

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda Agenda**
April 11, 2023



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

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I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of April 4, 2023

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review: New LDs (Bernstein Shur)
- b. Review: Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)
- i. LD 406 (Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads): Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, at 1:00pm

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
April 4, 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 8:06am. In attendance were Councilor Regina Phillips, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), and Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur).

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

Approval of the minutes was postponed due to the absence of a quorum.

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

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review of New LDs (Bernstein Shur)

The following bills were added to the legislative tracker with the following actions:

- LD 1286 (Resolve, to Establish the Blue Economy): Testimony in support to be prepared
- LD 1293 (An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund): Testimony in support to be prepared
- LD 1298 (An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-Term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing): Testimony in support to be prepared
- LD 1310 (An Act to Establish a State Emergency Rental Assistance Program): Testimony in support to be prepared
- LD 1351 (Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Create a Program to Promote Transit and Transportation Research and Funding)
- LD 1356 (An Act to Improve the Local Referendum Process by Increasing the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a Local Referendum Question)
- LD 1365 (An Act to Require Photograph Identification for Voting): Testimony in opposition to be prepared
- LD 1370 (An Act to Simplify the School Budget Validation Process)
- LD 1377 (An Act to Provide Rental Assistance for Recovery Housing)
- LD 1380 (An Act to Fund Municipal Administrative Costs Associate with the Senior Property Tax Stabilization Program): Testimony in support to be prepared

- LD 1402 (An Act to Provide An Additional Allocation in the School Funding Formula to Cover Tax-Exempt Property or a Large Economically Disadvantaged Student Population): Testimony in support to be prepared

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

Councilor Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 24, 2023, seconded by Phillips, vote (4-0).

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.

Chair Snyder opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session, seconded by Councilor Phillips, vote (4-0).

VII. Adjournment

**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: April 5, 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 1403](#) (HP899)

An Act to Promote Minimum Wage Consistency by Limiting the Authority of Municipalities Regarding Minimum Hourly Pay

[LD 1409](#) (HP905)

An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality

[LD 1413](#) (HP909)

An Act to Amend the Laws Establishing a Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens

[LD 1415](#) (HP911)

An Act to Expand Access to School Construction Funding

[LD 1422](#) (HP918)

An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless

by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services

LD 1425 (HP921)

An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Access Protections by Allowing Remote Meetings to Be Recorded

LD 1426 (HP922)

An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance

LD 1437 (HP933)

An Act to Address Poverty by Increasing Access to Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Programs

LD 1440 (HP936)

Resolve, to Increase the Availability of Community Children's Behavioral Health Services by Providing Training and Career Opportunities for Behavioral Health Professionals

LD 1448 (SP566)

An Act to Change the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Requirements by Reducing Benefits Commensurate with a Recipient's Salary, Reducing the Special Housing Allowance and Limiting Eligibility for 2-parent Families

LD 1451 (SP569)

An Act to Prohibit State and Local Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws

LD 1472 (SP591)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to Amend Their Rules Regarding the Maine School Facilities Finance Program and the School Revolving Renovation Fund

LD 1480 (SP601)

An Act to Protect Union Wharf and Sustain Maine's Maritime Industries

LD 1490 (HP945)

An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy

LD 1500 (HP955)

An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elections by Requiring Video Monitoring of Drop Boxes and Amending the Laws Regarding Voter Rolls and

Absentee Voting Envelopes

LD 1510 (HP965)

An Act to Provide Grants to Promote Innovative Learning Strategies

LD 1538 (SP611)

An Act to Provide Tax Benefits to Persons Constructing Accessory Dwelling Units

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	OTP-AM Reported out 4/5/23	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 and the Portland Harbor Dredging Project (Bond)	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
1356	Elections	An Act to Improve the Local Referendum Process by Increasing the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a Local Referendum Question	Graham	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor				858		
1365	Elections	An Act to Require Photograph Identification for Voting	Paul	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose				1134	Testimony	
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.	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	4/7/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB		345		
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	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	4/5/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	Voted 4/5/23 OTP-AM	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	4/14/23 9:01 AM Rm 216 COB			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		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	4/5/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	Voted 4/5/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt	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	Blier	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				876	Given minimal detail re: eligibility and other parameters, this bill is too broad	
462	Housing	An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal	Madigan	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	4/14/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB			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	
665	Housing	An Act to Extend the Date by Which Compliance is Required for Affordable Housing Development, Increased Numbers of Dwelling Units and	Hepler	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	4/11/23 1:30 PM Rm 216 COB			583		Y
1074	Housing	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable	Daughtry	AFA	Bill Text	Monitor				358		
1133	Housing	An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters	Adams	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor				1519		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1293	Housing	An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund	Gattine	Housing	Bill Text	Support				1836	Testimony	
1298	Housing	An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing	Skold	TAX	Bill Text	Support				2113	Testimony	
1310	Housing	An Act to Establish a State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Emergency)	Warren	Housing	Bill Text	Support	4/14/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB			663	Testimony	
1334	Housing	An Act to Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services	Millet	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	4/18/23 1:00 PM			1205		
1377	Housing	An Act to Provide Rental Assistance for Recovery Housing	Milliken	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor				1163		
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	Foster	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				7	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
96	Other	An Act to Ensure Release of Relevant	Cyrway	CJPS	Bill Text	More info	1/30/23	2/8/23	Voted	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	4/5/23 1:00 PM	Voted 4/5/23	348	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	ONTP Reported out 4/5/23	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	Lookner	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor				1142		
422	Other	An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public	Newman	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	3/2/23 1:00 PM	3/9/23 2:15 PM	Voted 3/9/23	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		
145	Public safety	An Act to Increase the Penalties for Operation of a Motor Vehicle While Using a Handheld Electronic Device or	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	138	2/15/23 Support concept, but concerns with penalty	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	4/4/23 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 4/4/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt	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	4/12/23 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH			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	Rotundo	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor	4/12/23 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH			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	Pouliot	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor/ Staff support	3/16/23 1:00 PM	4/4/23 1:00 PM	Voted 4/4/23	211		
88	Revenue	An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax	Paulhus	TAX	Bill Text	Testify	3/9/23 2:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Work session reconsidered 4/4/23	Voted 3/21/23 MAJ: OTP-AM	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	Voted 4/4/23 ONTP Not rpt out	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	Tabled 4/4/23	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 4/4/23	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	4/19/23 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	
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	4/19/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH		132	Testify	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1380	Revenue	An Act to Fund Municipal Administrative Costs Associated with the Senior Property Tax Stabilization	Baldacci	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	4/12/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			1291		
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		
1370	Schools	An Act to Simplify the School Budget Validation Process	Mastraccio	ECU	Bill Text	Monitor				1374		
1402	Schools	An Act to Provide an Additional Allocation in the School Funding Formula to Cover Tax-exempt Property or a Large Economically Disadvantaged Student Population (Emergency)	Brennan	EDU	Bill Text	Support	4/12/23 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			724	Testimony	
406	Transportation	An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor	4/12/23 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH			2041		
408	Transportation	An Act to Expand Bus Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2196		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
409	Transportation	An Act to Improve Pedestrian Safety	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2303		
1351	Transportation	Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Create a Program to	Lookner	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2362		
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		
1286	Waterfront	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 (Emergency)	Duson	IDEA	Bill Text	Support	4/11/23 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB			1268	Testimony	

New title: **Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and replacing with the following:

Sec. 1. Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan, referred to in this resolve as “the vision plan,” for the following state-owned railroad lines, referred to in this resolve as “the covered corridors”:

- the Berlin Subdivision, referred to as the St. Lawrence and Atlantic rail corridor between Portland and Auburn.
- the Lower Road rail corridor between Brunswick and Augusta.
- the Mountain Division Line corridor owned by the State; and
- the Rockland Branch rail corridor from Brunswick in Rockland.

The vision plan must be consistent with the department's comprehensive long-range transportation plans and must be based on the study conducted under section 2.

The Department of Transportation shall use the vision plan to evaluate reasonable potential uses of the covered corridors including light rail operations and as a prioritization framework for the development of compatible multimodal uses, including passenger train service, freight train service and non-rail multi-modal uses. When evaluating reasonable potential uses, the department shall evaluate the likelihood, benefits, and costs of restoration of the covered corridors for rail use consistent with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 615.

Sec. 2. Authorization of design and engineering studies; Resolved: That the Department of Transportation, with the advice of the advisory committee established under section 4, shall, through a competitive bid process, contract with an appropriate public or private entity to conduct a design and engineering study to develop a complete and comprehensive configuration plan and scope of work for restoration of the covered corridors to a minimum of Class 3 inter-urban light rail operating conditions. The configuration plan must identify train station locations in communities along each corridor and identify necessary sidings and controls as well as track upgrades or replacements. The study must address how the covered corridors will connect to the national General Rail System. The study must identify compatible non-rail uses including bicycle and pedestrian trails in the corridor. The configuration plan may not preclude use of the covered corridors for freight train service. The study must assess the feasibility of obtaining federal Capital Improvements Grants to implement the configuration plan.

Sec. 3. Operator. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall seek proposals for an operator to provide passenger rail transit service on one or more of the covered corridors. The scope of services must address legal and federal railroad administration requirements for any shared use or crossings of the CSX Transportation mainline corridor and the Genesee & Wyoming railroad.

Sec. 4. Advisory committee. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Transportation shall establish by October 1, 2023, an advisory committee to advise the commissioner in adopting a vision plan under section 1 and in selecting an appropriate entity to conduct the study under section 2. The advisory committee must consist of at least 11 members and not more than 15 members. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or a designee shall serve on the advisory committee. The Commissioner of Transportation shall invite the following to serve on the committee:

- a person representing another state agency, as determined appropriate by the commissioner.
- the Executive Director or designee of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- the Executive Director or designee of the Bangor Chamber of Commerce.
- a representative of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.
- a representative of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce.
- a representative of the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center; and
- a person representing an organization advocating for rail use.

The Commissioner of Transportation may invite other persons with expertise in rail logistics or infrastructure. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the chair of advisory committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the chair and shall hold a minimum of six public hearings, two of which must be in communities along the covered corridors.

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That by January 15, 2025, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over transportation matters that includes the results of the study conducted under the section 2 and the vision plan adopted under section 1 together with any recommendations for legislative action. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over transportation matters may report out a bill to the 1st Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature related to subject matter of the report.

OFPR to provide necessary funding from the State Multi Modal Fund.

City of Portland | City Council

Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: TBD

Re: LD 406

Testimony in Support of LD 406 “Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads”

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in Support of LD 406, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads.

Based on the City of Portland’s recent involvement with multiple rail-related studies and initiatives, including passenger rail feasibility to Lewiston and the Portland-to-Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council, it has become clear that a guiding vision of the future use of critical state corridors is necessary, for everything from passenger transportation to freight to active transportation connections.

The actions included by this legislation would provide the high-level analysis needed to move the State of Maine on a path toward sustainable community development and away from auto-centric planning; this shift is essential to an effective, forward-looking course as we navigate climate and housing crises.

Thank you for your consideration.