



Legislative and Nominating Committee Minutes

November 30, 2021

The November 30, 2021 Legislative Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder (Acting Chair), Councilor April Fournier, Anne McGuire (Assistant City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Senator Heather Sanborn, Senator Ben Chipman, Representative Rachel Talbot-Ross, Representative Barb Wood, Representative Sam Zager, Representative Michael Brennan, Representative Ed Crockett, Representative Grayson Lookner and Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) were present. Councilor Nick Mavodones was not present.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2021 meeting, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

Representative Lookner asked for information on the Portland Police Department hiring process and asked as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee that the Committee have an opportunity to engage with the hiring process for the Department.

Councilor Fournier expressed interest in LD 1626 “An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act” and asked how the City could support that legislation.

Rep. Talbot Ross discussed LR 2140, which would establish the provision of emergency medical services as essential services, LR 2352, which would expand access to mental health and crisis care, and LR 2502, which would limit data collection in an effort to combat profiling in Maine.

Representative Crockett discussed LD 133, an appropriations bond to invest in fire stations which was supported by Chief Gautreau.

Representative Brennan discussed LD 2131 to take advantage of Medicaid reimbursement for schools and ensure there is a process to maximize services for occupational therapy, speech therapy, etc. LD 2425 which would provide assistance to long term care facilities, and highlighted Speaker Fecteau’s upcoming zoning bill, LR 2299. Representative Brennan also discussed carryover bills to bring General Assistance reimbursement to 90%, and an upcoming study on the educational achievement gap based on race and income.

Representative Zager discussed a carryover bill regarding flavored tobacco, and Mayor Snyder noted that as the flavored tobacco issue will be coming up locally, further discussion may be warranted. Representative Zager also discussed a bill which would address genome editing technology and ethics.

Representative Lookner discussed his bill that was carried over, LD 1658, which would impact municipal campaign finance transparency, and would primarily apply to the City of Portland and would offer assistance from the State for that issue.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Ali at 9:00 AM.