

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Meeting - January 13,
2026 Agenda**
January 13, 2026



MEMBERS
Mayor Mark Dion, Chair
Councilor Benjamin Grant
Councilor Kate Sykes

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

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.

To join this meeting, please visit: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/85085879598?pwd=yovlXq7no2iBHnWadjbBjgqVpiRaXc.1>

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting - December 15, 2025

III. Legislative Update

- a. Follow-up from December 15, 2025 Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting
- b. Review LD List and Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Meeting**
December 15, 2025



MEMBERS

Mayor Mark Dion, Chair
Councilor Ben Grant
Councilor Kate Sykes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 am. In attendance were Mayor Mark Dion, Councilor Ben Grant, Councilor Kate Sykes, Councilor Sarah Michniewicz, City Manager Danielle West, Special Assistant to the City Manager Max Wilder, Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), and Lisa Prosienski (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur).

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dion made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, moved by Councilor Grant, seconded by Councilor Sykes, vote (3-0).

III. Legislative Update

a. Discussion of Upcoming Legislative Session (Bernstein Shur)

Councilor Sykes made a motion to move LD 1996 to the tracker, seconded by Councilor Grant, vote (3-0).

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

Mayor Dion made a motion to adjourn the meeting, moved by Councilor Grant seconded by Councilor Sykes vote (3-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 am.

City of Portland | Executive Department

Danielle P. West, City Manager



To: Legislative/Nominating Committee

From: Max Wilder, Special Assistant to the City Manager

CC: Danielle P. West, City Manager

Date: January 13, 2026

Re: Follow-up on items from the December 15, 2025
Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting

Following the Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting held on December 15, 2025, the City Manager's Office has compiled the following information related to the specified LD numbers requiring further action or clarification:

- **LD 2042: An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper**
 - Staff recommends **supporting** this bill.
 - During our discussion on December 15, 2025, the Committee requested a recommendation from the City Clerk regarding this item. The City Clerk, along with other City staff, recommend the Committee support this bill.
 - Current statutory requirements for print based public notices represent a significant fiscal burden on the municipal budget across multiple departments, including the City Clerk's Office, Finance, Housing & Economic Development, and Planning & Urban Development. Last year, the City spent almost \$50,000 +\ - across various City departments on print noticing.
 - Certain items, such as the full text of Citizen Initiatives, would remain subject to the newspaper publication requirements mandated by the City Charter; however, removing the state level mandate for all other notices would allow for reduced municipal expenditures while maintaining a high standard of transparency through effective modern communication tools.
- **LD 264: An Act to Remove the 12-month Waiting Period for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption**
 - Staff recommends **neither supporting nor opposing** this bill at this time.
 - During the December 15, 2025 meeting, the Committee sought feedback on the operational and fiscal impacts of removing the one year residency requirement for the Homestead Exemption.
 - Currently, Maine law requires a homeowner to have owned a homestead in the state for the preceding 12 months before becoming eligible for the \$25,000 exemption. LD 264 would allow residents to qualify immediately upon establishing their permanent residence in the City.
 - Staff recommends deferring to the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) on this item. There is significant legislative history regarding the establishment of the 12-month waiting period, and MMA's guidance on the statewide impact and municipal "home rule" implications would be warranted before the City takes a formal position.

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
25	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Treatment Facility Planning and Construction of Infrastructure Projects (Bond)	Sen Brenner	AFA	Bill Text		4/10/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Carried over 6/25/25		160
560	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency (Bond)	Sen Bailey	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/10/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Testimony submitted Carried over 6/25/25		1923
690	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs (Bond)	Sen Pierce	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/9/25 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH			Testimony submitted Carried over 6/25/25		308
826	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Establish the School Energy Savings Revolving Loan Fund (Bond)	Sen Pierce	AFA	Bill Text		4/17/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Chair Lentz is researching. Carried over 6/25/25		1987
836	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings (Bond)	President Daughtry	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Bernstein Shur is to monitor. Carried over 6/25/25		1677
32	Energy	An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing	Sen Guerin	EUT	Bill Text	Oppose	2/27/25 9:00 AM Rm 211 COB	1/6/26 10:00 AM Rm 211 COB	Voted 1/6/26 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: OTP-AM Not rpt out	Written testimony in opposition submitted Troy Moon reports possible \$1M loss to City Carried over 6/25/25		75
1017	GA	An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement	Sen Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text		4/7/25 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	5/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB		Councilor Grant testified_City submitted legislation Meeting requested by Sen. Talbot Ross Carried over 6/25/25	Yes	2300
1996	GA	An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in the Laws Governing General Assistance	Sen Ingwersen	HHS	Bill Text					LNC voted to add to tracker and we will research		2801
111	Health Insurance	An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance (Emergency)	Rep Dodge	LBR	Bill Text	Support	2/12/25 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/5/25 11:30 AM Rm 202 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		176
140	Homestead Tax	An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Sen Baldacci	TAX	Bill Text		3/19/25 9:30 AM Rm 127 COB	4/1/25 1:00 PM Rm 127 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		354
264	Homestead Tax	An Act to Remove the 12-month Waiting Period for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Rep Hepler	TAX	Bill Text		3/5/25 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	3/18/25 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH		12/15, LNC has not yet taken a position; staff will provide feedback Carried over 6/25/25		612
438	Homestead Tax	An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions	Rep Hymes	TAX	Bill Text		5/6/25 3:00 PM Rm 127 SH	1/8/26 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 1/8/26 ONTP Not rpt out	12/15, LNC has not yet taken a position; lobbying team will take stock and follow up Carried over 6/25/25		1411

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
1424	Housing	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Investment in Workforce Housing and Raise Certain Income Eligibility Limits in the Affordable Homeownership Program (Bond)	President Daughtry	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/10/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Testimony submitted Carried over 6/25/25		1358
1443	Housing	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers (Emergency)	Sen Bennett	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	4/14/25 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	5/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		1363
	Housing	An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units	Rep Collamore									2757
	Housing	An Act to Assist Communities with Repurposing Vacant School Buildings into Housing	Rep Gere									2846
35	MaineCare	An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services (Emergency)	Sen Curry	HHS	Bill Text		4/17/25 1:01 PM Rm 209 COB	9/9/25 2:15 PM Rm 209 COB	ONTP Reported out 9/16/25	Carried over 6/25/25		241
34	Other	An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers	Sen Pierce	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor	2/26/25 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	5/12/25 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB		Monitor; Defer to school board Carried over 6/25/25		233
245	Other	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State (Emergency)	Sen Ross	CJPS	Bill Text		2/10/25 10:30 AM Rm 436 SH	5/15/25 1:30 PM Rm 436 SH	OTP-AM / ONTP Reported out 6/12/25	Held by the Governor 7/8/25		202
574	Other	An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Workers in the State	Sen Tipping	LBR	Bill Text	Monitor				Carried over 6/25/25		2334
605	Other	An Act to Provide Solutions for Sustainable Management of Municipal Solid Waste	Rep Campbell	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor		5/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Tabled 5/15/25	Carried over 6/25/25		7
634	Other	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates	Rep Tuell	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	3/19/25 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	4/2/25 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		816
799	Other	An Act to Report Gender Wage Gaps	Rep Roeder	LBR	Bill Text		3/12/25 10:30 AM Rm 202 COB	3/19/25 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB		Staff to research before taking a position Carried over 6/25/25		1179
2079	Other	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Reporting on Residential Buildings	Rep Gere	HED	Bill Text		1/20/26 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB					2639
2106	Other	An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review (Emergency)	Rep Sato	JUD	Bill Text							2939
2119	Other	An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport	Rep DeBrito	HHS	Bill Text							2793

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
2137	Other	An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Governing Parking Enforcement on Property Accessible to the Public (Emergency)	Sen Nangle	TRA	Bill Text							2938
1665	Property Tax	An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine Families	Sen Carney	TAX	Bill Text	Support	5/1/25 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Work session reconsidered 5/22/25		Testimony submitted Carried over 6/25/25		1107
1177	Public Health	Resolve, to Study the Public Health and Environmental Risks from Synthetic Turf (Title change)	Rep Gramlich	ENR	Bill Text	Oppose	4/9/25 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	4/30/25 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB		Testimony submitted Carried over 6/25/25		1210
2042	Public Notice	An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper	Sen Black	SLG	Bill Text		1/21/26 11:00 AM Rm 214 COB			12/15, LNC has not yet taken a position; staff will provide feedback		2804
1259	Public Safety	An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement	Rep Rana	JUD	Bill Text	Support	5/19/25 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	6/4/25 2:00 PM Rm 438 SH		Testimony submitted Carried over 6/25/25		2275
2062	Safety	An Act to Enhance the Safety of Public Transit Bus Operators Through the Installation of Vehicle Security Barriers	Sen Pierce	TRA	Bill Text		1/15/26 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH					2647
2121	Safety	An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records	Rep Faircloth	JUD	Bill Text		1/20/26 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH					2650
2124	Shelter	An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax	Rep Gattine	HED	Bill Text							2746
1694	Tax	An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Disaster Mitigation Projects for Working Waterfront Property	Rep Riley	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	5/16/25 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	1/8/26 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 1/8/26 ONTP Not rpt out	Carried over 6/25/25		72



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

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

Memorandum

To: Portland, City of
From: Bernstein Shur
Date: January 9, 2026
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 2124 (HP1439)
An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from
the Real Estate Transfer Tax