

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda**
March 12, 2024



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

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I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from February 27, 2024

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review: LD Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

IV. Other Business

- a. FYI: Federal Legislative Priorities (final draft)

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
February 27, 2024



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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Mark Dion (Chair) called the meeting to order at 8:03 am. In attendance were Councilor Kate Sykes, Councilor Pious Ali, City Manager Danielle West, Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), and Troy Moon (Director of Sustainability).

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

Councilor Sykes made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2024, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

III. Legislative Update

- a. For Committee Consideration: Support for LD 2214 (Part EE) (Troy Moon, Sustainability Director)

Part EE of LD 2214 would provide a one-time addition of \$5 million to the Community Resilience Partnership's grant programs, which has provided the City of Portland with funding in support of sustainability initiatives. A public hearing is scheduled for Friday, March 1.

Councilor Sykes made a motion to approve the testimony as provided by Troy Moon, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

- b. Review: LD List and Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

- c. Testimony Submitted: Supplemental Budget (Parts HH and II)

- i. Testimony in Support of LD 2214 (Part HH)

Submitted at AFA public hearing on Friday, February 23

- ii. Testimony in Opposition to LD 2214 (Part II)

Planned to be delivered at AFA public hearing on Monday, February 26

IV. Other Business

- a. Discussion: Federal Policy Priorities List

This list includes policy priorities suggested by staff and councilors. The final list will guide conversations with congressional representatives on Hill Day (March 13, 2024).

V. Adjournment

Councilor Sykes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0). Chair Dion adjourned the meeting at 8:40 am.

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
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 Not rpt out	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	
337	Housing	An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Regulation of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing (Title change)	Golek	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor	1/23/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	1/30/24 1:15 PM Rm 216 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 2/29/24	1984	Carried over 7/26/23	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	Voted 2/27/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	2113	Carried over 7/26/23 Testimony requested	
1721	Housing	Resolve, to Establish a Plan to Provide Transitional Housing and to Support the Growth of Maine's Workforce (Title change)	Duson	Housing	Bill Text	Support	5/12/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	1/30/24 1:30 PM Rm 216 COB	3/6/24 Resolve Ch. 136	1022	Carried over 7/26/23 Strong support - Mayor testified	
1867	Housing	An Act to Establish the Community Housing Production Program (Title change)	Lookner	Housing	Bill Text		5/19/23 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	1/26/24 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 2/15/24 2/28/24 On motion by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin PLACED ON THE SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE pending PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED	1054	Carried over 7/26/23	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	2/20/24 1:15 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 1/30/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2714	Draft written testimony of support	
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	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 2/20/24 Unfinished Business 3/7/24	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	2/20/24 1:15 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 2/20/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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	3/5/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/5/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2752		
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	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/5/24	1142	Carried over 7/26/23	
646	Other	An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program (Emergency)(Title change)	Sachs	AFA	Bill Text		2/13/24 2:00 PM Rm 228 SH	Work session held 2/13/24	3/6/24 Public Law Ch. 520	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	
1896	Other	Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board to Analyze Data on the Adequacy of Certain Maine Workers' Compensation Benefits (Title change)	Nangle	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	5/11/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	1/25/24 3:00 PM Rm 202 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 2/16/24	2397	Carried over 7/26/23	
2088	Other	An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities and to Convene a Stakeholder Group Regarding Licensing and Operations (Title change)	Daughtry	VLA	Bill Text		1/22/24 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/1/24 12:10 PM Rm 437 SH	OTP-AM Reported out 2/29/24	2638		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	2/28/24 1:30 PM Rm 436 SH	Voted 2/28/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: OTP-AM Not rpt out	2906		
2101	Other	An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement (Emergency)	Nangle	SLG	Bill Text		2/6/24 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	2/22/24 1:15 PM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/22/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	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	DEAD	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	Voted 2/21/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2718		
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	3/5/24 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/5/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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		Tabled 5/24/23	1689	Carried over 7/26/23	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	Work session reconsidered 3/6/24	Voted 3/6/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: 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	3/5/24 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	Voted 3/5/24 OTP-AM Not rpt out	1719	Similar language to LD 406. Committee supported 406 last session, mayor provided testimony. Carried over 7/26/23	
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	MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Reported out 3/7/24	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	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	Voted 2/13/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	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?	
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	
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	3/5/24 1:30 PM Rm 211 COB	Voted 3/6/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	2893		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
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	2/27/24 1:30 PM Rm 214 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/6/24	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	Voted 2/21/24 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	2842		
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	



Legislative / Nominating Committee Federal Policy Priorities

Enable Asylum-Seeking Individuals' Path to Self-Sufficiency

- Advance Rep. Pingree's Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act (HR 6693). The City of Portland serves thousands of asylum-seeking individuals each year, providing shelter and various social services while our clients wait to be eligible to apply for work authorization.

The current law requires that, once a person filed an asylum claim, they must wait 150 days before being able to apply for a work authorization, which can be granted no earlier than 180 days after the filing of the asylum claim. Rep. Pingree's proposal would reduce the waiting period for work authorization eligibility to just 30 days, and allow an asylum seeker to apply for a work permit as soon as their asylum claim is filed.

Public Safety

- Mandate Universal Background Checks. Universal background checks would be a valuable tool for reducing gun-related violence and deaths, as well as reducing access by prohibited persons who may otherwise exploit the private sale loophole every day, putting communities at risk.
- Continue to fund the [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.
- Funding Support for Police Headquarters Relocation. Portland's 50-year-old headquarters are unable 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.

Equity and Economic Opportunity

- Funding for Workforce Development Training. Increase 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.
- Fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The CDBG Program is celebrating its 50th year in 2024. This program 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 Woodford neighborhood, and Sagamore Village, a public housing neighborhood, and the provision of vital services for those experiencing homelessness such as food programs, case workers, shelter and housing specialists.

Affordable Housing Development

- 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 HOME projects funded over the past three years, more than 135 new units of affordable rental housing will be added to the Portland market.

Other

- In the coming years, the City of Portland and Maine Department of Transportation plan to make significant changes along and in proximity to **Franklin Street**, a major corridor connecting I-295 to Portland's peninsula and commercial center. This project could potentially address transportation and housing needs, and it is likely federal support for this transformative project will be pursued as early as 2025. (At this time, we are seeking consultant services to begin the design process.)