



Remote Legislative & Nominating Committee

March 30, 2021

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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 comment.

AGENDA

I. ZOOM INFORMATION:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89708133140?pwd=NWhWQ3FhS3prT0lxWmVlV2owNy9TUT09>

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II. Call to Order

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. March 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

IV. Legislative Update by Bernstein Shur

- a. New Bills Report & Tracker

V. Upcoming Public Hearings / Testimony

- a. Testimony in support of LD 609 (March 24, 2021)
- b. Testimony in support of LD 475 (March 24, 2021)

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjourn



**Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2021**

The March 23, 2021, remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:04 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), Roberto Rodriguez (School Board), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur) and Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 16, 2021, seconded by Mayor Snyder, no amendments, vote 4-0.

Committee members discussed memos provided by staff related to **LD 991** (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) and **LD 994** (An Act To Promote Public Health by Eliminating Criminal Penalties for Possession of Hypodermic Apparatuses).

Jon Jennings described staff concerns regarding LD 991, specifically the impact that using Ocean Gateway as a rail hub would have on the waterfront. He indicated that congestion was a concern, and that staff believed there were better, alternative sites in the City to expand and enhance transportation options.

Sen. Ben Chipman, sponsor of LD 991, shared information related to that bill and emphasized that MaineDOT's scope would not be limited to identifying Ocean Gateway as a Portland hub.

Anthony Donovan, Director of the Maine Rail Transit Coalition, also spoke in support of the bill and advised that this transportation effort would reduce traffic congestion.

Committee members agreed unanimously to testify in support of LD 991 but to ensure that staff concerns are included in the testimony.

After reviewing staff feedback regarding LD 994, Committee members agreed unanimously to testify in support of the bill.

Committee members discussed **LD 553** (An Act To End At-will Employment) and **LD 555** (An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees). Kate Knox provided background on both bills, including insight on the intent of their sponsor (Rep. Sylvester). Dena Libner described staff opposition to the bills, specifically that the vast majority of City staff can only be removed from their positions “for cause” and allowing certain public employees to strike could put vulnerable populations at risk.

The Committee voted on whether or not to provide testimony in support of LD 553 and LD 555, with Councilors Ali and Fournier voting in support and Councilor Mavodones and Mayor Snyder voting against. As a result of the tie, no action would be taken.

Lastly, the Committee asked staff to submit testimony in support of LD 609 (*Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions*) before the Committee on Labor and Housing’s work session.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 AM.

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
17	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		High
133	930	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations (Bond)	Crockett	AFA	Bill Text	Support				Bond		High
340	611	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	3/23/21 10:30 AM Rm 211 COB	Voted 3/23/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Energy	Testified last session	High
534	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	High
609	384	Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions (Emergency)	Fecteau	LH	Bill Text	Support/ Written testimony	3/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/26/21 OTP Not rpt out	Housing		High
910	284	An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text	Support	4/1/21 12:00 PM Rm 209 COB			General Assistance		High
	547	An Act Regarding Paid Family Medical Leave								FML		High
	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		High

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
	1310	An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners	Grohoski							Property tax		High
	1594	An Act To Create the Cabinet on Aging	Fay									High
	1597	An Act To Expand the Value of the Homestead Exemption and the State Reimbursement to Municipalities								Homestead Exemption		High
	1630	An Act To Increase Access To Transportation for Workforce and Other Essential Transportation Needs								Transportation		High
	1847	An Act To Allow the Bureau of Motor Vehicles To Assist in the Critical Incident Contact Chain	Sanborn			Need language				Contact chain		High
	1849	An Act To Assist Maine's Working Waterfront	Sanborn			Need language				Waterfront		High
<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	<u>3/17/21</u> <u>Public Law</u> <u>Ch. 19</u>	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 (Title change)	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	Priority
<u>47</u>	269	An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics	Brennan	HHS	<u>Bill Text</u>		2/10/21 1:00 PM RM 209 COB	2/23/21 1:00 PM RM 209 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/26/21	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	<u>Bill Text</u>		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	<u>Bill Text</u>					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	<u>Bill Text</u>					Bond		
<u>52</u>	278	An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers	Brennan	ECA	<u>Bill Text</u>		3/29/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB		Referred to ECA 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	<u>Bill Text</u>		2/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	<u>3/17/21</u> <u>Public Law</u> <u>Ch. 25</u>	School		
<u>57</u>	279	An Act To Reduce the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste	Tucker	ENR	<u>Bill Text</u>	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	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/10/21 10:00 AM RM 436 SH	3/29/21 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	Priority
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	OTP Reported out 3/18/21	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 Anticipated Divided Report 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	4/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB			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		4/2/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH			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	Priority
97	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	3/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/26/21 Anticipated Divided Report Not rpt out	Union		
100	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	DEAD	Holiday		
102	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	3/17/21 Public Law Ch. 11	Ballots		
107	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	DEAD	Electors		
111	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		
112	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		
129	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.	
132	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	3/25/21 10:00 AM Rm 438 SH		Profiling		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	Voted 3/17/21 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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	4/1/21 9:00 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	Priority
<u>183</u>	15	An Act To Establish Juneteenth as a Paid State Holiday	Talbot Ross	SLG	<u>Bill Text</u>	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	<u>Bill Text</u>	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	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/26/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Insurance		
<u>191</u>	395	An Act To Permit Municipalities To Provide Assistance to Veterans in Paying Property Taxes	Bailey	TAX	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	3/18/21 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/25/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 3/25/21 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/18/21 11:00 AM Rm 438 SH	3/4/21 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	<u>3/17/21</u> <u>Public Law</u> <u>Ch. 13</u>	Private roads		
<u>197</u>	666	Resolve, To Ensure That Community Mental Health Service Providers Can Access Pandemic Stimulus Funds	Breen	HHS	<u>Bill Text</u>	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	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/23/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	3/4/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/26/21	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	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	2/10/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/26/21 11:30 AM Rm 437 SH	Voted 3/26/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Ranked choice		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
<u>205</u>	451	An Act To Extend the Ability of Restaurants and Bars To Serve Alcohol To Go (Emergency)	Luchini	VLA	Bill Text	Testify	2/8/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/17/21 Public Law Ch. 3	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	Bill Text	Monitor	2/9/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	3/18/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 3/18/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Lead testing		
<u>208</u>	1124	An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots	Brooks	VLA	Bill Text	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	Bill Text	Monitor	2/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/17/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	Bill Text	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	Bill Text	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.	

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250	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).	
253	311	An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Cebra	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor	4/7/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Photo ID		
256	480	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	3/4/21 9:30 AM Rm 211 COB	Voted 3/4/21 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Lien fees		
259	886	An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management	McDonald	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor				Solid waste		
264	583	An Act To Prohibit Aerial Application of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Pluecker	ACF	Bill Text	Support	4/1/21 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB			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.	
269	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	OTP Reorted out 3/26/21	Smoking	Metro?	
270	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	
278	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	Tabled 2/24/21	School	Xavier Botana_supports	

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<u>281</u>	297	An Act To Address Student Achievement Gaps	Brennan	ECA	<u>Bill Text</u>	Monitor	3/8/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	3/17/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	Voted 3/17/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	School	Xavier Botana_supports	
<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		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
<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?	
<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	<u>Bill Text</u>	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.	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
328	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	Voted 3/18/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Revenue sharing	Mayor will testify	
343	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	
353	1276	An Act To Establish Medical Marijuana Cooperatives	Warren	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/1/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Marijuana		
359	1142	An Act To Promote Energy Production from Recyclable Plastics	Faulkingham	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor				Energy		
382	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		
395	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	MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Reported out 3/17/21	Signs	Staff is concerned	
403	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	Voted 3/18/21 ONTP Not rpt out	Revenue sharing	Potentially testify	
409	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	Voted 3/18/21 ONTP Not rpt out	Revenue sharing		
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	Voted 3/16/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	TIF		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	3/29/21 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	3/29/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Marijuana		
555	906	An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees	Sylester	LH	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor				Employment		
557	276	An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Johansen	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	4/7/21 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH			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	Voted 3/17/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	3/29/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Marijuana		
613	255	An Act To Amend the Adult Use Marijuana Program Rules and Make Other Technical Changes	Pierce	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	3/29/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Marijuana		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	3/26/21 11:30 AM Rm 437 SH	Voted 3/26/21 ONTP Not rpt out	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	4/7/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH			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	3/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Tabled 3/26/21	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	4/1/21 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	Priority
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		
740	459	An Act To Provide Municipalities a Percentage of the Revenue Generated from the Taxes Imposed on the Sale of Recreational Marijuana in Those Municipalities	O'Connell	TAX	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	4/7/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH			Tax	Staff strongly support this bill and suggest closely monitoring and providing testimony	
746	11	An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Municipal Meetings	Dillingham	JUD	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor				Municipal	Staff strongly opposes due to the new constraints this bill proposes. Staff recommends monitoring closely.	
773	295	An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless	Brennan	LH	Bill Text		4/2/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			School	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	4/7/21 10:15 AM Rm 214 COB			Bicycle	Track closely. Staff believes this may have some complicated legal implications. MMA shares our concerns and is looking into it as well.	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	3/29/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			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	4/2/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Sick leave	Exempting certain employees from the paid leave requirements in the current law	
864	1302	An Act To Protect Teachers' Privacy While Delivering Remote Instruction	Dodge	ECA	Bill Text	Support				Privacy	Teacher privacy during remote instruction	
920	463	An Act To Promote Oversight of and Competitive Parity among Video Service Providers	Kessler	EUT	Bill Text		4/6/21 9:00 AM Rm 211 COB					
925	1619	Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop a Plan To Redevelop Exit 5 of Interstate 295 in Portland	Lookner	TRAN	Bill Text	Support/ Monitor				Transportation	Staff is supportive, and recommends monitoring.	
926	1672	An Act To Ban Biological Males from Participating in Women's Sports	O'Connor	JUD	Bill Text	Oppose				Gender		
953	1463	An Act To Improve Affordable Housing Options and Services To Address Homelessness	Deschambault	TAX	Bill Text	Support/ Monitor				Housing	Staff are supportive of this bill and recommend that it be monitored. Housing & Economic Development staff plan to testify.	
959	1576	An Act To Protect Small Businesses by Ensuring That a Prevailing Wage Is Paid on Public Works Construction Projects	Miramant	LH	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor				Prevailing wage	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 #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
968	908	Resolve, To Expand Mental Health Crisis Intervention Mobile Response Services	Supica	HHS	Bill Text	Support				Mental Health		
969	1496	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 (Bond)	Bailey	AFA	Bill Text					Bond	Staff to provide a memo.	
975	460	An Act To Create an Additional Pathway To Certify Industrial Arts Teachers To Foster Career and Technical Subjects in Maine Schools	Fecteau	ECA	Bill Text	Support				Teacher certification	Licensing Industrial Arts Teachers	
987	1638	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects (Bond)	Chipman	AFA	Bill Text	Support/ Testify				Bond	Staff strongly support and recommend direct lobbying, close monitoring and testimony.	
991	1628	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	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Support/ Testify				Transportation	Staff to provide information on impact to City – Study should have community input, how will it impact environment and communities in Portland?	
993	1907	An Act To Prevent the Spread of Infectious Disease in Schools (Emergency)	White	ECA	Bill Text		4/2/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			Infectious disease	Reviewing against our current provisions	
994	914	An Act To Promote Public Health by Eliminating Criminal Penalties for Possession of Hypodermic Apparatuses	McDonald	CJPS	Bill Text	Support/ Testify				Public health	Submit testimony on behalf of legislative committee	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1050	841	An Act Regarding the Duties of School Boards Pursuant to the Laws Governing Attendance at Elementary and Secondary Schools	Cuddy	ECA	Bill Text		3/29/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School	OK with it. We have policies in place already	
1082	1229	An Act To Improve Educational Opportunities by Exempting Children Who Attend Virtual Public Charter Schools from Immunization Requirements and Expanding Enrollment at Virtual Public Charter Schools	Sampson	ECA	Bill Text	Oppose				Charter schools	It is a way of getting around the vaccination provisions	
1241	1774	An Act To Establish More Transparency, Due Process, Education and Understanding between the Department of Health and Human Services and Certain Maine Businesses	Fecteau	HHS	Bill Text		4/7/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB				Staff may submit written testimony on 4/7/21. Significant administrative burdens to the licensing department and inspections team	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
44	428	An Act To Require the Department of Education To Report Annually on Summer Educational Programs (Title change)	Pierce	ECA	Bill Text		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.	
52	278	An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text		3/29/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB		Referred to ECA 3/11/21 ONTP	School		
55	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	3/17/21 Public Law Ch. 25	School		
68	724	An Act To Introduce a Career and Fiscal Management Elective Course at the High School Level	Crockett	ECA	Bill Text					School		
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 Anticipated Divided Report Not rpt out	School	Xavier Botana_monitor; follow MSMA's lead	
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	
111	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		
135	1063	An Act To Address Issues in Funding Prekindergarten Programs	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor				School funding	Xavier Botana_supports	
187	202	An Act To Require Education about African-American History and the History of Genocide	Luchini	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor				School	Xavier Botana_supports	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
270	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	
278	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	Tabled 2/24/21	School	Xavier Botana_supports	
281	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	Voted 3/17/21 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	School	Xavier Botana_supports	
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	Support - Xavier Botana Shifting capital projects funding out of the formula	
651	1881	An Act To Stabilize Student Count in Maine's School Funding Formula (Emergency)	Millett		Bill Text	Monitor				School funding		
773	295	An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless	Brennan	LH	Bill Text		4/2/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			School	Review further	
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	3/29/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School - 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				School - Religion	Vaccine exemptions	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	4/2/21 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			School - Sick leave	Exempting certain employees from the paid leave requirements in the current law	
864	1302	An Act To Protect Teachers' Privacy While Delivering Remote Instruction	Dodge	ECA	Bill Text	Support				School - Privacy	Teacher privacy during remote instruction	
975	460	An Act To Create an Additional Pathway To Certify Industrial Arts Teachers To Foster Career and Technical Subjects in Maine Schools	Fecteau	ECA	Bill Text	Support				School - Teacher certification	Licensing Industrial Arts Teachers	
993	1907	An Act To Prevent the Spread of Infectious Disease in Schools (Emergency)	White	ECA	Bill Text		4/2/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School - Infectious disease	Reviewing against our current provisions	
1050	841	An Act Regarding the Duties of School Boards Pursuant to the Laws Governing Attendance at Elementary and Secondary Schools	Cuddy	ECA	Bill Text		3/29/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School	OK with it. We have policies in place already	
1082	1229	An Act To Improve Educational Opportunities by Exempting Children Who Attend Virtual Public Charter Schools from Immunization Requirements and Expanding Enrollment at Virtual Public Charter Schools	Sampson	ECA	Bill Text	Oppose				School - Charter schools	It is a way of getting around the vaccination provisions	
1149	268	An Act To Provide Exemptions from Certain Teacher Certification Examination Requirements	Fecteau	ECA	Bill Text		4/7/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School	Support - Xavier Botana Certification Exemptions. Would like to add the same provision for individuals who have a degree from a foreign university	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1169	821	An Act To Improve Teacher Certification during Staffing Shortages	Sampson	ECA	Bill Text		4/7/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School	Support - Xavier Botana Certification during shortages	
1172	1002	An Act To Delay State-mandated Teacher and Principal Evaluation	McCrea	ECA	Bill Text					School	Support - Xavier Botana Delay evaluation during COVID	
1186	1443	An Act To Require a Course Regarding the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine To Be Taught to High School Seniors	Cebra	ECA	Bill Text					School	NFNA - Xavier Botana Course on the Constitution	
1188	602	An Act To Include Librarians and Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative (Emergency)	Millett	ECA	Bill Text		4/7/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School	Support - Xavier Botana Including Librarian and CTE instructors in 40K minimum salary	
1189	1315	An Act To Amend the Teacher Certification Statutes	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text					School	Support - Xavier Botana Certification Changes (sent separate suggestions to Rep. Brennan)	
1198	605	An Act Authorizing an Increase to the Maximum Annual Fund Balance for Public School Districts	Carlow	ECA	Bill Text					School	Support - Xavier Botana Fund balance	



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Memorandum

To: Portland, City of
From: Bernstein Shur
Date: March 19, 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. Please indicate to us which bills you would like included on your tracking report.

Thank you.

COP-GENERAL

<u>LD 1088</u>	(SP349)
	An Act To Allow Nonresidents Who Own Property To Speak at Town Meetings on Local Issues <i>Not relevant to City of Portland.</i>
<u>LD 1089</u>	(SP350) An Act To Increase Municipal Oversight in the Site Location of Development Laws <i>Staff supports this change as it would make for a more streamlined and efficient site plan review process. Very similar to LD 69, introduced earlier this session.</i>

LD 1094	(SP355)
	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects <i>Staff support this bill.</i>
LD 1099	(SP360)
	An Act Regarding Election Reform <i>Maine Town and City Clerks Association is neither for nor against with concerns. They will be testifying.</i>
LD 1106	(SP367)
	An Act To Prohibit an Employer from Charging an Employee for Direct Deposit for Wages <i>The City of Portland does not engage in this practice, and therefore staff has no recommendation at this time.</i>
LD 1126	(HP804)
	An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process <i>Maine Town and City Clerks Association to testify.</i>
LD 1171	(HP849)
	An Act To Curtail No-knock Warrants <i>Staff supports this bill but recommends some minor modifications to the language.</i>
LD 1127	(HP805)
	An Act To Prohibit the Use of "No-knock" Warrants <i>Staff oppose this bill. The use of these warrants is rare, but staff believe they should continue to be an option to protect the suspect(s), occupants, others nearby, and officers.</i>
LD 1132	(HP810)

	An Act To Encourage the Renovation of Available Housing Stock <i>Staff support this bill.</i>
LD 1139	(HP817)
	An Act To Authorize and Regulate Visitation of Essential Caregivers at Long-term Care Facilities <i>Staff has concerns, as this bill directly conflicts with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance issued in March 2021. Staff recommend monitoring closely.</i>
LD 1142	(HP820)
	An Act To Prohibit the Unequal Restriction of Essential Businesses during a State of Civil Emergency <i>Staff are reviewing this bill, with feedback to be determined.</i>
LD 1143	(HP821)
	An Act To Protect Tenants from Unnecessary Evictions <i>Staff are reviewing this bill, with feedback to be determined.</i>
LD 1149	(HP827)
	An Act To Provide Exemptions from Certain Teacher Certification Examination Requirements <i>Staff defer to the school district.</i>
LD 1156	(HP834)
	An Act To Reduce Errors in Employment Tax Increment Financing Benefits <i>This bill does not directly impact the City. Its intent is to standardize the withholding formula for the State's administrative purposes.</i>
LD 1158	(HP836)

	An Act Regarding the Application of Certain Pesticides for Nonagricultural Use <i>Portland ordinance already restricts this.</i>
LD 1164	(HP842)
	An Act To Expand the Application Period for Absentee Ballot Requests and Allow Early Processing of Absentee Ballots <i>Maine Town and City Clerks Association will be testifying in opposition.</i>
LD 1165	(HP843)
	An Act To Provide Secured Drop Boxes for Absentee Ballots <i>Portland has a deposit box, introduced in 2020. MTCCA has concerns about the language, which limits access to the drop box to Municipal Clerks. They will ask that the language includes the Municipal Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Assistant City Clerk.</i>
LD 1166	(HP844)
	An Act To Increase the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans by 50 Percent <i>This bill would increase the exemption amount by \$3,000 for Veterans (from \$6,000 to \$9,000). In FY21, Portland had 719 approved Veteran exemptions. Passage of this bill would increase the total exempted amount by \$2,157,000. As the State reimburses us for 50% of the lost tax revenue, this would result in an additional loss of \$25,140. This bill lacks language increasing the reimbursement rate from the State.</i>
LD 1167	(HP845)
	An Act Relating to Fair Chance in Employment <i>While the City does not request this info, staff supports this effort to ensure fair employment practices.</i>

LD 1171	(HP849)
	An Act To Curtail No-knock Warrants <i>Staff supports this bill but recommends some minor modifications to the language.</i>
LD 1174	(HP852)
	An Act To Allow Municipalities To Send Separate Tax Bills for Municipal, County and School Taxes <i>No staff recommendation. Would not benefit the City.</i>
LD 1177	(HP855)
	An Act To Increase Access to Intranasal Naloxone Hydrochloride for Syringe Services Programs <i>With Portland's exchange program being open 7 days along with other mechanisms for narcan distribution in Portland, staff believe they're generally meeting the need for narcan availability in this community. The need for this increased access may be greater in other parts of the State.</i>
LD 1180	(HP858)
	An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on a Person's Participation in a Rental Assistance Program <i>Generally the same as the City's Rent Control Ordinance.</i>
LD 1185	(HP863)
	An Act To Distribute Tax Revenue To Offset Costs Incurred by Adult Use Marijuana Host Municipalities <i>Staff support.</i>
LD 1193	(HP871)
	An Act To Exempt Certain Disabled Veterans from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

	<i>This will have a minimal impact on excise tax revenue.</i>
<u>LD 1195</u>	(HP873)
	An Act To Increase Funding to Qualifying Municipalities by Sharing Adult Use Marijuana Sales and Excise Tax Revenue <i>Staff support.</i>
<u>LD 1197</u>	(HP875)
	Resolve, To Require Continued MaineCare Reimbursement to Nursing Facilities for Bed Hold Days during Hospitalizations and Therapeutic Leaves of Absence <i>Staff support this, but indicate this would not change the City's current operating practice.</i>

Mid-Week New Bills through 3/24/21

LD 1201

(HP879)

Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy Options

This bill does not directly impact City operations.

LD 1207

(SP393)

An Act To Maintain the Current Level of Education Funding

Staff defers to the school district.

LD 1211

(HP886)

Resolve, To Create the Study Group To Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands

Staff has concerns regarding moves toward what would essentially be a regional zoning board for the larger bays in Maine. It would minimize local control.

(HP891)

LD 1216

An Act To Amend the State Tax Laws

Staff are reviewing the bill and will provide feedback as soon as possible.

LD 1219

(HP894)

Resolve, To Facilitate the Modernization and Streamlining of the Utility Pole Attachment Process

Staff does not have any recommendation.

LD 1222

(SP395)

An Act To Reduce Property Taxes of Seniors in an Amount Equal to the Cost of Education

Staff indicate that this bill would add to the property tax burden in an amount equal to the exemption for all other taxpayers. It would also add significant administrative burden. The City of Portland already has additional tax incentives for seniors.

LD 1226

(HP897)

Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Examine Restorative Justice

Staff are reviewing this bill and will provide feedback as soon as possible.

LD 1230

(HP901)

An Act To Enhance Traffic Safety with Regard to the Operation of Bicycles on Public Ways

Staff support, but acknowledge this would be challenging to enforce.

LD 1238

(SP406)

An Act To Protect Women's Single-sex Shelters

COP does not operate a single-sex shelter. Staff is supportive of this change from a public safety perspective.

LD 1240

(SP408)

Resolve, To Review Barriers to Regional Solutions for Housing Choices

Very similar to LD 48, which the Mayor provided supportive testimony for.

LD 1241

An Act To Establish More Transparency, Due Process, Education and Understanding between the Department of Health and Human Services and Certain Maine Businesses

Staff have significant concerns related to the administrative burden this would place on business licensing and enforcement operations. This bill would mandate a less efficient and more complicated enforcement process; the Department already implements the sections of this bill considered to be best practices. Staff will testify.

LD 1245

(HP911)

An Act To Ensure the Provision of Adequate Personal Protective Equipment to Firefighters Who Are Women

Staff support. This is already in practice in Portland.

LD 1246

(HP912)

Resolve, To Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities

Staff support. Similar goal to LD 48.

LD 1247

(SP410)

An Act To Place a Moratorium on Property Revaluations for Tax Purposes during a State of Emergency

Staff oppose this bill. They indicate this would negatively impact the City. As an example, if this had been in place during the COVID pandemic, this would have delayed our current revaluation program for 2 years, putting us further below the minimum assessment standards required by law. (Both the 4/1/20 and 4/1/21 annual assessment dates fall under our current state of emergency).

As the assessment ratio drops, multiple property tax exemptions have to be adjusted by this ratio which reduces the amount of tax reductions these eligible property owners receive.

LD 1250

(HP916)

An Act To Allow Law Enforcement Officers with Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Clearance To Carry a Concealed Weapon

Staff oppose.

LD 1254

(HP920)

An Act Shielding Fire Departments That Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors from Liability

Staff support, and recommend minor amendments including its application to code enforcement officers as well as language that nothing in the section is intended to impact any protections that a FD or municipality would have under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

Staff ask that this be monitored closely so testimony can be considered once a hearing is scheduled.

LD 1256

(HP922)

**An Act Requiring Climate Impact Notes on
Proposed Legislation and Agency Rules**

Staff is supportive.

LD 1257

(HP923)

**An Act To Encourage Inclusionary Zoning in
Municipalities by Increasing Revenue Sharing**

*Staff are reviewing and will provide feedback as
soon as possible.*

COP-SCHOOL

<u>LD 1149</u>	(HP827)	
	An Act To Provide Exemptions from Certain Teacher Certification Examination Requirements	
<u>LD 1169</u>	(HP847)	
	An Act To Improve Teacher Certification during Staffing Shortages	
<u>LD 1172</u>	(HP850)	
	An Act To Delay State-mandated Teacher and Principal Evaluation	
<u>LD 1186</u>	(HP864)	
	An Act To Require a Course Regarding the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine To Be Taught to High School Seniors	
<u>LD 1188</u>	(HP866)	

	An Act To Include Librarians and Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative	
LD 1189	(HP867)	
	An Act To Amend the Teacher Certification Statutes	
LD 1198	(HP876)	
	An Act Authorizing an Increase to the Maximum Annual Fund Balance for Public School Districts	



CITY OF PORTLAND

To: Committee on Labor and Housing
From: Kate Snyder, Mayor
Date: March 24, 2021
RE: Testimony in support of LD 609

As Mayor of the City of Portland, I am proud to testify on behalf of the City Council's Legislative Committee in strong support of LD 609 (*Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions*).

Too many people in the City of Portland, not to mention statewide, experience issues associated with access to housing and housing affordability. The causes of these issues are numerous, and the City works tirelessly, using a multi-faceted approach, to develop and implement solutions. In addition to directly supporting the production of affordable housing, the City's existing policies include a number of tools designed to encourage and stimulate housing development of all kinds, with an emphasis on affordable and workforce housing development. The City is currently examining its land use code as part of an ambitious "ReCode Portland" project, which will include consideration of where additional flexibility may be necessary as a means of opening up opportunities for housing production.

We feel strongly that a bigger, broader approach is necessary. LD 609 is a step in that direction, requiring the establishment of a Commission to conduct an extensive evaluation of zoning and land use restrictions, efforts by other states and municipalities to increase housing options, and the historic role that race and racism may have had in the formation of zoning policies in order to ensure that current laws do not serve as barriers to racial equity.

If LD 609 passes, the City of Portland will enthusiastically look forward to the Commission's final report and recommendations. And, we would eagerly seek to learn, and implement and/or incorporate relevant findings in order to address the challenges and opportunities we face.

In summary, housing issues are a statewide challenge, and the City of Portland believes LD 609 represents a step toward one (of, hopefully, many) statewide solutions. I ask that you vote in support of LD 609. Thank you for your time and consideration.



City of Portland, Maine
Health & Human Services Department
City of Portland
Aaron Geyer
Director Social Services

March 24, 2021

Re: LD 475 Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Aaron Geyer and I serve as the Social Services Director with the City of Portland, which is the operator of the two largest homeless shelters in the State of Maine. I testify today on behalf of the City of Portland in support of LD 475, An Act To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative (FUSE).

LD 475 would create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative, the Collaborative aims to develop a comprehensive plan to provide stable housing and services to 200 individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services. This bill has no fiscal note however will make a notably positive impact on the lives of those experiencing homelessness by building collaboration and providing services in a more cost effective and streamlined model. In identifying the 200 individuals who have the highest number of interactions with Emergency Shelters, Emergency Room visits, Police, EMS and other high cost services, this will prove to be a more cost effective delivery model that has a proven track record. This Collaborative will bring a group of leaders together who represent those high cost service areas to break barriers and silos by increasing partnership and service delivery. The Collaborative will build upon smaller more regional based groups, like the Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee's (ESAC) Long Term Stayers Initiative in Portland. That initiative has a tremendous housing retention rate of 94% among those who meet the criteria of a Long Term Stayer.

Let's use our resources in a more efficient and effective way to maximize and leverage resources within the current system. The Collaborative will provide services in a more cost effective manor and build capacity in the system by providing housing and support services for those more frequent users.

Thank You for the opportunity to testify.