



## **Legislative & Nominating Committee**

January 11, 2022

### **AGENDA**

#### **ZOOM INFORMATION:**

**This meeting will take place remotely using Zoom.**

**Virtual meetings are allowed using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to [portlandmaine.gov/livestream](https://portlandmaine.gov/livestream) the next day.**

**For public comment, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit \*9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.**

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88909451306?pwd=WGtrUmlrMUVTOHRYUTZwdEU5OXJoQT09>**

**Passcode: 652213**

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**US: +13126266799,,88909451306#,,, \*652213# or +19292056099,,88909451306#,,, \*652213#**

**Or Telephone:**

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

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**Webinar ID: 889 0945 1306**

**Passcode: 652213**

**International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc0ER6V3oW>**

**II. Call to Order**

**III. Approval of Meeting minutes**

- a. Minutes from the Meeting of January 4, 2022

#### **IV. New Business**

- a. Consideration of testimony in support of LD 1771 Resolve, To Establish the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State.

#### **V. Legislative Update (Bernstein Shur)**

- a. New Bills for Review
- b. Report: Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions

*The Commission's final report was issued in December 2021, and can be reviewed [here](https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/33442/Commission-to-Increase-Housing-Final-Report) (<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/33442/Commission-to-Increase-Housing-Final-Report>).*

#### **VI. Other Business**

- a. Discussion of Work Plan Items re: Nominating Committee (with City Clerk)

#### **VII. Adjournment**



## **Legislative and Nominating Committee Minutes**

### **January 4, 2022**

The January 4, 2022 Legislative Committee meeting was called to order by Chair April Fournier at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

Councilor April Fournier (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present. Mayor Snyder left the meeting at 8:30 AM.

Councilor Ali made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 30, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote (3-0).

Chair Fournier opened the meeting and discussed the Legislative and Nominating Committee's work plan and shared goals for the Committee. Chair Fournier specifically highlighted developing a closer relationship with the State delegation through regular meetings and an annual outdoor gathering; streamlining the nomination process and timeline; revising the website to make openings on boards and committees more visible; defining what staff and external stakeholders should be regularly invited to meetings; and looking at new and innovative ways to approach attracting a more diverse range of applicants to committees.

Mayor Snyder requested that staff provide the Committee with information on the timing for interviewing Boards and Commissions so that scheduling interviews can be a more streamlined process.

Councilor Ali discussed the Council's prior participation in the National League of Cities visit to federal representatives in Washington, DC as a way to build closer relationships with State and Federal representatives, and asked that City staff coordinate with Bernstein Shur to get an update on State legislation between meetings with the State delegation.

Alysia Melnick discussed that the Legislature will be meeting in person (with masks), but will be conducting much of their committee work remotely, and plan to have the full legislature meet more frequently to avoid condensing their legislative work until the end of session. They will also be watching the supplemental budget and carryover bills that will be worked on in the coming weeks, and flagged Representative Brennan's bills that may have an impact on the city.

Chris Feeney discussed that the Housing Committee submitted recommendations which they will continue to monitor, and flagged Rep. Zager's gene editing bill.

Councilor Ali made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 AM, seconded by Chair Fournier, vote (2-0) (Mayor Snyder absent).



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

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Legislative Document

No. 1771

H.P. 1322

House of Representatives, December 2, 2021

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**Resolve, To Establish the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and  
Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-  
editing Technology for the Citizens of the State**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ZAGER of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft, HYMANSON of York,  
PERRY of Calais, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

1       **Preamble. Whereas,** genome-editing technologies, such as clustered regularly  
2 interspaced short palindromic repeats, also known as CRISPR, CRISPR-associated protein  
3 9, also known as Cas9, and gene drive, have been discovered and dramatically refined in  
4 recent years, enabling innumerable opportunities around the world to inexpensively edit  
5 the genetic code of any living thing; and

6       **Whereas,** many deadly human diseases could be eradicated with genome-editing  
7 technology, thereby saving countless lives, immeasurable heartache and large health care  
8 expenditures in perpetuity; and

9       **Whereas,** a genetic alteration in a species of marine, terrestrial or airborne animal,  
10 plant, fungus, protozoan, bacteria or virus could rapidly alter the natural beauty, ecology,  
11 security and economy of Maine; and

12       **Whereas,** Maine's higher education system and technology sector can further position  
13 themselves as leaders in innovation and ethical implementation, reaping enduring benefits  
14 for Maine citizens, through the use of these technologies; and

15       **Whereas,** there are significant ethical, social and legal considerations for genome  
16 editing in humans and other species; and

17       **Whereas,** in the past, scientific ideas have been used in the implementation of and to  
18 promote eugenics programs and other forms of oppression; and

19       **Whereas,** throughout history living organisms have been used as weapons, and  
20 genome-editing technologies create new security needs in the endless effort to protect the  
21 people of Maine and the United States; and

22       **Whereas,** genome editing has the potential to fundamentally improve or diminish our  
23 health, our natural environment, our social fabric and our economy; and

24       **Whereas,** the pace of innovation is accelerating and over the next several years Maine  
25 can capitalize on the changes in our world that genome editing can bring about or risk being  
26 left behind; now, therefore, be it

27       **Sec. 1. Panel established. Resolved:** That the Advisory Panel To Better  
28 Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing  
29 Technology for the Citizens of the State, referred to in this resolve as "the panel," is  
30 established.

31       **Sec. 2. Panel membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
32 panel consists of 17 members appointed as follows:

33           1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including  
34 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature.  
35 In making the appointments pursuant to this subsection, the President of the Senate shall  
36 endeavor to appoint members having expertise in areas or backgrounds listed in section 5;

37           2. Six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
38 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats  
39 in the Legislature. In making the appointments pursuant to this subsection, the Speaker of  
40 the House shall endeavor to appoint members having expertise in areas or backgrounds  
41 listed in section 5;

- 1           3. One member who is a bioethicist, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 2           4. One member who is a person under 30 years of age at the time of the appointment,
- 3           appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 4           5. One member who is from a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the
- 5           State, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 6           6. One member who is a fiction author or poet whose published works have explored
- 7           the humanity of all people, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 8           7. One member who is a person living with a single-gene disorder, such as cystic
- 9           fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy or sickle cell anemia, appointed by the President of
- 10          the Senate;
- 11          8. One member having expertise in an area or a background listed in section 5,
- 12          appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- 13          9. Two members having expertise in areas or backgrounds listed in section 5,
- 14          appointed by the Speaker of the House.

15          The Presiding Officers shall invite the participation on the panel of the Chief Justice of  
16          the Supreme Judicial Court or the chief justice's designee and the Governor or the  
17          Governor's designee.

18          **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
19          and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the panel.

20          **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of panel. Resolved:** That all appointments  
21          must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The  
22          appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once  
23          all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall  
24          call and convene the first meeting of the panel. If 30 days or more after the effective date  
25          of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may  
26          request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the panel to meet and  
27          conduct its business.

28          **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the panel shall study the implications of genome-  
29          editing technology and the legislative, administrative or other steps that the State should  
30          take to capitalize on the potential and avoid the hazards of genome-editing technology. In  
31          performing its duties under this section, the panel shall solicit the testimony, advice or  
32          participation of persons having the following backgrounds or areas of expertise:

- 33           1. Ethics;
- 34           2. Clinical medicine caring for children;
- 35           3. Clinical medicine caring for adults;
- 36           4. Public health;
- 37           5. Bioscience research;
- 38           6. Environmental protection;
- 39           7. Forestry;
- 40           8. Agriculture or aquaculture;

9. Fishing;
10. State economics;
11. Tourism, business or commerce;
12. Military or security affairs;
13. University of Maine System or Maine Community College System;
14. Living with a single-gene disorder, such as cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy or sickle cell anemia, or a parent or guardian of a person living with such a single-gene disorder;
15. Hospital or hospice chaplaincy; and
16. History of race, ethnicity or eugenics.

**Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the panel, except that the Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than December 31, 2023, the panel shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the panel shall seek funding contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

## SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State to study the implications of genome-editing technology and the legislative, administrative or other steps that the State should take to capitalize on the potential and avoid the hazards of genome-editing technology. The panel is directed to submit its report, including suggested legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature by December 31, 2023. The panel is also directed to seek outside funding.

**New Bills (as of January 5, 2022)**

1. [LD 1879 – An Act To Support Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder](#)  
*This is strongly supported by FD and PD.*
2. [LD 1899 – An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights](#)

## **Legislative/Nominating Committee 2022 WORK PLAN -DRAFT**

### Committee Goals

My hope for this committee this year is to have close collaboration with the state delegation to help align our actions locally and at the state, have good conversations around how we can best support each other, and ensure our meetings are productive and efficient for all of us.

- Review Committee goals in context of Council goals (I have listed my priorities based on discussion with council members and our council goal setting workshop)
  - Housing
  - Homelessness
  - Public Safety
  - Racial Equity
  - ARPA Funding
  - Pandemic Response
  - Refugee/Asylee Support
- Review interview questions and process for nominating activities
  - Kathy has reviewed all board and committee interview questions and will begin outreach to chairs on reducing questions to 3 the nominating committee will ask during interviews.
  - Kathy has outlined nomination and interview timelines to help with crafting our annual workplan and help us prepare well ahead of time in setting aside time for interviews and ensuring good public notice and outreach.
- Revise City of Portland website to reflect process and timing regarding all Boards and Committees
  - Would like to explore this further with Kathy and Jessica Grondin on what's coming up for the city website
- Develop strategy to engage and collaborate with Portland delegation to Augusta
  - Conversations have begun with how we best collaborate. Considering more frequent meetings at the beginning of the session and exploring an in-person outside coffee/breakfast event to work on relationship building
- Finetune work plan / communications / organizational process re: nominating work
  - Would like a procedure documented for how the nominations process works,

roles and responsibilities, timelines and best practices to prepare for the transition of this work when Kathy retires.

- Establishing support and focus of City Clerk, City Manager, and Corporation Counsel
  - Clarifying roles and responsibilities for who is involved with which activity this committee works on
- Connect with policy stakeholders (Portland delegation, school board)
  - Would like to amend this to more focus on creating or refining procedure which the legislative portion of the committee review a policy position, craft testimony, testify, submit testimony and work with the city staff to ensure we are not contradicting each other on behalf of the city. How do we ensure that the city is speaking with one unified voice?

Committee Activity by Quarter (this looks ok, we can review in committee)

Q1 (January through March)

- Review State legislation and plan any priorities for testimony
  - Plan council/delegation coffee/breakfast, need outside location with heaters and masking required
- Review/interview applicants to boards/commissions (Jan call for noms/Feb interviews)
  - Consider how to diversify the committees and boards, what type of outreach to community groups is possible to explain what these positions do?
- Review nominating work scheduling and process (begin work on procedure documentation)
- Ensuring legislative priorities align with Council goals (bi-weekly or 2x/month meetings during this quarter)
- Is there a potential to meet or invite congressional delegation to join and talk about their work, hear our priorities and just build relationships?

Q2 (April through June)

- Special Election for school board & school budget elections in June
- Any open board/commission seats and nominating work (are there any openings that we need to interview for mid-year or can we plan for winter and fall interviews and appointments?)
- Committee meets with City Clerk to plan nomination work process
  - Kathy will be retiring (and we will miss her!!!), what do we need to know, document, clarify, or complete before she is done?

### Q3 (July through September)

- Committee meets with City Clerk to plan nomination outreach process

### Q4 (October through December)

- New clerk or Interim Clerk onboarding

### Q4 (Oct-December)

- Staff develop State priorities memo for Committee review (November)
- Committee requests councilors' input on State/Federal priorities (November)
  - Should we have a specific invite to the council to attend a special meeting to review staff priorities and add any council priorities
- Staff develop Federal priorities memo for Committee review
  - We have not had much engagement with our congressional delegation. Can we explore this, but look at Q1 or Q2 engagement