



Legislative Committee January 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The January 19, 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, Jon Jennings (City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Greg Mitchell (Economic Director), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2021, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote 4-0.

Based on feedback provided by staff, the Committee directed Bernstein Shur to include LD 24 (An Act Regarding Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death) and LD 39 (An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban) in their weekly tracking reports.

Staff analysis of LD 37 (An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program) was postponed until the following week.

Kate Knox reviewed the list of new bills with the Committee. Members asked her to track:

- LD 44 (An Act To Establish the Summer Success Pilot Program Fund);
- LD 47 (An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics);
- LD 48 (A Resolve to Require DHHS to Request a Waiver Relating to Support Services and To Provide Funds To Prevent Homelessness);

- LD 49 (A bond bill to invest in infrastructure to address sea level rise);
- LD 55 (An Act to Protect Minority Religious Groups by Eliminating the Prior Approval Requirement for School Absence);
- LD 50 (An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless);
- LD 73 (An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Allow Harbor Masters and Deputy Harbor Masters To Use Red and White Auxiliary Lights and Sirens When Responding to Emergencies
- LD 81 (An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods);
- LD 84 (An Act To Increase the State Share of the Cost of Health Insurance for Retired Teachers);
- LD 87 (An Act To Implement the State Climate Action Plan, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhance Maine's Economy);
- LD 94 (An Act To Allow Municipalities To Exempt Volunteer Firefighters from Paying Excise Tax on Their Vehicles Used To Respond to Fire Calls);
- LD 96 (An Act To Create Fairness in the Treatment of Students by Retaining Students with Certain Vaccine Exemptions);
- LD 97 (An Act To Ensure the Right To Work without Payment of Dues or Fees to a Labor Union);
- LD 100 (An Act To Establish the General Election Date in United States Presidential Election Years as a State Holiday);
- LD 102 (An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots);
- LD 112 (An Act To Facilitate the Timely and Accurate Counting of Absentee Ballots By Extending the Processing Period).

Committee members requested staff feedback on additional new bills, including:

- LD 52 (An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers) (feedback from School Board requested);
- LD 57 (An Act to Reduce the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste);
- LD 58 (An Act to Improve Information Sharing by Criminal Justice Agencies with Government Agencies Responsible for Investigating Child or Adult Abuse);

- LD 69 (An Act to Reduce Duplicative Permitting Reviews for Projects Under the Site Location of Development Laws);
- LD 81 (An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods);
- LD 100 (An Act To Establish the General Election Date in United States Presidential Election Years as a State Holiday);
- LD 102 (An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots);
- LD 112 (An Act To Facilitate the Timely and Accurate Counting of Absentee Ballots By Extending the Processing Period);
- LD 108 (An Act To Improve Public Safety by Repealing the Single-use Plastic Carry out Bag Ban).

Committee members reviewed a memo from the Police Chief about the Department's legislative priorities. The Committee was split in its support of the priorities (Mavodones and Snyder in support, Fournier and Ali opposed), so Kate Knox was asked to pull the bill.

Committee members agreed to include the draft 2021 Work Plan for discussion in an upcoming Council Workshop, and review the Plan at the following Legislative Committee meeting.

Greg Mitchell provided background on a piece of legislation proposing TIF changes. He recommended that the Committee support and track the bill, and members agreed.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.