

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda**
April 4, 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 24, 2023

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review of New LDs (Bernstein Shur)
- b. Review of Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

IV. Testimony

- a. Submitted: LD 1101, *An Act to Reduce energy costs by enacting a Home Energy Scoring System*

- b. Submitted: LD 199, *An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program*
- c. For Review: LD 793, *An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing*

V. Other Business

VI. Executive Session

- a. Move into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S 405 (6) (A) for the purpose of discussing candidate applications for positions nominated by the Committee.

VII. 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

Memorandum

To: Portland, City of

From: Bernstein Shur

Date: March 29, 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 1314](#) (SP532)

An Act to Establish a Minimum Salary for Educational Specialists, Educational Technicians and School Teaching Professionals

[LD 1322](#) (HP837)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation

[LD 1335](#) (HP849)

An Act to Amend the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Law

[LD 1338](#) (HP852)

An Act to Amend the Maine Exclusion Amount in the Estate Tax

[LD 1345](#) (HP859)

An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program

for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors

LD 1351 (HP865)

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Create a Program to Promote Transit and Transportation Research and Funding

LD 1353 (HP867)

An Act to Establish a Model Residential Ventilation Design and Installation Standard

LD 1356 (HP870)

An Act to Improve the Local Referendum Process by Increasing the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a Local Referendum Question

LD 1358 (HP872)

An Act to Clarify Density Requirements for Affordable Housing Developments

LD 1364 (HP878)

An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Establishing Safe Consumption Sites

LD 1365 (HP879)

An Act to Require Photograph Identification for Voting

LD 1369 (HP883)

An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula to Include All Costs for the Transportation of Students

LD 1370 (HP884)

An Act to Simplify the School Budget Validation Process

LD 1377 (HP891)

An Act to Provide Rental Assistance for Recovery Housing

LD 1380 (SP545)

An Act to Fund Municipal Administrative Costs Associated with the Senior Property Tax Stabilization Program

LD 1386 (SP551)

An Act to Require That a Completed Form for the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Be Provided to a Person Purchasing a Home

LD 1397 (HP892)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know

Advisory Committee Concerning Records of Disciplinary Actions
Against Public Employees

LD 1402 (HP897)

An Act to Provide an Additional Allocation in the School Funding
Formula to Cover Tax-exempt Property or a Large Economically
Disadvantaged Student Population

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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	4/7/23 9:30 AM 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	DEAD	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	Voted 3/31/23 ONTP Not rpt out	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		4/14/23 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB			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	4/5/23 1:00 PM 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 ONTP/OTP-AM 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	4/7/23 10:00 AM 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	4/4/23 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 OTP-AM/ONTP 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	4/4/23 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	4/4/23 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	3/29/23 Public Law Ch. 14	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	4/4/23 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	4/6/23 1:45 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	
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	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/29/23	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	Transportatin	An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2041		
408	Transportatin	An Act to Expand Bus Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2196		
409	Transportatin	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		

To: Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Troy Moon, City of Portland Director of Sustainability

Date: March 30, 2023

Regarding: LD 1101

**Testimony in Support of LD 1101,
"An Act to Reduce energy costs by enacting a Home Energy Scoring System"**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

I write to you in support of LD 1101, "An Act to Reduce Energy Costs by Enacting a Home Energy Scoring System." This would be an important tool to help the City of Portland achieve the goals described in our climate action plan, *One Climate Future*, for several important reasons.

First, a Home Energy Scoring System may help reduce emissions from residential buildings by providing residents with a convenient opportunity to learn how they use energy in their homes, as well as information and resources to make improvements that reduce emissions.

Second, a Home Energy Scoring System may be particularly helpful to low-income Maine residents, who spent an estimated 20% of their incomes on energy (according to a 2019 report by Synapse Energy Economics). The first step in reducing this energy burden is to empower residents with information so that they can make informed decisions to lower costs, as well as potentially access resources to help fund improvements.

Third, a Home Energy Scoring System is a useful consumer protection tool. As residents are confronted with rising housing costs, full transparency related to the costs of buying and maintaining a home is essential. Home energy scores provide prospective home buyers with important information about how much it costs to heat and cool a home they are looking at. Having access to this information helps the buyer understand the true cost of ownership, and motivates the seller to make improvements.

The City of Portland currently has an energy benchmarking ordinance, which requires the owners of buildings greater than 20,000 square feet to analyze and report on their energy use annually. We plan to use this data to help commercial properties find ways to reduce their energy consumption, benefitting both property owners and the general public. A statewide home energy scoring program would provide a similar tool for residential properties.

Thank you for your consideration.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1101

H.P. 696

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

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

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and
Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE
of Kennebunkport, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10130** is enacted to read:

3 **§10130. Home energy score; home energy audit requirements**

4 The trust shall establish a home energy scoring system in accordance with this section
5 for residential buildings for the purpose of evaluating a building's energy efficiency and
6 relative greenhouse gas emissions. This section governs the development of the home
7 energy score and home energy audit requirements.

8 **1. Home energy audit requirements.** A home energy audit must be conducted by an
9 energy auditor that meets the requirements of section 10114. An energy auditor must
10 provide a written report of the home energy audit to the requestor of the home energy audit.
11 The report must include the building's home energy score.

12 **2. Violations.** Penalties may be issued by the trust against an individual who:

13 A. Conducts or offers to conduct a home energy audit without meeting the requirements
14 of section 10114; or

15 B. Impersonates an energy auditor.

16 **3. Uses of home energy score.** A home energy score provided under subsection 1 may
17 be used in accordance with the following:

18 A. A county or municipality may promote or administer home energy audits;

19 B. A county or municipality may require a home energy score at the time a residential
20 building is advertised for sale; or

21 C. The trust may require a home energy score for an individual to be eligible to receive
22 financial rebates or other incentives for energy efficiency improvements under
23 programs administered by the trust.

24 **4. Rules.** The trust shall adopt rules to implement this section, including but not
25 limited to:

26 A. Rules establishing a home energy scoring system required under this section in
27 accordance with this paragraph. The home energy score must be consistent with the
28 United States Department of Energy asset-based home energy score in order to measure
29 the performance of the building and not the number or behavior of occupants of the
30 building;

31 B. Rules relating to the report required under subsection 1, including:

32 (1) The time period an energy auditor has to provide a report of a home energy
33 audit to the requestor of the audit; and

34 (2) Information required to be contained in the report of a home energy audit,
35 including the following depicted through graphics:

36 (a) Home energy score on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the best score;

37 (b) Amount of estimated energy use by fuel type per year;

38 (c) Unit prices by fuel type used to calculate the estimated energy costs;

39 (d) Estimated annual cost of energy by fuel type;

(e) Estimate of current greenhouse gas emissions in carbon dioxide equivalent tons per year on a scale of zero to 15;

(f) Itemized recommendations for energy saving improvement in order of priority, for which a priority energy saving improvement has an expected full economic recoupment in no more than 10 years;

(g) Recommendations for energy saving improvement, such as improving insulation to windows, walls, roofs, attics and floors;

(h) Estimated home energy score, estimated energy savings in dollars per year and estimated carbon reduction in percent per year after priority energy saving improvement are implemented;

(i) Amount of renewable energy generated by the residential building:

(j) Name and contact information of the energy auditor, the energy auditor's employer and the energy auditor's certificate number:

(k) Date of the home energy audit and date of the expiration of the home energy score;

(1) Address of the residential building audited, the floor area in square feet and the year the building was constructed;

(m) A statement indicating that the report meets state standards for home energy audits;

(n) A list of other energy efficiency-related certifications for which the residential building is qualified; and

(o) A list of applicable rebates or other incentives to achieve greater energy efficiency;

C. Rules establishing penalties for violations described in subsection 2; and

D. Requirements for an energy auditor to report to the trust home energy scores and requirements for the establishment and maintenance of a database maintained by the trust.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Efficiency Maine Trust to adopt rules. The Efficiency Maine Trust shall, no later than December 31, 2024, adopt rules required in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10130, subsection 4.

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a home energy scoring system for residential buildings for the purpose of evaluating a building's energy efficiency and relative greenhouse gas emissions. The bill also provides requirements relating to home energy audits.

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*

To: Joint Standing Committee On Health and Human Services

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 03/28/2023

Re: LD 199



Testimony in support of LD 199 “An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program”

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in support of LD 199, An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program.

Asylum seekers are migrants that have no protection from the federal government, as they are not refugees. They have often traveled for long periods of time in very harsh conditions to arrive at their destination. They may have experienced significant trauma resulting from the ordeal, requiring mental health services. They have often escaped from countries or areas with political instability, and may not have received adequate (or any) health care in some time.

Types of treatment essential to their health - and, by association, the health of the greater public - are vaccinations, pregnancy care, and treatment for parasitic or other transmissible infections, including HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis. Finally, as asylum seekers have likely had little to no access to medication, they need to be assessed for chronic diseases and given access to medication and treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101 | 207-874-8300 | info@portlandmaine.gov



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

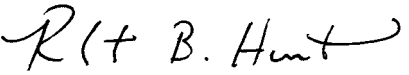
No. 199

H.P. 123

House of Representatives, January 17, 2023

An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, GATTINE of Westbrook, MEYER of Eliot,
RANA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, ROTUNDO of
Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-FFF, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. DDD,
3 §1, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

4 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, effective January 1, 2024, a person
5 21 years of age or older is eligible for the same scope of medical assistance provided under
6 section 3174-G for comparable enrollment groups to a person who would be eligible for
7 assistance under the federal Medicaid program under Title XIX of the federal Social
8 Security Act but for the person's immigration status. In accordance with 8 United States
9 Code, Section 1621, the State shall appropriate funds in the state budget to provide state-
10 funded medical assistance through the MaineCare program for noncitizen individuals who
11 reside in the State and are ineligible for coverage due to federal restrictions relating to
12 immigration status in the federal Medicaid program. Implementation of coverage required
13 by this section is not contingent on federal approval of any waivers or amendments to the
14 state Medicaid plan for this purpose.

15 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-FFF, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

16 **1-A. Maximization of federal funds.** The department shall maximize the receipt of
17 available federal matching funds for coverage provided under this section.

18 **Sec. 3. Federal Medicaid waivers or state plan amendments; funding.** The
19 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish coverage under the Maine
20 Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-FFF, subsection 1 as of January 1, 2024 using state
21 funds. The department may seek to acquire matching federal funds under the Medicaid
22 program by submitting to the United States Department of Health and Human Services,
23 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or state plan amendments
24 determined necessary.

25 **Sec. 4. Rulemaking.** By January 1, 2024, the Department of Health and Human
26 Services shall adopt rules to implement the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section
27 3174-FFF, subsection 1, as amended by this Act. Rules adopted pursuant to this section
28 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

29 SUMMARY

30 This bill provides MaineCare program coverage for noncitizen residents of this State
31 21 years of age or older with qualifying low incomes who are ineligible for coverage under
32 the federal Medicaid program due to their immigration status.

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 03/30/2023

Re: LD 793

Testimony in Support of LD 793 “An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing”

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in Support of LD 793, An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing.

Portland is currently struggling to manage numerous challenges, including overwhelming homelessness, staffing shortages and an increased demand for public services and investment in infrastructure. We know many other Maine municipalities are similarly challenged. By our estimate, this bill would provide Portland with a much-needed increase in revenue to further support the growing demand for public services.

We do not believe this is the only solution to supporting the growing demand for municipal services, and remain supportive of other proposals to increase municipal revenue, including a local option sales tax.

Thank you for your consideration.



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.