

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda**
February 13, 2024



MEMBERS
Mayor Mark Dion, Chair
Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Kate Sykes

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

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For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

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I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of January 26, 2024

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review: LD List and Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)
- b. Testimony for amended LD 646 (An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program) (Public Hearing February 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM)

IV. Other Business

- a. National League of Cities 2024 Congressional City Conference (staff)
- b. Monthly meeting with the Portland Delegation (staff)

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
January 23, 2024



MEMBERS
Mayor Mark Dion, Chair
Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Kate Sykes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:03AM. In attendance were Mayor Mark Dion (Chair), Councilor Kate Sykes, Councilor Pious Ali, City Manager Danielle West, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Knox (Bernstein Shur).

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of January 9, 2024

Councilor Ali made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2024, seconded by Councilor Sykes, vote (2-0, Councilor Ali absent).

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review: New LDs List and Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

Councilor Sykes made a motion to send testimony in support of LD 2136 (An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals), seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

Councilor Sykes made a motion to write a letter in support of LD 2146 (An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters), seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

IV. Other Business

- a. Review and Finalize the 2024 Committee Work Plan (Mayor Mark Dion, Chair)

Councilor Ali made a motion to approve the 2024 Work Plan, seconded by Councilor Sykes, vote (3-0).

- b. Property Tax Stabilization Program Update (Danielle West, City Manager)

V. Adjournment

Councilor Sykes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chair Mayor Dion, vote (3-0).

Executive Department

Danielle West

City Manager

February 7, 2024



The following legislative documents (LDs) were recently released by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, and are related to the 2024 Council Common Goals and/or the confirmed priorities of the 2024 Legislative/Nominating Committee (LNC). The goal or priority the bill relates to will be included in this document whenever possible.

Staff may also include LDs that are expected to have a significant operational impact on the City of Portland, and will be available to answer questions as needed.

Bills on which the LNC takes a formal position (by vote) will be monitored by Bernstein Shur throughout the session. Bernstein Shur will also prepare testimony to be delivered at public hearings on those bills. Whenever possible, testimony will be shared with LNC in advance.

[LD 1952: An Act to Allow On-site Cannabis Consumption](#) (public hearing held 1/24)

[LD 1732: An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program](#) (voted OTP on 1/30)

[LD 646: An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government](#) (public hearing on proposed amendment scheduled for 2/13 at 2pm)

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 Community Development	Bennett	IDEA	Bill Text	Support	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB	5/9/23 2:00 PM Rm 206 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 6/12/23	904	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23 Testimony submitted	
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	4/27/23 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			865	Carried over 7/26/23	Y
1426	GA	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance	Mathieson	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	5/5/23 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	1/30/24 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Voted 1/30/24 ONTP Not rpt out	656	Carried over 7/26/23	
1732	GA	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program (Emergency)	Meyer	HHS	Bill Text	Support	5/5/23 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	1/30/24 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Voted 1/30/24 OTP-AM	674	High priority bill Carried over 7/26/23	Y
1480	Harbor	An Act to Protect Union Wharf and Sustain Maine's Maritime Industries (Bond)	Brenner	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/24/23 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH			974	Carried over 7/26/23 Testimony submitted	
226	Housing	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis (Emergency)	Millet	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	4/14/23 9:01 AM Rm 216 COB	5/5/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 6/21/23	791	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
314	Housing	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	Hickman	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor		LTW Reported out 1/9/24	DEAD	2107	Carried over 7/26/23	
337	Housing	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Golek	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	1/30/24 1:15 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 1/30/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	1984	Carried over 7/26/23	
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	5/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 6/2/23	1507	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23	
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	4/25/23 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			358	Carried over 7/26/23	
1298	Housing	An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing	Skold	TAX	Bill Text	Support	2/13/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	2/27/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH		2113	Carried over 7/26/23 Testimony requested	
1538	Housing	An Act to Provide Tax Benefits to Persons Constructing Accessory Dwelling Units	Brenner	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	5/10/23 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	1/11/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	ONTP Reportd out 2/8/24	142	Carried over 7/26/23 Need staff input	
1721	Housing	An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State	Duson	Housing	Bill Text	Support	5/12/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	1/30/24 1:30 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 1/30/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	1022	Carried over 7/26/23 Strong support - Mayor testified	
1867	Housing	An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority	Lookner	Housing	Bill Text		5/19/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	1/26/24 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	Voted 1/26/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	1054	Carried over 7/26/23	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1893	Housing	An Act to Allow a Municipality to Impose a Fee on Short-term Rentals for the Benefit of That Municipality	Strout	TAX	Bill Text		1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	1/31/24 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 1/31/24 ONTP Not rpt out	224	Carried over 7/26/23	
1904	Housing	An Act to Enact the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act	Talbot Ross	JUD	Bill Text		5/15/23 10:00 AM Rm 438 SH	2/6/24 1:30 PM Rm 438 SH	Voted 2/6/24 ONTP Not rpt out	574	Carried over 7/26/23	
2136	Housing	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	Mastraccio	Housing	Bill Text	Support	1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	1/30/24 1:15 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 1/30/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2714	Draft written testimony of support	
2138	Housing	Resolve, to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	Madigan	Housing	Bill Text	Support	1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	1/30/24 1:15 PM Rm 216 COB	DEAD	2767	Monitor and get update to City	
2146	Housing	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	Lookner	SLG	Bill Text	Support	1/30/24 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	2/6/24 2:00 PM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/6/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	2932	Support with letter Bernstein to get more information	
2158	Housing	An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System	Golek	Housing	Bill Text		1/30/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	2/2/24 9:30 AM Rm 216 COB	Tabled 2/2/24	2938		
2169	Housing	An Act to Support the Development of Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	Daughtry	Housing	Bill Text		2/6/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	2/13/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB		2752		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	1/8/24 10:30 AM Rm 214 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 1/18/24 2/6/24 Placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted, in concurrence	82	Carried over 7/26/23	
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	5/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 436 SH	2/14/24 1:30 PM Rm 436 SH	Tabled 1/10/24	1142	Carried over 7/26/23	
646	Other	An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government (Emergency)	Sachs	AFA	Bill Text		2/13/24 2:00 PM Rm 228 SH	6/1/23 2:00 PM Rm 228 SH	Tabled 6/1/23	1194	Carried over 7/26/23	
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	4/27/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 5/12/23	1084	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23	
1584	Other	An Act to Provide Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to Restore Benefits Reduced by the Federal Government (Title change)	Stover	HHS	Bill Text	Support	5/1/23 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	5/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 6/20/23	2484	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23 Mayor to testify via Zoom. Testify in support - significant usage of SNAP in Portland, Councilor Fournier to testify - no written record of testimony provided	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1896	Other	An Act to Index Workers' Compensation Benefits to the Rate of Inflation	Nangle	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	5/11/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	1/25/24 3:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Voted 1/25/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	2397	Carried over 7/26/23	
2079	Other	An Act to Strengthen Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Rights (Emergency)	Roeder	LH	Bill Text			LTW Reported out 1/11/24	DEAD	2869		
2088	Other	An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities	Daughtry	VLA	Bill Text		1/22/24 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/1/24 12:10 PM Rm 437 SH	Voted 2/1/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2638		
2094	Other	Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers	Jackson	CJPS	Bill Text		1/29/24 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	2/7/24 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Tabled 2/7/24	2906		
2101	Other	An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement (Emergency)	Nangle	SLG	Bill Text		2/6/24 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	2/13/24 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB		2899		
2111	Other	An Act Regarding the Timeline for Property Tax Abatement Based on Hardship or Poverty	Timberlake	TAX	Bill Text		2/7/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Work session held 2/7/24	Voted 2/7/24 ONTP Not rpt out	2694		
2135	Other	Resolve, to Investigate and Address Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services Issues (Emergency)	Dill	ENR	Bill Text		1/24/24 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	2/8/24 1:30 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 2/8/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2798		
2162	Other	An Act Regarding the Homestead Property Tax Exemption and the Property Value Reassessment Process (Emergency)	Ankeles	TAX	Bill Text		2/7/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	2/21/24 2:00 PM Rm 127 SH		2718		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
772	Permitting	An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants	Pouliot	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	11/14/23 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	2/13/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Tabled 1/16/24	1486	Carried over 7/26/23	
1975	Public health	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	Crafts	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	1/17/24 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Work session held 5/24/23	Tabled 5/24/23	1689	Carried over 7/26/23	
1409	Public safety	An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality	Fay	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	4/25/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	1/25/24 1:15 PM Rm 214 COB	Voted 1/25/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2096	Carried over 7/26/23 Staff opposed	
1751	Public safety	An Act to Maximize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services	Curry	HHS	Bill Text	Support	5/1/23 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	2/7/24 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Voted 2/7/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	494	Carried over 7/26/23 Testimony submitted	
2129	Public safety	An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Conduct an Inventory of Existing Forensic Examination Kits in the Possession of Law Enforcement (Emergency)	Geiger	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	1/29/24 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	2/7/24 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Voted 2/7/24 A: OTP-AM B: ONTP C: OTP-AM Not rpt out	2786	Bernstein to gather more information	
402	Rail	An Act to Change Maine's Transportation Laws	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Support	1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	5/23/23 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	Tabled 5/23/23	1719	Similar language to LD 406. Committee supported 406 last session, mayor provided testimony. Carried over 7/26/23	
406	Rail	An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Support	4/12/23 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	Work session held 6/1/23	DEAD	2041	Mayor testified in support	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	1/30/24 1:30 PM Rm 126 SH	Voted 1/30/24 MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Not rpt out	645	Carried over 7/26/23	
1957	Rail	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure (Bond)	Collings	AFA	Bill Text	Monitor	5/25/23 2:00 PM Rm 228 SH			2390	Carried over 7/26/23	
1156	Recreation	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation (Bond)	Fay	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/27/23 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			682	Carried over 7/26/23	
1710	Rental assistance	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	Golek	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	5/12/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	2/13/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Tabled 1/5/24	833	Carried over 7/26/23	
996	Revenue	An Act to Allow a Municipality to Establish a Local Option Sales Tax	Gramlich	TAX	Bill Text	Support				2326	Carried over 7/26/23 Testimony requested. No public hearing scheduled.	
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	Work session reconsidered 2/6/24	Voted 2/6/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	724	Carried over 7/26/23 Testimony?	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1422	Schools	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Rental Subsidy Program (Emergency)(Title change)	Brennan	Housing	Bill Text		4/14/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	4/18/23 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 5/25/23	723	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23	
1465	Sustainability	An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing	Harrington	EUT	Bill Text	Opposed	1/9/24 1:00 PM Rm 211 COB	1/16/24 1:00 PM Rm 211 COB	Voted 1/16/24 MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Not rpt out	1597	Testimony submitted Carried over 7/26/23	
2077	Sustainability	An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas	Zeigler	EUT	Bill Text	Support	1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 211 COB	2/1/24 2:00 PM Rm 211 COB	Tabled 2/1/24	2893		
1737	Tax	An Act to Provide up to \$5,000 in Property Tax Relief to Veterans	Hymes	TAX	Bill Text		5/17/23 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	1/23/24 2:45 PM Rm 127 SH	Voted 1/23/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	2103	Carried over 7/26/23	
2102	Tax	An Act to Support Municipalities by Repealing the Law Limiting the Municipal Property Tax Levy (Emergency)	Pierce	SLG	Bill Text		2/20/24 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB		Referred to SLG Reported out 1/26/24	2929		
2144	Tax	An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit	Russell	TAX	Bill Text		2/7/24 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	2/21/24 2:00 PM Rm 127 SH		2842		
235	Waterfront	An Act to Promote Economic Development in the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging Project in Portland Harbor	Brennan	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor	1/16/24 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	Work session held 1/16/24	DEAD	864	City staff to provide council members with additional information. Carried over 7/26/23	Y

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
1935	Workforce	An Act to Promote Workforce Development by Establishing a Workforce Development Program	Brennan	LH	Bill Text	Strong Support	5/18/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	5/24/23 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 6/6/23	721	Carried over - Appropriations Table 7/26/23 Testimony submitted	

City of Portland | City Council

Mark Dlon, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee

Date: 2/13/2024

Re: LD 646

Testimony in Support of the Amended LD 646 An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

On behalf of the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee, I write to you in support of the amended version of LD 646, An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program.

LD 646 would transfer \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to be used to fully reimburse municipalities for revenue lost under the program.

The City of Portland submitted reimbursement for the Property Tax Stabilization Program for \$886,798.50 and received \$496,607.16; just 56% of the required reimbursement promised by the State. According to our records, we are still owed \$390,191.34. Our property taxes and current year mill rate would have been 3 cents higher if we had known about this in advance but there is now no way to go back and increase the mill rate since at the time taxes were committed every municipality in Maine was under the impression we'd be getting reimbursed at 100%.

We need reimbursement of these funds to provide the promised level of services to our residents this year. Please support LD 646.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

¹Heyman, M. & Dill, J. & Douglass, R. (2018). Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders [White Paper]. Ruderman Family Foundation.
https://www.scribd.com/document/376280678/First-Responder-White-Paper-Final#download&from_embed

LEGISLATIVE/NOMINATING COMMITTEE
POLICY PRIORITIES

Support Rep. Pingree's Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act (HR 6693)

Asylum seekers are currently required to wait 365 days to apply for Work Authorization after submitting their Asylum application. This waiting period delays self-sufficiency and, in many cases, represents an additional six months of General Assistance. A wait time reduction benefits Maine's economy, helps address our workforce shortage, and enables new Mainers to be self-sufficient. This bill, introduced by Rep. Pingree in February 2022 and referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, would reduce the wait to 30 days.

Mandate universal background checks

With larger-city crime and violence having found its way to Maine, the importance of addressing firearm violence and safety has never been greater. Universal background checks would be a valuable tool for reducing gun-related violence and deaths, reducing avenues and options for access by prohibited persons who may otherwise exploit the private sale loophole every day, putting all of our communities at risk.

Funding Support to Dredge Portland Harbor Berthing Resources

The City of Portland, in partnership with the City of South Portland, the Portland Harbor Commission, and the State of Maine Department of Transportation, was unsuccessful in a third application for federal funding through the 2022 RAISE (formerly BUILD) Grant Program to dredge public and private berthing resources in Portland Harbor. Total project costs are estimated at \$32-34 million.

While virtually all urban harbors require dredging to mitigate sedimentation caused by natural drainage and stormwater runoff, Portland Harbor's berthing resources are challenged by legacy contaminants and have not been dredged in decades. Recent economic studies emphasize that berthing resources underpin a harbor-wide economy with a \$1B annual impact. Dredging will stabilize losses and expand the

potential of the harbor for fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, and emerging opportunities in the “Blue Economy”. Congressional support for the Portland Dredge Project will be critical for it to succeed.

Funding Support for Police Headquarters Relocation

Portland’s 50-year-old headquarters no longer provides the capacity needed to effectively provide the type and level of law enforcement and requests for service seen today. The current building faces maintenance issues, and houses both a regional crime lab and a regional communications center. In addition, it provides space for a federal “safe streets” task force. Federal support is needed to help the department keep pace with growth and challenges in our region.

Funding Support for Fire Stations

In 2017, a consultant determined that at least five of Portland’s fire stations need to be completely replaced due to cramped quarters, small lot, age, and required environmental upgrades. As a result of these challenges, we are unable to add additional or larger apparatuses; increase staffing; conduct onsite training; meet ADA requirements; meet living quarters best practices; address potential plumbing and heating systems hazards.

Funding for Workforce Development Training

Increased federal support for training in the skilled trades to develop a more robust talent pipeline, as well as to provide new economic opportunities for minority and low-income populations.

PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING PRIORITIES

- **[The HOME Investment Partnerships Program](#)**: This is a vital resource to ensure the continued creation and maintenance of affordable housing. When construction is completed on recent HOME-funded projects, 275 new units of affordable rental housing will be added to the Portland market.
- **[The Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#)**: This is often the only resource available to fund public infrastructure in lower-income neighborhoods and provide social services to the most vulnerable residents in our community. Recent CDBG projects include road and lighting improvements in the Bayside neighborhood, community policing, and the provision of homeless case workers and housing specialists.

- **Certified Local Government Funding**: The City relies on this funding to support staffing levels in its Historic Preservation Program; we have also been awarded a number of CLG grants for other projects, such as to help fund the restoration of historic Lincoln Park's cast iron fence and granite piers. Local private nonprofit organizations, such as the Tate House and Mechanics Hall, also rely on this vital funding source, and the Historic Preservation program has assisted with CLG grants for local nonprofits. CLG grants remain an important resource.
- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, COPS and Project Safe Neighborhoods (all via Department of Justice)**: These programs are critical to enhancing the safety and quality of life in our communities, as well as the safety and wellness of the officers protecting them.