



Remote Legislative & Nominating Committee Meeting

March 16, 2021

8:00 AM

AGENDA

I. ZOOM Information

- a. The Legislative and Nominating Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 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. §403- A, 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 un-muted by the host when it is time for public comment.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84016279420?pwd=SUZMMzk3SzA0L2lZbWRrV2YwTFNrUT09>

Passcode: 861570

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +19292056099,,84016279420#,,, *861570# or +13017158592,,84016279420#,,, *861570#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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Webinar ID: 840 1627 9420

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II. Call to Order

III. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

IV. Legislative Update

- a. New Bills
- b. Legislative Tracker
- c. Upcoming Hearings
 - i. Public hearing for LD 534: March 18

V. Adjournment



Legislative Committee March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The March 9, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:01 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), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) and Emily Figdor (School Board Chair) were present.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2021, seconded by Mayor Snyder, no amendments, vote 4-0.

Dena Libner gave the committee an update in regards to staff concerns about the new bills:

LD 708 (To Ensure Public Accountability While Implementing a Practical Approach to Remote Participation): Staff is concerned that if the bill passes the net revenue loss will double and the City will have to increase the mill rate to make up for the revenue, which will increase costs for all property owners and benefit no one.

LD 724 (An Act To Base the Vehicle and Mobile Home Excise Tax on Actual Value): Staff is concerned about the impact on revenue generated as the result of the excise tax as well as the administrative operations, specifically how staff would determine vehicles' value.

LD 677 (An Act To Improve Public Sector Labor Relations by Amending the Laws Governing Arbitration under Certain Public Employees Labor Relations Laws): Staff opposes making everything binding in arbitration, they believe it will undermine the ability of municipal officers to set and approve a budget as well as manage public services.

LD 488 (Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine): Not on the list of new bills but Councilor Fournier asked for staff feedback. Staff is in support of this resolve. It will provide services to individuals closer to the communities that they reside in, and

there were no concerns in regards to the administrative and operational from the City's perspective.

LD 668 (To Ensure Public Accountability While Implementing a Practical Approach to Remote Participation): Staff believe this bill introduces unnecessary barriers and challenges to municipalities' ability to hold remote meetings.

Mayor Snyder asked for more information in regard to LD 708, including what would be the impact if the City has to increase the mill rate to make up for the revenue. Does that mean that people who don't have the homestead exemption will end up burying the burden of the benefits to those who do?

Dena replied that the mill rate will be increased so the loss in revenue that the City will see will be made up from the general population collectively.

Mr. Jennings agreed and said that the mill rate will have to be increased to cover the 50% of the revenue loss, which is over three million, which will have an impact on the City at large.

Mayor Snyder confirmed if it will be spread across all property tax payer to which Jon agreed.

Councilor Mavodones asked for staff feedback for the following bills:

- **LD 775 (An Act To Include within the Definitions of "Public Employee" and "Judicial Employee" Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months)**
- **LD 824 (An Act To Extend the Protections Provided to State Employees upon the Expiration of Labor Contracts to Other Public Sector Employees)**
- **LD 938 (An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment)**

Dena Libner said that the staff feedback will be included in the packet for the next meeting, but if there is a hearing she will circulate the information as soon as she receives it.

Mr. Jennings agreed with Councilor Mavodones concerns, especially to the bills that goes to the heart of being able to manage as well as the various collective bargain agreements.

Mayor Snyder inquired about staff position when it comes to LD 654 (**An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment**). Dena replied that staff feels that it is good in theory but there is significant skepticism about where the money will come from after the first investment and how it will be sustainable in the long run.

Mr. Jennings share the same feelings as the staff, as the City runs the only municipal run shelter, there is a capital needs that goes to a facility and staffing, so if this is merely to purchase three million dollars to purchase hotels, there is a lot of missing elements to this.

Mr. Jennings said that he recommends for the bill to be monitored but doesn't think there is need to weigh-in in either way at this point, but it is concerning the way that it was drafted.

Kate Knox asked for guidance on how the above bills should be tracked moving forward.

Councilor Mavodones said that there might be a need to testify or submit written testimony in

regards to LD 708 (**An Act To Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000**). He also stated that there will be the need to weigh in in the excise bill as well. He also recommends to continue monitoring all the labor bills.

Kate Knox recommends to the Committee for staff to weigh-in, even if it is in writing for the following bills:

LD 708 (**An Act To Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000**)

LD 724 (**An Act To Base the Vehicle and Mobile Home Excise Tax on Actual Value**)

LD 668 (**An Act To Ensure Public Accountability While Implementing a Practical Approach to Remote Participation**)

Kate Knox confirmed she will follow up with Representative Sylvester in regard to bill LD 555 (**An Act to Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees**).

Councilor Mavodones expressed that is okay to check with Representative Sylvester in regards to the labor bills but at the end of the day, there is a need to do what is best for the City and he thinks that whether they agree or disagree, there is a need to make a decision sooner rather than later, if there is a need to weigh in. He also stated that this also applies to other bills in similar situations.

Kate Knox asked Kathy Jones where she stands in regards to various bills. Regarding LD 638 (**An Act To Ensure the Timely and Transparent Delivery of Unofficial Election Results in Maine**). Kathy stated that the City already does that so there will not be any impact. Regarding LD 646 (**An Act To Improve the Administration of Elections by Ensuring an Adequate Number of Poll Workers**), it is for State employees only.

LD 659 (**An Act To Ease the Property Tax Burden by Authorizing Municipalities To Require Payments in Lieu of Taxes from Certain Exempt Organizations**): Mr. Jennings said that from the staff prospective they will be very supportive of the bill, as there are many tax exempt properties in the City, being able to impose an impact fee for City services makes a lot of sense.

Councilor Ali asked Mr. Jennings if there is an ordinance already in place. Mr. Jennings stated that the City has a pilot program that it is an in-lieu of taxes, and that letters are sent out every year to all tax exempt properties asking for payment but we don't get a tremendous amount of response back. We have also created an impact fee pilot program on new construction and this enable to impose an impact fee to tax exempt property owners who are using City services but not paying anything for it.

Councilor Fournier expressed her interested in regards to this bill and would like to know if there is a fee tier structured or if it will be built after the fact.

Mr. Jennings said that the way the bill is written is basically allowing municipalities to establish this and set their own rules.

Councilor Mavodones stated that he will be in support of the bill as long as municipalities get to establish their own rules.

Mayor Snyder is in support general, especially after seeing the number of tax exempt properties in the City and the overall impact of that reality, this is an interest opportunities for municipalities to be given the chance to figure out a path-forward that works within their communities.

Councilor Ali expressed that he will be in support of it as well and would like to know if there will be a need to testify or just monitored it.

Mr. Jennings recommended that the bill be closely monitored. Dena shared that staff communicated that there are about 1300 exempt parcels, totaling over 2.2 billion in value and they estimate that 35-40% would be covered under section 652, they had concerns that the 120 days' timeline to try to negotiate with roughly 400 customers would be an enormous task on them. The other issue that they raise is that based on the language the impact fee may not be less than 50% of the amount of tax that would be assessed if the property is not exempt; which the way it is worded would eliminate large exempt parcels, ex: Maine Med' and from their perspective they wondered why it was not phrased as it may not be more than 50%.

LD 660 (An Act Regarding Protection from Power Outages for Tenants 65 Years of Age and Older in Subsidized Housing) Mr. Jennings stated that this would be something for Portland Housing Authority to review. Councilor Mavodones would like to receive staff feedback at the next meeting how this would fit with rent control and if there would be any connection. This could limit the places where people could live if the landlord can't put in a generator.

Dena stated that subsidize housing is exempt from the new rent control ordinance, not sure if there would be any impact there and landlords are not permitted to increase the rent after making the investment, therefore they would have to make the investment first. Councilor Mavodones indicated that this information was sufficient.

Councilor Ali recommended for the bill to be monitored.

LD 662 (An Act To Provide Chiefs of Police the Discretion To Allow the Use of Light Bars on Emergency Vehicles) Chief Gautreau didn't feel strong about it.

Regarding **LD 669 (An Act To Ensure Public Ways Are Compliant with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)**, Dena indicated additional information would be collected from the City's Traffic Engineer.

Regarding **LD 684**, Mr. Jennings said that they will speak with the administrator of the Barron Center to get more information for the committee.

Councilor April Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 AM.

Memorandum

To: Legislative Committee of the Portland City Council
From: Bernstein Shur
Date: March 12, 2021
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.

Bills from the week prior (the week of March 1) that the Committee was unable to review on March 9 are included further down in the document along with staff recommendations, as well.

Staff Priorities

LD 740 (HP545)
An Act To Provide Municipalities a Percentage of the Revenue Generated from the Taxes Imposed on the Sale of Recreational Marijuana in Those Municipalities

Staff strongly support this bill and suggest closely monitoring and providing testimony.

LD 987 (SP318)
An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects

Staff strongly support and recommend direct lobbying, close monitoring and testimony.

LD 746

(HP551)

An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Municipal Meetings

Staff strongly opposes due to the new constraints this bill proposes. Staff recommends monitoring closely.

LD 953

(SP305)

An Act To Improve Affordable Housing Options and Services To Address Homelessness

Staff are supportive of this bill and recommend that it be monitored. Housing & Economic Development staff plan to testify.

LD 959

(SP311)

An Act To Protect Small Businesses by Ensuring That a Prevailing Wage Is Paid on Public Works Construction Projects

Staff oppose this bill. It would lower the threshold at which prevailing wages are required from \$50K to \$15K projects and most likely reduce the competitive bidding process. They recommend monitoring it closely.

LD 992

(HP730)

An Act To Prevent the Denial or Revocation of a Professional or Business License for a Violation Not Related to That Profession or Business

Staff oppose this change. It is their opinion that, if an individual has shown a repeated disregard for rules or laws in other areas, they should be able to revoke or deny a license in an industry that requires particular care and attention to rules and laws (liquor, marijuana, pesticides, etc.).

This is something that should be left to the judgment of the municipalities as to who is fit to conduct a business in their jurisdiction, as long as it's not arbitrary or capricious (which is already the constitutional standard).

Staff recommend that this be monitored closely.

LD 724

(HP535)

An Act To Base the Vehicle and Mobile Home Excise Tax on Actual Value

Staff strongly oppose this bill and recommend that it be closely monitored. This bill, if enacted, would likely result in a loss of revenue

and introduce significant administrative challenges related to determining the value of vehicles.

LD 925

(HP681)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop a Plan To Redevelop Exit 5 of Interstate 295 in Portland

Staff is supportive, and recommends monitoring.

Other Portland Bills

The following bills could directly impact Portland but were not determined by staff to be priorities.

LD 969

(HP715)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Construction of a Convention Center in Portland, Improvements to the Augusta Civic Center and a Competitive Grant Program for Capital Improvements to Public Venues across the State

Staff are supportive of this bill and recommend continuing to monitor it.

LD 991

(SP317)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Complete a Feasibility Analysis To Initiate a Commuter and Passenger Train Service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area

Staff recommend that it be monitored.

LD 711

(SP276)

An Act To Allow Certain Police Officers To Return to Participation in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

Staff have no recommendation at this time and shared that this would not negatively impact the City of Portland.

LD 910

(HP666)

An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

Staff support this bill as it would introduce the potential to increase GA reimbursement received by the City. Staff recommend that it be closely monitored.

LD 941 (HP697)
(HP697)
An Act To Protect the Privacy of Absentee Voters
An Act To Protect the Privacy of Absentee Voters

Staff indicate that this would result in increased administrative costs. City Clerk will advise on MTCCA's position when it has been determined. No recommendation at this time.

All Other Bills

The following bills were determined to not impact City operations. Additional explanation is provided as available.

LD 960 (HP706)
An Act To Require Reporting of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, PFAS, in Products and of Discharges of Firefighting Foam Containing PFAS

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 961 (HP707)
An Act To Provide Equity in Access to Applications for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Staff indicate that this is a policy issue more relevant to the school district and do not have a recommendation at this time.

LD 963 (HP709)
An Act To Create Culturally Sensitive Treatment and Recovery Halfway Houses for Immigrants Transitioning out of the Juvenile Justice System

Staff indicate that the operational impact would be felt primarily at the State level (Department of Corrections).

LD 964 (HP710)
An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services

Staff have no recommendations at this time as this bill would not have any undue impact on the City.

- LD 968** (HP714)
Resolve, To Expand Mental Health Crisis Intervention Mobile Response Services
Staff indicate that this would not have an impact on the City, as it is a resolve directing DHHS to use funding to expand services.
- LD 976** (HP722)
An Act To Amend the Definition of "Machine Gun" To Include Bump Stock Devices
Staff have no recommendations at this time.
- LD 979** (HP725)
An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers
Staff indicate that this bill would not have a significant impact on City operations, as funding for this expanded school-based program would come from DHHS.
- LD 982** (HP728)
An Act To Protect against Discrimination by Public Entities
Staff do not have a recommendation. They believe it duplicates the State Human Rights Act.
- LD 983** (SP313)
An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation
Staff do not have a recommendation at this time.
- LD 876** (SP290)
An Act To Promote Efficiency in County and Municipal Government
Staff support the cost-savings this bill could achieve but do not have any recommendations at this time.
- LD 994** (HP732)
An Act To Promote Public Health by Eliminating Criminal Penalties for Possession of Hypodermic Apparatuses
Staff do not have a recommendation at this point in time.

- LD 997** (HP735)
An Act To Support Maine's Corrections Officers and E-9-1-1 Dispatchers
Staff feedback will be provided at a later date If it is determined this would impact the City.
- LD 999** (HP737)
An Act Regarding Background Checks for the Sale of Firearms
Staff do not have any recommendations.
- LD 1013** (HP751)
An Act To Provide Absentee Ballot Tracking for Maine Voters
Staff do not have a recommendation, as this bill relates to Secretary of State operations and would not impact the Office of the City Clerk.
- LD 1014** (HP752)
An Act To Repeal the School Bus Reimbursement Formula and Replace It with Essential Programs and Services Funding
Staff defer to the school district.
- LD 1016** (HP754)
An Act To Ensure That Assemblies, Protests and Demonstrations in Maine Remain Peaceful
Staff do not have a recommendation at this time.
- LD 1021** (HP759)
An Act To Protect Maine Residents from Stalking by Use of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
Staff do not have any recommendations at this time.
- LD 1027** (SP322)
An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Local Bridges
Staff does not have a recommendation as the City doesn't have responsibility for any bridges.

- LD 1029** (SP324)
An Act To Amend the Marijuana Legalization Act and the Laws Governing the Taxation of Marijuana
Staff do not have a recommendation at this time.
- LD 1035** (HP769)
An Act To Prohibit Maintaining Drug-involved Premises
Staff do not have any recommendations at this time.
- LD 1040** (SP330)
An Act To Require Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training or Implicit Bias Training for School Resource Officers
Staff defer to the school district and have no recommendations at this time.
- LD 1043** (HP771)
An Act Concerning the Unannounced Execution of Search Warrants
Staff do not have any recommendations at this time.
- LD 730** (SP281)
An Act To Protect Economic Competitiveness in Maine by Extending the End Date for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits
Staff has no recommendation as this does not impact Portland.
- LD 743** (HP548)
An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Species
Staff do not have any recommendations at this time as this would not impact City operations.
- LD 744** (HP549)
An Act To Extend the Right-of-way Surrounding Power Lines for the Purpose of Tree Trimming
As this is a consent item, staff does not have any recommendations at this time.
- LD 754** (HP559)
An Act To Promote Municipal Climate Action
As this is a consent item, staff does not have any recommendations at this time.

LD 757

(HP562)

An Act Concerning Large-scale Water Extraction

Staff has no recommendation as this is not relevant to Portland.

LD 771

(HP576)

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification

Staff has no recommendation as this does not impact the City operations.

LD 774

(HP579)

An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency

Staff has no recommendation at this time.

LD 775

(HP580)

An Act To Include within the Definitions of "Public Employee" and "Judicial Employee" Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months

Staff does not have a recommendation. The only section that applies to the City is already law.

LD 780

(HP585)

An Act Regarding Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites

Staff feedback will be provided at a later date if it is determined this would impact City operations.

LD 787

(HP592)

An Act To Comprehensively Address Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Maine

Concept draft

LD 793

(SP55)

An Act To Include as a Factor in Sentencing the Selection of a Victim Based on the Victim's Employment as a Law Enforcement Officer

Staff do not have a recommendation at this time.

- LD 795** (SP62)
An Act To Address Rental Housing Policies
Concept draft
- LD 800** (SP87)
An Act To Amend Credit and Debit Card Surcharges Imposed by Governmental Entities
No staff recommendation - this is relevant to State, not City.
- LD 805** (SP123)
An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places
Staff have no recommendations at this time.
- LD 806** (SP130)
An Act To Clarify That Municipal Officers May Accept a Proposed, Unaccepted Way for Pedestrian, Bicycle and Other Nonmotorized Use
Staff have no recommendations at this time.
- LD 819** (SP203)
An Act To Reduce Lung Cancer Rates in Maine by Requiring Testing for and Mitigation of Radon in Residential Buildings by Landlords
Staff have no recommendations at this time.
- LD 822** (SP225)
An Act To Affirm That Food Seeds Are a Necessity in Maine
Staff have no recommendations at this time.
- LD 824** (SP235)
An Act To Extend the Protections Provided to State Employees upon the Expiration of Labor Contracts to Other Public Sector Employees
Staff has no recommendations, as this mirrors our current practice.
- LD 829** (HP597)
An Act To Promote Highway Safety by Restricting the Use of Marijuana and Possession of an Open Marijuana Container in a Motor Vehicle
Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 830

(HP598)

An Act To Restructure the Taxation of Adult Use Marijuana

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 832

(HP600)

An Act To Promote Immigrant Workforce Development and Community Integration

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 845

(HP613)

An Act To Make a Vehicle Registration Violation a Secondary Offense

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 857

(HP625)

An Act To Create a Municipal Grant Program To Promote Sustainable Economic Development

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 859

(HP627)

An Act To Allow Municipalities To Use Ranked-choice Voting in Municipal Elections

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 878

(SP292)

Resolve, To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Services Provided by Direct Care Workers

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 881

(SP295)

An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act

Staff have no feedback at this time.

LD 882

(SP296)

An Act To Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act

Staff have no feedback at this time.

LD 894

(HP650)

An Act To Increase Government Accountability by Removing the Restriction on the Dissemination of Information Regarding Investigations

Staff has no feedback as this does not apply to City operations.

LD 897

(HP653)

An Act To Protect Maine Veterans from Unfair Consequences of Taxation Policy

This is a concept draft.

LD 908

(HP664)

An Act To Protect Maine Residents and Organizations from Unreasonable and Illegal Surveillance, Monitoring or Tracking

This is a concept draft.

LD 911

(HP667)

An Act To Prohibit the Reception of Foreign Waste Plastic in Maine Ports

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 914

(HP670)

An Act To Meet the State's Obligation To Pay 55 Percent of Education Costs

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

LD 916

(HP672)

An Act To Protect Data Privacy and Security in Elections

This is a concept draft.

LD 920

(HP676)

An Act To Promote Oversight of and Competitive Parity among Video Service Providers

Staff will provide feedback at a later date.

(HP684)

LD 928

An Act To Require Adequate Training for Police Officers Who Use Speed Measurement Devices

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

(HP684)

LD 928

An Act To Require Adequate Training for Police Officers Who Use Speed Measurement Devices

Staff have no recommendations at this time.

(HP694)

LD 938

An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment

Staff have no recommendations at this time. They believe this bill does not provide employees with any additional benefit, but the requirement of employers to deny requests for a schedule change in writing may represent unnecessary bureaucracy.

(HP695)

LD 939

An Act To Support Maine's Medical Marijuana Program and Ensure Patient Access

Staff have no feedback at this time.

COP-SCHOOL

(HP721)

LD 975

An Act To Create an Additional Pathway To Certify Industrial Arts Teachers To Foster Career and Technical Subjects in Maine Schools

(HP731)

LD 993

An Act To Prevent the Spread of Infectious Disease in Schools

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>17</u>	373	Resolve, To Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits under the MaineCare Program	Maxmin	HHS	Bill Text	High Priority	2/10/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	2/23/21 1:30 PM Rm 209 COB	Tabled 2/23/21	MaineCare	
<u>133</u>	930	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations (Bond)	Crockett	AFA	Bill Text	Support				Bond	
<u>340</u>	<u>611</u>	An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs	Sanborn	EUT	Bill Text	Support	2/25/21 9:00 AM Rm 211 COB			Energy	Testified last session
<u>534</u>	1848	An Act To Allow Tax Abatements for Catastrophic Loss	Chipman	TAX	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	3/18/21 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/25/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH		Tax	Tax assessor will testify
<u>609</u>	384	Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions (Emergency)	Fecteau	LH	Bill Text		3/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Housing	
<u>910</u>	284	An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text					General Assistance	
	547	An Act Regarding Paid Family Medical Leave								FML	
	1095	An Act To Expand and Strengthen Maine's Workforce by Awarding Grants To Create Industry-specific English Language Acquisition and Workforce Training Programs and To Expand English Language Acquisition Instruction	Cloutier							Grants	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
	1310	An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners	Grohoski							Property tax	
	1594	An Act To Create the Cabinet on Aging	Fay								
	1597	An Act To Expand the Value of the Homestead Exemption and the State Reimbursement to Municipalities								Homestead Exemption	
	1630	An Act To Increase Access To Transportation for Workforce and Other Essential Transportation Needs								Transportation	
	1847	An Act To Allow the Bureau of Motor Vehicles To Assist in the Critical Incident Contact Chain	Sanborn			Need language				Contact chain	
	1849	An Act To Assist Maine's Working Waterfront	Sanborn			Need language				Waterfront	
<u>32</u>	325	An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings	Stewart	JUD	<u>Bill Text</u>	Support				Public meetings	
<u>37</u>	336	An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program (Emergency)	Libby	LH	<u>Bill Text</u>	Support	2/3/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	2/17/21 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 3/8/21	Insurance	Monitor - City staff to check
<u>39</u>	539	An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban	Guerin	ENR	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/3/21 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/3/21 Anticipated Divided Report Not rpt out	Plastic bags	
<u>44</u>	428	An Act To Require the Department of Education To Report Annually on Summer Educational Programs	Pierce	ECA	<u>Bill Text</u>		2/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 3/9/21	School	Xavier Botana_doing a careful review.

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>47</u>	269	An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text		2/10/21 1:00 PM RM 209 COB	2/23/21 1:00 PM RM 209 COB	Voted 2/23/21 Anticipated Divided Report Not rpt out	Health	
<u>48</u>	270	Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Request a Waiver Relating to Support Services and To Provide Funds To Prevent Homelessness	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text		3/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB			Support services	
<u>49</u>	271	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	Bill Text					Bond	
<u>50</u>	272	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	Bill Text					Bond	
<u>52</u>	278	An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers	Brennan	LH	Bill Text				Referred to EDU 3/11/21 ONTP	School	
<u>55</u>	261	An Act To Protect Minority Religious Groups by Eliminating the Prior Approval Requirement for a School Absence for a Recognized Religious Holiday	Fecteau	ECA	Bill Text		2/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	OTP Reported out 2/25/21	School	
<u>57</u>	279	An Act To Reduce the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste	Tucker	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor				Landfill	
<u>58</u>	105	An Act To Improve Information Sharing by Criminal Justice Agencies with Government Agencies Responsible for Investigating Child or Adult Abuse	Harnett	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	2/10/21 10:00 AM RM 436 SH	2/17/21 10:00 AM RM 436 SH	Tabled 2/17/21	Information sharing	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
68	724	An Act To Introduce a Career and Fiscal Management Elective Course at the High School Level	Crockett	ECA	Bill Text					School	
69	136	An Act To Reduce Duplicative Permitting Review for Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws	Tucker	ENR	Bill Text		3/1/21 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/8/21 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB		Permitting	
70	309	An Act To Allow a Parent or Guardian of a Student Who Has Been Affected by COVID-19 To Keep the Student in the Student's Current Grade Level (Emergency)	Fecteau	ECA	Bill Text		2/24/21 1:00 PM RM 208 COB	3/3/21 10:00 AM RM 208 COB	Voted 3/3/21 ONTP Not rpt out	School	Xavier Botana_monitor; follow MSMA's lead
81	70	An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods	Meyer	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor				Shelter	
84	322	An Act To Increase the State Share of the Cost of Health Insurance for Retired Teachers (Emergency)	Faulkingham	ECA	Bill Text		2/17/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	Tabled 2/24/21	Insurance	
87	1961	An Act To Implement the State Climate Action Plan, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhance Maine's Economy	Tucker	ENR	Bill Text					Environment	
94	253	An Act To Allow Municipalities To Exempt Volunteer Firefighters from Paying Excise Tax on Their Vehicles Used To Respond to Fire Calls	Doudera	TAX	Bill Text					Tax	
96	22	An Act To Create Fairness in the Treatment of Students by Retaining Students with Certain Vaccine Exemptions	Faulkingham	ECA	Bill Text					School	Xavier Botana_opposes

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>97</u>	219	An Act To Ensure the Right To Work without Payment of Dues or Fees to a Labor Union	Faulkingham	LH	Bill Text		2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Union	
<u>100</u>	468	An Act To Establish the General Election Date in United States Presidential Election Years as a State Holiday	Moriarty	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	2/3/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Reported out 3/10/21	Holiday	
<u>102</u>	467	An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots	Moriarty	VLA	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	2/1/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/10/21 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/4/21	Ballots	
<u>107</u>	212	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Specify the Qualifications of Electors	Faulkingham	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor	2/10/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/3/21 11:00 AM RM 437 SH	MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Reported out 3/10/21	Electors	
<u>111</u>	474	An Act To Allow Career Educators To Retire without Penalty	Tuell	LH	Bill Text		2/3/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	2/22/21 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/8/21	School	
<u>112</u>	657	An Act To Facilitate the Timely and Accurate Counting of Absentee Ballots By Extending the Processing Period	Roberts	VLA	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	2/1/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/10/21 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH	DEAD	Ballots	
<u>129</u>	405	Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants	Stewart	HHS	Bill Text		2/9/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB			Water	Bernstein Shur to reach out to Water District.
<u>132</u>	151	An Act To Implement the Attorney General's Recommendations on Data Collection in Order To Eliminate Profiling in Maine	Talbot Ross	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/11/21 10:00 AM Rm 438 SH			Profiling	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
135	1063	An Act To Address Issues in Funding Prekindergarten Programs	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor				School funding	Xavier Botana_supports
137	837	An Act Regarding Absence from Work for Emergency Response	Grohoski	LH	Bill Text	Staff to review	2/22/21 10:00 AM RM 202 COB	3/17/21 10:00 AM RM 202 COB		Employment	No concerns
148	354	An Act To Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting	Fecteau	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	2/8/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/22/21 1:00 PM Rm 437 SH	Tabled 2/22/21	Voting	
150	140	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Hazardous Substance Site Cleanups (Bond)	Fay	AFA	Bill Text	Staff to review				Bond	This is in line with the City's own regulations. No issues.
155	838	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Prohibit the Use of Certain Neonicotinoids for Outdoor Residential Use	Grohoski	ACF	Bill Text	Monitor	2/18/21 9:30 AM Rm 214 COB	3/9/21 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 3/9/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Pesticides	
163	701	An Act To Revise Maine's Environmental Laws	Tucker	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor				Environment	
175	1096	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters (Bond)	Cloutier	AFA	Bill Text	Support				Bond	
179	30	An Act To Exclude Energy Efficiency Improvements from Property Tax	Kessler	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	2/23/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/4/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	Tabled 3/4/21	Tax	
181	955	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research (Bond)	Sylester	AFA	Bill Text	Staff to review				Bond	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>183</u>	15	An Act To Establish Juneteenth as a Paid State Holiday	Talbot Ross	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/24/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Holiday	
<u>187</u>	202	An Act To Require Education about African-American History and the History of Genocide	Luchini	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor				School	Xavier Botana_supports
<u>189</u>	572	An Act To Permit All Public Employers To Implement Payroll Deductions for Disability and Life Insurance Policies	Jackson	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Insurance	
<u>191</u>	395	An Act To Permit Municipalities To Provide Assistance to Veterans in Paying Property Taxes	Bailey	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	3/18/21 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/25/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH		Tax	
<u>192</u>	396	An Act To Define the Responsibilities of Residential Property Owners for the Maintenance and Repair of Private Roads	Bailey	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/18/21 11:00 AM Rm 438 SH	3/4/21 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	OTP Reported out 3/11/21	Private roads	
<u>197</u>	666	Resolve, To Ensure That Community Mental Health Service Providers Can Access Pandemic Stimulus Funds	Breen	HHS	Bill Text	Support				Stimulus	City staff to review Staff supports
<u>198</u>	717	An Act To Improve Maine's Tax Laws by Providing a Property Tax Exemption for Central Labor Councils	Chipman	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	2/23/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/4/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 3/4/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Labor	Do not support - may submit testimony
<u>202</u>	758	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting	Miramant	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	2/10/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/17/21 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH	Tabled 3/3/21	Ranked choice	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>205</u>	451	An Act To Extend the Ability of Restaurants and Bars To Serve Alcohol To Go (Emergency)	Luchini	VLA	<u>Bill Text</u>	Testify	2/8/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	OTP-AM Reported out 3/9/21	Alcohol	Plan to testify. Supportive until emergency order.
<u>206</u>	1712	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 234: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Emergency)	Meyer	HHS	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/9/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	3/18/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB		Lead testing	
<u>208</u>	1124	An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots	Brooks	VLA	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	3/8/21 10:30 AM Rm 437 SH			Ballots	
<u>211</u>	1094	An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness	Cloutier	LH	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB		Shelter	Monitor/most likely support. Staff to look into GA/shelter bills; Staff supports (carryover from 129th - LD 1909)
<u>242</u>	519	An Act To Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission	Cyrway	CJPS	<u>Bill Text</u>	Support	2/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	3/1/21 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	OTP-AM Reported out 3/8/21	Fire protection	Dena to reach out to the fire chief
<u>244</u>	360	An Act To Repeal Maine's Single-use Plastic Bag Law	Davis	ENR	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/3/21 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/3/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Plastic bags	The Council repealed the City's bag fee because the statute preempted municipalities from regulating bags. Assuming this completely repeals the existing state bag ban the Council would need to "unrepeal" our ordinance if they wanted to have some sort of bag program. We would like to make sure there is language in the bill that allows municipalities to have their own programs.

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>250</u>	1098	An Act To Assist Nursing Homes in the Management of Facility Beds	Perry	HHS	Bill Text	City staff to check	3/17/21 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB			Nursing homes	No issue (will not affect BC unless we reduced bed size and then increased bed size).
<u>253</u>	311	An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Cebra	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor				Photo ID	
<u>256</u>		An Act To Adjust Sewer and Wastewater Lien Fees	Doudera	EUT	Bill Text	City staff to check	2/18/21 9:45 AM Rm 211 COB	3/2/21 10:00 AM Rm 211 COB	Voted 3/4/21 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Lien fees	
<u>259</u>	886	An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management	McDonald	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor				Solid waste	
<u>264</u>	583	An Act To Prohibit Aerial Application of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Pluecker	ENR	Bill Text	Support			2/25/21 Refer to other	PFAS	Support - have city staff check if it aligns with city ordinance. Not relevant in Portland; primarily relevant to northern Maine where aerial spraying is used in large timber tracts.
<u>269</u>	634	An Act To Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters	Sanborn	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	3/4/21 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	3/18/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB		Smoking	Metro?
<u>270</u>	352	An Act To Amend the Regional Adjustment Index To Ensure School Districts Do Not Receive Less than the State Average for Teacher Salaries	Stewart	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	3/19/21 11:00 AM Rm 208 COB		School	Check with Superintendent Xavier Botana_defer to Rep. Brennan
<u>278</u>	582	An Act To Establish a Process for the Consideration and Implementation of Changes to Mandated Instruction or Training for Students	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor	2/17/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB		School	Xavier Botana_supports
<u>281</u>	297	An Act To Address Student Achievement Gaps	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	3/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB		School	Xavier Botana_supports

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>286</u>	1460	An Act To Make Election Day a State Holiday	Collings	SLG	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Reported out 3/11/21	Elections	
<u>290</u>	346	An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older Who Own a Homestead for at Least 10 Years	Stewart	TAX	<u>Bill Text</u>	Oppose				Tax	The property tax amount is not a number that can just be frozen in our internal systems. The property tax for each individual parcel is a computation derived of two parts - the assessed value of the property multiplied by the tax rate for the corresponding fiscal year. In order to keep a tax amount "stabilized" there would need to be an adjustment made to one of these parts or at the very least, an abatement done to subtract the overall difference to arrive at the same "stabilized" tax amount each year. I object to the provision that someone eligible for a "stabilized" tax could move it with them to another municipality. Imagine someone living in Machias in a 1500 sq. ft., 3 bed, 1.5 bath home assessed at \$200,000 and paying \$4,000 in taxes downsizes and moves to a condo in Portland where the taxes may be \$6,000 otherwise. Let's say instead of downsizing, the eligible individual upsizes to create a larger home for extended family. Who wouldn't want to move their grandmother to an Eastern or Western Promenade property to take advantage of her "stabilized" eligibility to pay only \$4,000 in taxes on a property that would otherwise be taxed at \$8,000, \$10,000 or \$12,000 with the State picking up the difference?

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
<u>311</u>	1007	An Act To Require Third-party Certification for Persons Undertaking Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation Projects for Public Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure and Bridges	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Strong opposition	2/25/21 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	3/4/21 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	Voted 3/4/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Water supply/ Wastewater	Another layer of expense and bureaucracy. Bernstein Shur to check with Senator Chipman. Public works director out – need to find backup person to check with.
<u>328</u>	711	An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing (Emergency)	Harnett	TAX	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	3/9/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/18/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH		Revenue sharing	Mayor will testify
<u>343</u>	1804	An Act To Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities	Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	3/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB			Grants	Concerns Ask for language from Rep. Talbot Ross
<u>353</u>	1276	An Act To Establish Medical Marijuana Cooperatives	Warren	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/1/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Marijuana	
<u>359</u>	1142	An Act To Promote Energy Production from Recyclable Plastics	Faulkingham	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor				Energy	
<u>382</u>	1835	An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	Warren	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor	2/25/21 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH			Vehicles	
<u>395</u>	696	An Act To Remove the Authorization for Temporary Signs To Be Placed in the Public Right-of-way	Ordway	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor	2/25/21 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	3/4/21 1:00 PM Rm 126 SH	Voted 3/4/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Signs	Staff is concerned
<u>403</u>	622	An Act To Assist Service Center Communities by Adjusting State-Municipal Revenue Sharing (Emergency)	Madigan	TAX	Bill Text	Support	3/9/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/18/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH		Revenue sharing	Potentially testify
<u>409</u>	1054	An Act To Provide Funding To Restore Fully State-Municipal Revenue Sharing (Emergency)	Riseman	TAX	Bill Text	Support/ Monitor	3/9/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/18/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH		Revenue sharing	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
412	606	An Act To Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Buildings	Carlow	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	3/2/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/16/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH		TIF	
419	501	An Act Regarding Participation in Public Works Projects by Pretrial Inmates	Costain	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	3/3/21 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Voted 3/3/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Public works	Need more information
426	1566	An Act Relating to Solar Energy Installation	Lawrence	EUT	Bill Text	Monitor				Energy	
521	1173	An Act To Modify the Rule-making Process for Establishing County and Municipal Jail Standards	Baldacci	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	3/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH			Jails	Concerned about costs
525	995	An Act To Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores To Share a Common Space	Miramant	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor				Marijuana	
553	1940	An Act To End At-will Employment	Sylester	LH	Bill Text	Oppose/ Testify	3/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Employment	
555	906	An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees	Sylester	LH	Bill Text	Oppose/ Testify				Employment	
557	276	An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Johansen	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor				Voting	
580	1525	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting	Moriarty	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/8/21 10:30 AM Rm 437 SH	3/17/21 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH		Voting	Clerks likely to support
596	1115	An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads	Claxton	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	3/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB			Roads	
605	644	An Act To Amend the Marijuana Legalization Act	Pierce	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor				Marijuana	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
613	255	An Act To Amend the Adult Use Marijuana Program Rules and Make Other Technical Changes	Pierce	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor				Marijuana	
638	475	An Act To Ensure the Timely and Transparent Delivery of Unofficial Election Results in Maine	Tuell	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/19/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Elections	
646	1865	An Act To Improve the Administration of Elections by Ensuring an Adequate Number of Poll Workers	Bennett	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	3/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB			Elections	
647	517	An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption	Keim	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor				Tax	Staff to get additional information
650	1941	An Act To Increase Funding for School Construction Projects	Bailey	ECA	Bill Text		3/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB			School funding	School board to check
651	1881	An Act To Stabilize Student Count in Maine's School Funding Formula (Emergency)	Millett		Bill Text	Monitor				School funding	
654	1665	An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program	Arford	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	3/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Shelter	Concerned as meant to only cover hotel purchases.
659	1016	An Act To Ease the Property Tax Burden by Authorizing Municipalities To Require Payments in Lieu of Taxes from Certain Exempt Organizations	Tuell	TAX	Bill Text	Support/ Monitor				Property tax	Concerned about lack of time to negotiate with property owners.
660	1044	An Act Regarding Protection from Power Outages for Tenants 65 Years of Age and Older in Subsidized Housing	Head	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	3/24/21 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH			Housing	
668	1348	An Act To Ensure Public Accountability While Implementing a Practical Approach to Remote Participation	Babbidge	JUD	Bill Text	Oppose/ Testify				Remote participation	Have concerns

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
677	641	An Act To Improve Public Sector Labor Relations by Amending the Laws Governing Arbitration under Certain Public Employees Labor Relations Laws	Jackson	LH	Bill Text	Monitor				Labor	Strong concerns
684	953	Resolve, To Amend MaineCare Reimbursement Provisions Governing Supplemental Payments to Nursing Facilities with High MaineCare Use (Emergency)	Timberlake	HHS	Bill Text		3/17/21 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB			MaineCare	Staff to check
708	221	An Act To Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000	Faulkingham	TAX	Bill Text	Oppose/ Testify				Homestead Exemption	
773	295	An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless	Brennan	LH	Bill Text					Homelessness	Review further
805	737	An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places	Breen	SLG	Bill Text					Firearms	
806	1258	An Act To Clarify That Municipal Officers May Accept a Proposed, Unaccepted Way for Pedestrian, Bicycle and Other Nonmotorized Use	Carney	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor closely				Bicycle	Track closely. Staff believes this may have some complicated legal implications. MMA shares our concerns and is looking into it as well.
816	1038	An Act To Improve Communication between School Boards and Educators by Requiring Notice of Discussion of Labor Matters	Rafferty	ECA	Bill Text	Oppose				Labor	Subverts the role of the Superintendent as the school district's chief executive officer
833	414	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Vaccines by Reinstating Religious Exemptions	Kinney	ECA	Bill Text	Oppose				Religion	Vaccine exemptions
838	1037	An Act To Exempt Substitutes, Coaches and Temporary Employees in the Education System from Paid Sick Leave Requirements	Poirier	LH	Bill Text	Support				Sick leave	Exempting certain employees from the paid leave requirements in the current law

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes
864	1302	An Act To Protect Teachers' Privacy While Delivering Remote Instruction	Dodge	ECA	Bill Text	Support				Privacy	Teacher privacy during remote instruction
926	1672	An Act To Ban Biological Males from Participating in Women's Sports	O'Connor	JUD	Bill Text	Oppose				Gender	



CITY OF PORTLAND
Assessor's Office
Christopher A. Huff, CMA

March 10, 2021

Senator Ben Chipman, Chair
Representative Maureen Terry, Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
State House, Room 127

RE: LD 537, An Act To Allow Tax Abatements for Catastrophic Loss

Senator Chipman, Representative Terry and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

My name is Chris Huff. I am the Tax Assessor for the City of Portland and am **in full support** of LD 537, An Act to Allow Tax Abatements for Catastrophic Loss.

I have worked in government, both at the local municipal and county levels, for over two decades, with much of that time spent in the municipal valuation and tax assessment field. Upon moving to Maine in 2017 to take my current position with the great City of Portland, it became clear that a change was needed in taxation law to address catastrophic losses experienced by property owners. These laws exist in other states and I am an advocate for having a similar provision for Maine.

As you are aware, the assessment date in Maine is April 1st of each year. This means that all real and personal property is subject to valuation and taxation as of this date, annually. A difficult situation arises when a property experiences a major catastrophic loss, such as a fire, that drastically reduces the value of that property. The current law allows no remedy to make an adjustment or reduction until the following April 1st.

I'll provide an example from a fire at 152 Massachusetts Ave in Portland. The fire occurred in July of 2020 and, thankfully while no loss of life or injury occurred, the home was a total loss. The distraught homeowner, having to deal with a complete uprooting of their life while navigating the abyss of the insurance claim process and managing the extensive construction project to rebuild the home, was still faced with a tax bill (for FY21 – the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) that reflected the full value of the property as of April 1, 2020 - even though it had been deemed totally uninhabitable and eventually fully demolished in late 2020.

Our current laws would not allow a change in assessed valuation until the next April 1 and by that time, the home could be fully rebuilt, at presumably a higher value because everything is new.

Homeowners facing this and other similar situations experience no relief in their valuations or taxes at a time when they need that relief the most. This is why I, with the support of the Legislative Committee of the Portland City Council, am asking you to support this legislation. It is simply the right thing to do for property owners.

I would suggest one technical change to the language as written, and that would be to amend the time to file the application from 12 months to 6 months from the date of destruction. This allows appropriate time to make this adjustment to stay within the same property tax year for which abatement is requested.

Finally, I want to express the City of Portland's appreciation to Senator Chipman for putting forth this legislation to offer important relief to property owners experiencing catastrophic loss and allowing assessors to make the determination to grant an abatement for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Huff

Christopher A. Huff, CMA
City Tax Assessor