



**Legislative Committee
Meeting
January 19, 2021**

AGENDA

I. Zoom

- a. The Legislative Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 8:00 AM. This meeting will take place remotely using Zoom.

Virtual meetings are allowed using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online.

Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day. For public comment, 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.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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II. Call to Order

III. Approval of minutes

- a. January 12, 2021 minutes

IV. Legislative Update

- a. Review proposed TIF Changes
- b. Review PPD memo re: legislative priorities
- c. Bernstein Shur items
 - i. LD 39: Corp Counsel interpretation
 - ii. LD 24: Input from City Clerk
 - iii. LD 37: Feedback from Corporation Council and City Staff

V. Review Work Plan

- a. 2021 Work Plan (draft)

VI. Adjournment



Legislative Committee January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The January 5, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor April Fournier, Council Nick Mavodones, Mayor Kate Snyder, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 21, 2020 and January 5, 2021, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 4-0.

Kate Knox presented a new bills report to inform the Committee of new bills to consider whether they would like to track their progress throughout the session. She also confirmed that this document, along with a tracking report, would be presented to the Committee weekly for inclusion in their regular meeting.

Staff was asked to collect feedback from the City Clerk regarding LD 24 (An Act Regarding Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death).

Committee members asked that LD 32 (An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings) be added to the tracking report.

Staff was asked to collect feedback on LD 37 (An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program) from Corporation Council and Finance regarding any impact on the City budget.

Staff was asked to collect feedback from Corporation Counsel regarding LD 39 (An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban).

Committee members discussed the priorities memo submitted by City staff. They clarified that, regarding staff priorities of securing funding for a local/regional shelter and police station relocation, they may be able to try to secure funding for those capital projects if a bond issue comes out but would not pursue them as legislative priorities.

Committee members discussed Police Department priorities, including legislation to require Maine BMV to obtain and include next of kin or close contact information on driver license and state identification applications, as well as legislation to require Maine BMV to obtain and include a phone number for driver license applicants and vehicle registrants.

Councilor Fournier explained her concerns related to security data. She said her research had shown that no states in New England or out west were supportive of the national campaign by To Inform Families First to obtain and include next of kin or close contact information. In addition, she said that there had been incidents of law enforcement officials misusing the database for personal gain.

Committee staff requested that the Police Department provide additional information on the reasons for their request at the following meeting.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the City staff priorities list, excluding the public safety and shelter funding items as well as the legislation related to doxing, and clarified that the Committee expected additional information related to the Police Department priorities at the next meeting. Mayor Snyder seconded, vote 4-0.

The Committee discussed the development of a 2021 Work Plan. Staff requested that a draft copy be distributed to them by Friday, January 15.

Councilor Fournier requested that Bernstein Shur track any legislative action regarding the upcoming expiration of the moratorium on rents, rent protections, and eviction protections related to COVID-19.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.

Act to Improve Affordable Housing Options and Services to Homeless

DRAFT ONLY

Key Objective: To provide communities that desire a new financial tool to address affordable housing and services to citizens without a home.

Secondary Objectives: to provide more community flexibility in selecting physical locations for affordable housing, allowing projects to be better connected to jobs and services;

to provide more community flexibility to create more diversified downtowns;

to provide more workforce housing in downtowns;

to incentivize and reward communities for being active partners in developing solutions for affordable housing and addressing the needs of citizens without housing; and,

to create housing that supports the community economic development strategy(s).

Concept: Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is one of the most successful tools given to a municipality by the state. It allows local communities, through their elected leadership, to influence private investment within the community.

The tool has been modified over time to provide more flexibility for communities. One modification that is more recent was the creation of an Affordable Housing TIF to address community-housing needs. This change has been a welcome addition. The City of Biddeford's request is to amend this concept. The current law appears to have some unintended limitations.

The current Affordable Housing TIF law requires that a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the housing within the physical boundaries of an affordable housing TIF meet the goal of affordability. Economic Development TIFs do not permit the use of funds for housing support. As established, the ability for a community to use these tools for housing on generally vacant or underutilized land is difficult. In communities where the affordability gap is greatest, such parcels are either unavailable, located in areas where integrating housing and workforce can be cost prohibitive without subsidy support, or otherwise impractical. In addition, the Affordable Housing TIF does not appear to provide the opportunity to use TIF funds for homeless service or housing support.

Two other more recent changes to the TIF tool provided needed flexibility on the local level. Municipalities can now apply TIF funds to support transit or art district goals. Using transit as an example, communities can use proceeds from an approved TIF program that implements transit strategies for new operations or capital assets to support development. With a Transit District Tif, there is no cap on value or land use.

We believe that using a similar model for affordable housing could produce diverse and economically connected housing opportunities. We suggest amending the TIF program to:

- a. Allow a percentage of funds from any approved TIF to be designated to serve as an affordable housing fund. The fund would be available to support the development of affordable housing or the provision of homeless services within or around the economic development TIF district. Such a program would require a nexus between the district and the need for affordable housing.
- b. Permit funds from an Affordable Housing TIF to support homeless issues inside or outside the district related to homeless needs.

For illustration, a revitalized area in a mill downtown could generate affordable housing TIF funds to support workforce housing inside or outside of the development district that is viable, connected, and attractive to the district's workforce.

We believe that Maine Housing should continue to play a significant role in reviewing and approving the implementation program for the use of affordable housing funds.

Intended Outcome: If amended, Biddeford could create an affordable housing fund from its' Mill district TIF district program to support workforce development within and around that district. Those funds could create integrated workforce and affordable housing opportunities within a redeveloping downtown district. Other districts could be amended or created to support the affordable housing fund.

The City is certain that such amendment would result in more housing diversity within the community, especially within and around the downtown and mill district. Without the amendment, the very market we wish to create through redevelopment may defeat this purpose, limiting workforce housing availability.

The nature of TIF funds and the tax sheltering available increases every community's likelihood of using some of those funds to address the growing homeless issues facing Maine. At a time when municipal resources continue to be strained, this amendment becomes an incentive for more communities to partner with each other and the state to address the homeless issue.



CITY OF PORTLAND
Executive Department
Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

To: Legislative Committee Members
From: Jon P. Jennings, City Manager
Date: January 14, 2021
RE: State Legislative Priorities, Version 2

Health & Human Services

The Department would like to see changes to the reimbursement formula used to determine the State's portion of General Assistance. Additional legislative priorities include:

- LD 1403: An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement
- Recommendations submitted by the work group established by LD 459, which included 100% state reimbursement for any assistance issues as an emergency above the guidelines.
- LD 1142: An Act to Expand Transportation Services for Seniors
- LD 1258: An act to Increase Access to Transportation for Workforce and Other Essential Transportation Needs (allow non-medical transportation under Mainecare)
- LD 1410: An Act To Create Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits (supports family caregivers who need time off to care for elderly relatives)
- LD 474: An Act To Ensure the Health and Wellness of Older Residents of the State (expands funding/ access to home delivered meals programs)
- LD 1733: An Act To Ensure Comprehensive Interdepartmental Planning, Coordination and Collaboration on Aging Policy (creates a Cabinet on Aging and cabinet position to develop and coordinate state agency goals, resource use, research, and inform the State Plan on aging)

Housing & Economic Development

§6042. Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Program

Funding this program, previously through the Land for Maine's Future Program, provides private pier and waterfront property owners to "sell" development rights for non-marine use to the State and use the proceeds for infrastructure upkeep or upgrades.

The program has not been used in Portland in the past, but has been successful in multiple coastal communities. Portland has many properties that could make use of the funds. This program has been under funded in the past which has limited its potential application to more expensive real estate, such as the piers in Portland Harbor.

Workforce Training

LD 647: An Act to Attract, Educate and Retain New State Residents to Strengthen the Workforce

Affordable Housing Funding and Programs

LD 1645: Ensure that the state continues with the state tax credit program, which supplements the federal LIHTC program.

LD 1956: This bill looks at zoning and land use to increase housing opportunities.

Sustainability

LD 1748: last session the Council supported this legislation, which would help businesses access capital to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

LD 1711: We anticipate efforts to amend this bill and will need to monitor this closely to protect our existing projects and investments

Possibly utility reform: We should track this on several fronts, including streamlined data access for customers and authorization for the creation of publicly owned utilities.

"Green Bank": The Governor's Office and some legislators are investigating the creation of a "green bank" to accelerate private investment in climate and resilience projects.

Police Department

We recommend **requiring Maine BMV to obtain and include next of kin or close contact information on driver license and state identification applications.** This information could then be made available in a much more efficient and effective manner in order to allow public safety agencies and medical facilities access to such data during those critical incidents in

which a victim or decedent's is unidentified or their next of kin is not readily known or available. Additional information is available at <https://toinformfamiliesfirst.org/>.

Similar to the previous suggestion, **require Maine BMV to obtain and include a phone number for driver license applicants and vehicle registrants.** Again, this could be used by public safety to help more efficiently contact a licensee or registrant in the event of an emergency or other incident.

Tax Assessor

Continue to push for passing of:

- LD 560: An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners
- LD1234: An Act To Expand the Value of the Homestead Exemption to \$25,000 and State Reimbursement to 70 Percent of Lost Property Tax Revenue

Lastly, consider new legislation to **allow for an abatement of a portion of current year taxes when a property owner experiences a catastrophic loss** (fire, flood, etc.) defined as a loss of 50% or greater of the property's market value.

Finance

We recommend advocacy to keep revenue sharing percentage at current budget levels (3.75%).

Portland Police Department

Interdepartmental Memorandum

January 19, 2020

To: Legislative Committee, Portland City Council

Fm: Chief Frank Clark

Re: Policy Priority Followup

The first legislative recommendation would allow Maine residents a mechanism to voluntarily provide their “next of kin” contact information to BMV during the process of getting their driver’s license, state ID card, or registering their car. Law enforcement officers are oftentimes called upon to notify the next of kin after someone has been killed, or is seriously injured and non-communicative. I know of instances where it has taken hours, and even days, to identify, locate and be able to contact and notify the next of kin. Having ready access to key contact information could significantly streamline the process of such notifications. This would not only benefit efficiency and improve our level of service, but would enhance accuracy and, most importantly, allow us to get critical information to the family where it belongs. This is an initiative being used and pursued in other states (FMI: <https://www.toinformfamiliesfirst.org/testimonials>).

The second recommendation, similarly, would provide for an enhanced ability to communicate directly with a driver or registered vehicle owner, by allowing or mandating driver license applicants and vehicle registrants the ability to provide a phone number as contact information that would be connected with the person’s BMV record. Again, the intent is that it could be used by public safety to help more efficiently contact a licensee or registrant in the event of an emergency or other incident. Some real life scenarios I can think of include a car being found, abandoned, in a travel lane, with no known reason; a car whose windows is broken out and is unoccupied in a parking lot in the snow; or a wallet or purse that is found abandoned that still contains a driver’s license. We know who the people are in these instances, but it is challenging, sometimes impossible, to actually or easily contact them.

I would envision the data itself residing within and held to the same level of security, and restrictions on access and use, as all of the other personally identifiable information contained in a Maine BMV record. It would be restricted for law enforcement or public safety purposes only and held to that level of confidentiality by staff.

Please let me know if there are any additional questions or clarifications. Thank you for your consideration.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 39

S.P. 47

In Senate, January 13, 2021

An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 GUERIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative JAVNER of Chester and
Representative: TUELL of East Machias.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1605, as repealed by PL 2019, c. 346, §1, is reenacted to read:

§1605. Plastic bags; recycling

A retailer may use plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale only if the retailer:

1. Location. Locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags; and

2. Recycles. Ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1611, as amended by PL 2019, c. 617, Pt. J, §§1 and 2 and c. 674, §1, is repealed.

SUMMARY

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 24

S.P. 32

In Senate, January 13, 2021

An Act Regarding Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §651, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 82, §1 and c. 340,
3 §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 **2. Application.** The parties wishing to record notice of their intentions of marriage
5 shall submit an application for recording notice of their intentions of marriage. The
6 application may be issued to any 2 persons otherwise qualified under this chapter regardless
7 of the sex of each person if the clerk or State Registrar of Vital Statistics is satisfied as to
8 the identity of the applicants. The application must include a signed certification that the
9 information recorded on the application is correct and that the applicant is free to marry
10 according to the laws of this State. If either party intends to change that party's name upon
11 marriage, the application must include the proposed new name of that party. The
12 applicant's signature must be acknowledged before an official authorized to take oaths. An
13 application recording notice of intention to marry is not open for public inspection for 50
14 years from the date of the application except that:

15 A. The names of the parties for whom intentions to marry are filed and the intended
16 date of marriage are public records and open for public inspection; and

17 B. A person with a researcher identification card under Title 22, section 2706,
18 subsection 8 is permitted to inspect records and may be issued a noncertified copy of
19 an application.

20 **Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §656, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and
21 affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

22 **2. Completed license; ceremony performed.** Each marriage license issued must be
23 completed and the certification statement signed by both parties to the intended marriage.
24 The parties' signatures may be obtained at issuance or at the time the marriage is
25 solemnized. The completed license or licenses must be delivered by the parties to the
26 person solemnizing the marriage. Upon completion of the solemnization, which must be
27 performed in the presence of at least 2 witnesses other than the person officiating, the
28 person officiating and the 2 witnesses shall sign the license or licenses, which are then
29 known as the marriage certificate or certificates.

30 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2703**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 511, §3, is further amended to
31 read:

32 **§2703. Birth, marriage or death in unincorporated place**

33 When a birth, marriage or death occurs in an unincorporated place, it must be reported
34 to a municipal clerk as specified by the state registrar and must be recorded, or registered
35 in the electronic birth registration system, by the municipal clerk to whom the report is
36 made. All such reports and records must be forwarded to the state registrar.

37 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2705, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 5, §1, is further
38 amended to read:

39 **6. Amendment of birth certificate of adult.** Amendment of a birth certificate of a
40 person 18 years of age or older born in this State for the purpose of identifying or replacing
41 a biological parent who was not known or listed at the time of birth is governed by section
42 2767-A.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2767-A, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 5, §3, is amended to read:

§2767-A. Amendment of birth certificate of adult

1. Amendment of birth certificate. The State Registrar of Vital Statistics shall amend the birth certificate of a person 18 years of age or older born in this State for the purpose of identifying or replacing a genetic parent who was not known or listed at the time of birth when the state registrar has received the following:

A. A signed, notarized request from the subject of the birth certificate that the birth certificate be amended;

B. Either the written, notarized consent of the genetic parent to be named on the amended birth certificate or a certified copy of the death certificate of the genetic parent to be named on the amended birth certificate; and

C. Evidence of genetic parentage based on testing of deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, that includes:

(1) A notarized report of the results of the DNA testing; and

(2) Notarized documentation of the chain of custody of the blood and tissue samples examined in the testing.

The testing must be of a type generally acknowledged as reliable by accreditation bodies designated by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services, and it must be performed by a laboratory approved by an accreditation body designated by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services.

2. Effect. If the request submitted pursuant to subsection 1 does not contain the written, notarized consent of the genetic parent to be named on the amended birth certificate, amendment of the birth certificate pursuant to this section does not affect the rights of inheritance and descent. A birth certificate amended without the written, notarized consent of the genetic parent to be named on the amended birth certificate must contain the following words in a conspicuous place: "This birth certificate has been amended to identify or replace a genetic parent not known or listed at the time of birth. This amendment does not affect the rights of inheritance or descent of the subject of the birth certificate."

SUMMARY

This bill amends the laws regulating certificates of birth, marriage and death. It clarifies that the signatures on a marriage license of the parties to the intended marriage may be obtained at the issuance of the license or at the time the marriage is solemnized. It requires that when a death or marriage occurs in an unincorporated place, it must be recorded or registered in the electronic registration system. It also clarifies that a birth certificate may be amended by the replacement of a genetic parent.

The bill also corrects a conflict created by Public Law 2019, chapters 82 and 340, which affected the same provision of law, by incorporating the changes made by both laws.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 37

S.P. 45

In Senate, January 13, 2021

**An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and
Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters
Health Insurance Program**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 446, section 7, the open enrollment
4 period for certain county or municipal law enforcement officers or municipal firefighters
5 who are employed as county or municipal law enforcement officers or municipal
6 firefighters to enroll in the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and
7 Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program ends December 31, 2021; and

8 **Whereas,** it is necessary for this legislation to be enacted as soon as possible to
9 provide sufficient time for such officers and firefighters to enroll prior to December 31,
10 2021; and

11 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
12 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
14 therefore,

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

16 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §286-M, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 446, §1, is further
17 amended to read:

18 **3. Eligibility for program coverage.** A person must make contributions pursuant to
19 subsection 5, paragraph D and subsection 8 ~~for 60 months~~ in order to be eligible for
20 coverage under the program. In addition, a person must satisfy the eligibility criteria
21 specified in this subsection as follows:

22 A. The person must:

23 (1) Be at least 50 years of age;

24 (2) Be a retired county or municipal law enforcement officer or a retired municipal
25 firefighter;

26 (3) Have, while actively employed as a county or municipal law enforcement
27 officer or municipal firefighter, participated in the person's employer's health
28 insurance plan or other fully-insured health insurance plan; and

29 (4) Receive or be eligible to receive:

30 (a) If retired from at least 25 years of service in a position as a county or
31 municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter, a retirement
32 benefit from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System or a defined
33 contribution retirement plan other than the United States Social Security Act;
34 or

35 (b) If retired from less than 25 years of service in a position as a county or
36 municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter, a retirement
37 benefit from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System or a defined
38 contribution retirement plan other than the United States Social Security Act,
39 as long as the benefit provided is at least 50% of average final compensation,
40 with no reduction for early retirement and with or without a cost-of-living
41 adjustment; or

1 B. The person must be a dependent of a person meeting the criteria of paragraph A.

2 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §286-M, sub-§5, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 446, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 D. When the effective date of hire of the eligible person is on or after October 1, 2019,
5 the eligible person must enroll in the program no later than 5 years following the
6 effective date of hire, ~~subject to the enrollment and eligibility requirements of the~~
7 ~~applicable group health plan~~. If the eligible person enrolls in the program no later than
8 60 days following the effective date of hire, the eligible person contributes to the fund
9 at the rate specified in subsection 8, paragraph A. If the eligible person enrolls in the
10 program more than 60 days following the effective date of hire, the eligible person
11 shall contribute to the fund 2% of the eligible person's gross wages since the eligible
12 person's effective date of hire to that person's date of enrollment in the program and
13 shall contribute to the fund at the rate specified in subsection 8, paragraph A after the
14 eligible person's date of enrollment.

15 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §286-M, sub-§6, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 446, §2, is
16 amended to read:

17 D. An enrollee may participate in the group health insurance plan in which the
18 enrollee's spouse participates if that plan is offered in this State or in another group
19 health insurance plan that is offered in this State. An enrollee is responsible for the
20 premium payment associated with the cost of the group health insurance plan in which
21 the enrollee is participating, ~~to the extent such premium obligations exist following the~~
22 ~~application of any premium subsidy authorized by law~~. An enrollee who fails to remit
23 the premium payments as established and required by the group health insurance plan
24 in which the enrollee is participating must be disenrolled from the program. The State
25 shall provide a premium subsidy for each enrollee in the form of a direct payment to
26 the ~~group health insurance plan in which the enrollee is participating~~ enrollee. Prior to
27 July 1, 2021, the level of the premium subsidy must equal 45% of the individual
28 premium cost for the enrollee or a dollar amount equivalent to the highest premium
29 subsidy provided in accordance with paragraph A, whichever is less. Beginning July
30 1, 2021, the level of the premium subsidy must equal 55% of the individual premium
31 cost for the enrollee or a dollar amount equivalent to the highest premium subsidy
32 provided in accordance with paragraph A, whichever is less. Enrollees are responsible
33 for the balance of the applicable individual premium, as well as the total cost of the
34 premium for any applicable dependent coverage, and shall make payments directly to
35 the group health insurance plan in which the enrollee is participating.

36 **Sec. 4. PL 2019, c. 446, §7** is amended to read:

37 **Sec. 7. Open enrollment.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,
38 section 286-M, subsection 5, a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal
39 firefighter, as defined in Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 2, paragraphs A and H,
40 respectively, who is employed as a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a
41 municipal firefighter at any time beginning October 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2021
42 may enroll in the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal
43 Firefighters Health Insurance Program established in Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 1
44 at any time during that period while employed as a county or municipal law enforcement
45 officer or a municipal firefighter. ~~Such~~ Notwithstanding Title 5, section 286-M, subsection

1 5, paragraph D, such a person who enrolls in the program and is not otherwise eligible to
2 enroll in the program under Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 5 shall contribute to the
3 Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers Health Insurance Program Fund established in
4 Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 7 a percentage of that person's gross wages in each year
5 of creditable service since that person's effective date of hire as a county or municipal law
6 enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter to that person's date of enrollment in the
7 program or since January 1, 2007, whichever is later, equal to 1.5% for the first 5 years 3%
8 until December 31, 2014 and 3% 1.5% for additional years.

9 **Sec. 5. Retroactive application; enrollment contributions.** That section of this
10 Act that amends Public Law 2019, chapter 446, section 7 applies retroactively to September
11 19, 2019. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human
12 Resources, office of employee health and benefits shall ensure that enrollment
13 contributions pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 446, section 7, as amended, to the
14 Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters
15 Health Insurance Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 286-M made
16 by enrollees between September 19, 2019 and the effective date of this Act are consistent
17 with this Act.

18 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
19 takes effect when approved.

20 SUMMARY

21 This bill amends language contained in Public Law 2019, chapter 446 governing
22 contributions under the open enrollment provisions of the Retired County and Municipal
23 Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program.
24 Currently, the law requires a person hired on or after October 1, 2019 to enroll no later than
25 5 years after hire, conditioned on the enrollment and eligibility requirements of the
26 applicable health plan; this bill removes that condition.

27 The bill also changes the percentage of gross wages for contributions and the time
28 period during which contributions of gross percentages must be made. The bill removes
29 the requirement of 60 months of contributions by enrollees. The bill also changes the
30 State's payment of certain premium subsidies from payment to the plan to payment directly
31 to enrollees. The amendments to the open enrollment provisions are retroactive to
32 September 19, 2019, and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau
33 of Human Resources, office of employee health and benefits is required to ensure correct
34 contribution amounts for those who enrolled between September 19, 2019 and the effective
35 date of this legislation.

Legislative/Nominating Committee 2021 WORK PLAN

Committee Goals

- Review Committee goals in context of Council goals
- Review interview questions and process for nominating activities
- Develop strategy to engage and collaborate with Portland delegation to Augusta
- Fine-tune work plan / communications / organizational process re: nominating work
- Establishing support and focus of City Clerk, City Manager, and Corporation Counsel
- Connect with policy stakeholders (Portland delegation, school board)

Committee Activity by Quarter

Q1 (January through March)

- Review State legislation
- Staff develop Federal priorities memo for Committee review
- Review/interview applicants to boards/commissions
- Review nominating work scheduling and process
- Ensuring legislative priorities align with Council goals

Q2 (April through June)

- Charter Commission election
- Any open board/commission seats and nominating work
- Committee meets with City Clerk to plan nomination work process
- Immigrant Voting Rights for local elections

Q3 (July through September)

- Committee meets with City Clerk to plan nomination outreach process

Q4 (October through December)

- Staff develop State priorities memo for Committee review (November)
- Committee requests councilors' input on State/Federal priorities (November)