



Legislative Committee February 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The February 2, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:02 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor April Fournier, Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Nick Mavodones, Jon Jennings (City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Christopher Huff (Assessor), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 26, 2021, seconded by Councilor Fournier, no amendments, vote 4-0.

Kate Knox reviewed the list of new bills with the Committee. Members agreed for her to continue monitoring the following bills:

- LD 189 (An Act To Permit All Public Employers To Implement Payroll Deductions for Disability and Life Insurance Policies): Councilor Mavodones proposed for the bill to be reviewed by our Human Resource and Payroll Departments.
- LD 191 (An Act To Permit Municipalities To Provide Assistance to Veterans in Paying Property Taxes): The bill to be reviewed by the Assessors Department.
- LD 192 (An Act To Define the Responsibilities of Residential Property Owners for the Maintenance and Repair of Private Roads): Councilor Mavodones proposed for the bill to be reviewed by our Legal and Public Works Departments.
- LD 197 (Resolve, To Ensure That Community Mental Health Service Providers Can Access Pandemic Stimulus Funds): Mr. Jennings suggested for Health & Human Services to review the bill and get back to Kate Knox.

- LD 198 (An Act To Improve Maine's Tax Laws by Providing a Property Tax Exemption for Central Labor Councils): Councilors Mavodones and Fournier expressed that they are not in support. Committee proposed for Bernstein Shur to continue monitoring it. Mr. Huff (Assessor) believes this bill does not have any impact to the City of Portland.
- LD 205 (An Act To Extend the Ability of Restaurants and Bars To Serve Alcohol To Go): The Committee members expressed that they have concerns about the length of the extension, and that they are in support of it during the established pandemic but not beyond it. City staff were asked to do research and prepare testimony for a future hearing.
- LD 208 (An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots): Kathy Jones stated her and the Town and Clerk Association's opposition to this bill. The Committee decided not to testify, as the Association is expected to.
- LD 211 (An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness): Mr. Jennings supports it as long as we understand the details of it and there are no strings attached when it comes to all the LDs about homelessness. The Committee supported that the Shelter Staff and General Assistant to review all these bills to make sure there aren't any unattended consequences for the City. Dena to collect staff feedback. If staff support, Kate Knox recommended preparing testimony that voices broad support for all bills related to this matter.
- LD 242 (An Act To Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission): Mr. Jennings mentioned that this has been an ongoing conversation with the Fire Chief; location and plans are ready but it comes down to funding.
- LD 244: (An Act To Repeal Maine's Single-use Plastic Bag Law): Bernstein Shur to continue monitoring it, staff will review to ensure it doesn't conflict with the City ordinance.
- LD 250 (An Act To Assist Nursing Homes in the Management of Facility Beds): Mr. Jennings proposed for Barron Center staff to review.
- LD 253 - (An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting): The Committee agreed for Bernstein Shur to continue monitoring it. Councilor Mavodones and Fournier expressed their opposition.
- LD 256 (An Act To Adjust Sewer and Wastewater Lien Fees): Mr. Jennings recommended that the Department of Public Works review the bill.

- LD 259 (An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management): It is a concept draft, Bernstein Shur to continue monitoring it.
- LD 264 (An Act To Prohibit Aerial Application of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances): The bill aligns with the City Pesticide Control Ordinance. Bernstein Shur to continue monitoring it. Jon will ask staff to review it and get back to Kate Knox.
- LD 269 (An Act To Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters): Mr. Jennings expressed concerns about who will be enforcing it. The bill will be flagged to METRO.

Alysia gave an update about the upcoming hearings for the following bills:

LD 24 (An act regarding certificates of birth, marriage, and death): Kathy Jones said that the Maine Town and City Clerk Association is in favor of this bill. Kathy is in support of it as well and the MTCCA will be expressing her support on the hearing. The Committee is in approval.

LD 336 (An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program (Emergency)): Mr. Jennings to speak with the Police Chief and find out if there are any issues. He will ask for him to contact Alysia in regards to this bill. The Committee approved.

The Committee asked that LD 107 (RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Specify the Qualifications of Electors) be monitored by Bernstein Shur.

LD 269 (An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics): Mr. Jennings expressed his support for it from the staff perspective. The Committee Chair agreed to support and have the staff testify to it if needed.

Chairman Councilor Ali proposed for the 2021 Legislative Work Plan to be discussed at the next meeting. Mayor Snyder and Kathy Jones to add additional language to it.

Councilor April Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 AM.