Retail	Campbell	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				2040		
599	Housing	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text					1507	Bernstein to get more information from sponsor	
1074	Housing	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households (Bond)	Daughtry	AFA	Bill Text	Monitor				358		
1133	Housing	An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters	Adams	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor				1519		
1334	Housing	An Act to Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services	Millet	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor				1205		
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	2/1/23 11:00 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/1/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	82		
34	Other	An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Pouliot	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	2/6/23 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/3/23 9:30 AM Rm 437 SH		214	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
52	Other	An Act to Allow Certain School Employees to Carry Firearms on School Property	Foster	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				7	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	2/8/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Voted 2/8/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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	2/8/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Tabled 2/8/23	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	2/14/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	3/23/23 3:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/23/23 ONTP Not rpt out	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	2/8/23 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	DEAD	386	Tracking requested by April	
276	Other	An Act to Assist Municipalities in Preventing Damage from Storm Water	Ankeles	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor	2/15/23 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/8/23 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/8/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	492	Staff indicated it could be helpful.	
288	Other	An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes	Lookner	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor				1142		
422	Other	An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers	Newman	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	3/2/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	3/9/23 2:15 PM Rm 214 COB	Voted 3/9/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	1511		
1107	Other	Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Individuals	Zager	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	3/28/23 1:30 PM Rm 202 COB			1084		
772	Permitting	An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants	Pouliot	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				1486		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
145	Public safety	An Act to Increase the Penalties for Operation of a Motor Vehicle While Using a Handheld Electronic Device or Mobile Telephone	Zeigler	TRAN	Bill Text	Testify	3/1/23 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH	3/22/23 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH	Voted 3/22/23 ONTP Not rpt out	138	2/15/23 Support concept, but concerns with penalty 2/8/23 Staff strongly support	
847	Public safety	An Act to Support Law Enforcement in Interactions with Individuals with Histories of Trauma	Gramlich	CJPS	Bill Text	Support				2341	PD to testify, already happens in Portland	
1046	Public safety	An Act to Decriminalize Public Drinking	Beebe-Center	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	3/27/23 1:00 PM Rm 436 SH			831		
1119	Public safety	An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons	Bennett	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor				717		
354	Public works	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Use of Engineers on Public Works Projects over \$100,000	Farrin	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	2/14/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	Tabled 3/9/23	1484		
407	Public works	An Act to Support Recreational Trails	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2161		
860	Rail	An Act to Identify the Railroad Lines from Portland to Bangor as a Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study	Baldacci	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				645		
880	Rail	Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Initiate a Service Development Plan for Commuter and Passenger Train Service Between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area	Rotundo	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				645		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			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	3/9/23 2:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Voted 3/21/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			218		
130	Revenue	An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Bennett	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			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	2/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	MAJ: OTP MIN: ONTP Reported out 2/21/23	302	Senator Duson testifying	
286	Revenue	An Act to Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Municipal Buildings	Carlow	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	2/14/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/2/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Tabled 3/2/23	1192		
793	Revenue	An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing	Brakey	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			1463	More information needed, will discuss at next meeting	
996	Revenue	An Act to Allow a Municipality to Establish a Local Option Sales Tax	Gramlich	TAX	Bill Text	Support				2326	Testimony	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1060	Revenue	An Act to Support Municipal Public Safety by Increasing State-Municipal Revenue Sharing to 7 Percent	Jackson	TAX	Bill Text	Support	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	4/6/23 1:45 PM Rm 127 SH		132	Testify	
112	Schools	An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance (Emergency)	Dodge	LH	Bill Text		2/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	3/9/23 2:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/9/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	207	Tracking requested by April	
293	Schools	An Act to Revise the School Funding Formula	Ducharme	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				2059		
338	Schools	An Act to Allow Education Funding to Follow the Student	Campbell	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				228		
518	Schools	An Act to Allow Armed Security in Schools	Andrews	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				2211		
406	Transportation	An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2041		
408	Transportation	An Act to Expand Bus Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2196		
409	Transportation	An Act to Improve Pedestrian Safety	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2303		
336	Tribes	An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes	Poirier	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	3/15/23 9:00 AM Rm 438 SH			749		



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 793

S.P. 352

In Senate, February 21, 2023

An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec, Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland,
LEE of Auburn, LIBBY of Auburn, SHAW of Auburn.

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5681, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Alternative calculation. Instead of the amount of revenue-sharing distribution calculated under subsection 4-A or 4-B, a municipality may elect to receive an amount equal to 10% of the sales or use tax collected within the municipality.

SUMMARY

This bill provides that municipalities may elect to receive for state-municipal revenue sharing an amount equal to 10% of the sales or use tax collected within the municipality.