



Legislative & Nominating Committee
February 1, 2022

AGENDA

ZOOM INFORMATION:

This meeting will take place remotely using Zoom.

This meeting will be held remotely pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Legislative & Nominating Committee and as authorized under 1 M.R.S. 403-B because of the existence of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the committee to meet by remote methods. 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 available following the meeting.

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>

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International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88909451306?pwd=WGtrUmlrMUVTOHRYUTZwdEU5OXJoQT09>

II. Call to Order

III. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the Meeting of January 25, 2022

IV. Legislative Update

- a. Review of New Bills and Public Hearings (Bernstein Shur)
- b. LD 969 (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)
- c. Draft Testimony: 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)
- d. Draft Testimony: LD 1909 (An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs)

V. Other Business

- a. Presentation: New On-Boarding website for Boards and Commissions (Kathy Jones, City Clerk)

VI. Adjournment



Legislative and Nominating Committee Minutes

January 25, 2022

The January 25, 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, Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Kristen Dow (Health and Human Services Director), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Senator Heather Sanborn, Senator Ben Chipman, Representative Rachel Talbot Ross, Representative Grayson Lookner, Representative Barb Wood, Representative Ed Crockett, Representative Sam Zager, Representative Michael Brennan, Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2022 meeting, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

Representative Zager discussed LD 1909, An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs with Kristen Dow and the Committee.

Kristen Dow discussed the steep increase in asylum-seeking families receiving emergency services from the City of Portland, and concerns about the upcoming April 1, 2022 end date for FEMA reimbursement of 30% of General Assistance costs not covered by the State.

Mayor Snyder clarified that the Committee is asking for the State Delegation's support and input as the City moves forward in addressing the two issues discussed by Kristen Dow.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 AM, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

Executive Department

Dena Libner

Chief of Staff

January 28, 2022



This document includes new legislative documents (LDs) printed by the Office of the Registrar the week of January 24, 2022, and that have been determined to be of possible interest to the Legislative & Nominating Committee.

LD 1940 (SP680)

An Act To Ensure That Building Codes Allow the Installation and Use of Products and Equipment That Use Certain Federally Regulated Refrigerants

This bill may prohibit municipalities from adopting certain energy codes that are stricter than the base code, potentially undermining local energy efficiency initiatives. Staff recommend that this bill be monitored as they look into it further.

LD 1945 (HP1450)

An Act To Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers

LD 1523 (HP 1127)

An Act To Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine

Public hearing scheduled for February 4, 2022

LD 1693 (HP 1258)

An Act To Advance Health Equity, Improve the Well-being of All Maine People and Create a Health Trust

Public hearing scheduled for February 4, 2022

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1866	2507	An Act To Ensure Low-income Families and Children with Special Needs Can Access After-school Services	Gramlich	HHS	Bill Text		1/25/22 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB			After school services	Provides new reimbursement to schools for after school programs	
1386	923	Resolve, To Improve Access to Bariatric Care (Emergency)	Perry	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	4/14/21 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB	4/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Bariatric care	This will not directly affect City operations, but staff is supportive from a policy perspective.	
1945	2477	An Act To Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers	O'Neil	JUD	Bill Text					Biometric Identifiers		
49	271	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	Bill Text		4/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond		
50	272	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	Bill Text		4/21/21 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond		
133	930	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations (Bond)	Crockett	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/27/21 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond		High
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	4/26/21 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond	This is in line with the City's own regulations. No issues.	
175	1096	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters (Bond)	Cloutier	AFA	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	4/21/21 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond	Provided testimony.	
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)	Sylvester	AFA	Bill Text	Staff to review	4/20/21 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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		4/27/21 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond	Staff to provide a memo.	
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	4/29/21 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond	Staff strongly support and recommend direct lobbying, close monitoring and testimony.	
1086	1440	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce (Bond)	Bailey	AFA	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	4/29/21 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond	Paul Bradbury to testify, watch for ICE detention facility integration	
1094	1816	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects (Bond)	Pouliot	AFA	Bill Text	Support	4/21/21 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond		
1475	1621	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Targeted Food Processing Infrastructure (Bond)	Talbot Ross	AFA	Bill Text	Monitor	4/20/21 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH		Carry over approved 7/13/21	Bond	Staff support	
1555	1863	An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State	Talbot Ross	EUT	Bill Text		4/27/21 9:00 AM Rm 211 COB	Work session held 5/27/21	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Broadband	Will not impact City operations.	
1894	2293	An Act To Support Municipal Broadband Infrastructure through Incentives and Competition	Vitelli	EUT	Bill Text		2/3/22 9:00 AM Rm 211 COB			Broadband		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1940	2394	An Act To Ensure That Building Codes Allow the Installation and Use of Products and Equipment That Use Certain Federally Regulated Refrigerants	Timberlake	CJPS	Bill Text		2/7/22 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB			Building codes		
	1847	An Act To Allow the Bureau of Motor Vehicles To Assist in the Critical Incident Contact Chain	Sanborn			Need language				Contact chain		High
1874	2397	An Act To Clarify COVID-19 Paid Leave for School Employees (Emergency)	White	LH	Bill Text		1/31/22 9:00 AM Rm 202 COB			COVID-19		
1845	2310	An Act To Amend the Education Statutes	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text	Monitor	1/13/22 9:30 AM Rm 208 COB	1/27/22 9:30 AM Rm 208 COB	Voted 1/27/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Education		
1935	2602	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and Portions of Chapter 125: Basic School Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (Emergency)	Brennan	ECA	Bill Text		2/8/22 9:30 AM Rm 208 COB			Education		
1830	2351	An Act To Amend the Election Laws	Luchini	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	1/12/22 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	1/28/22 1:00 PM Rm 437 SH		Elections	Kathy testified for MTTCA.	
555	906	An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees	Sylvester	LH	Bill Text	Oppose/ Monitor	1/19/22 9:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Work session held	MAJ: ONTP MIN: OTP-AM Reported out 1/27/22	Employment		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1898	2313	An Act To Address the Economic Impact of Federal Closures on Maine's Fixed Gear Fishing Industry (Emergency)	Stover	MR	Bill Text		2/1/22 9:00 AM Rm 206 COB			Fishing Industry		
1772	2382	An Act To Amend the Remote Meeting Law in Maine's Freedom of Access Act	Harnett	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/1/22 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH			FOIA	Staff is supporting	
910	284	An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text	Support/ Testify	4/1/21 12:00 PM Rm 209 COB	4/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	General Assistance	Written testimony submitted	High
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	Work session held 5/20/21	Carry over approved 6/3/21	Grants	Concerns Ask for language from Rep. Talbot Ross	
1939	2510	An Act To Protect School Administration Officials from Harassment and Abuse	Breen	CJPS	Bill Text					Harassment		
1899	2386	An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights	McCreight	JUD	Bill Text					Health Care	Support. Would like more information. Adds municipal requirements to patrolling health care provider sites	
1909	2384	An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs (Emergency)	McDonald	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	2/1/22 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB			Health Care	Staff recommends tracking.	
1448	1597	An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption (Title change)	Talbot Ross	TAX	Bill Text		5/4/21 11:00 AM Rm 127 SH	5/10/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Homestead Exemption		High
1246	1616	Resolve, To Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities	Gere	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	4/16/21 9:00 AM Rm 202 COB	4/30/21 12:30 PM Rm 202 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Housing	Staff support. Similar goal to LD 48.	
1300	684	An Act To Require County Governments To Coordinate with Municipalities To Create Plans To Address Homelessness	Supica	SLG	Bill Text		4/16/21 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB	4/26/21 10:30 AM Rm 214 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Housing		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1337	103	An Act To Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences	Kessler	TAX	Bill Text	Support w/changes	4/14/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	2/3/22 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH		Housing	Bernstein to contact sponsor to discuss. Staff strongly support vacancy fees, but believe program should be local with revenue staying in the municipality to further affordable housing goals and/or reducing the tax burden	
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 (Emergency)	Maxmin	HHS	Bill Text	High Priority	2/10/21 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	5/13/21 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	MaineCare		High
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	4/6/21 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	MaineCare	Staff to check	
1195	800	An Act To Increase Funding to Qualifying Municipalities by Sharing Adult Use Marijuana Sales and Excise Tax Revenue	Roberts	TAX	Bill Text	Strong support/ Testify	4/7/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	4/22/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Marijuana	Staff will submit written testimony	
1930	2582	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 1: Adult Use Marijuana Program Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Marijuana Policy (Emergency)	Caiazzo	VLA	Bill Text		1/31/22 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH			Marijuana		
1428	1626	An Act To Increase the Availability of Nasal Naloxone in Community Settings	Dodge	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	4/23/21 9:00 AM Rm 209 COB			Naloxone	Staff support	
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	4/6/21 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Nursing homes	No issue (will not affect BC unless we reduced bed size and then increased bed size).	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1482	1310	An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners	Grohoski	TAX	Bill Text		5/4/21 11:00 AM Rm 127 SH	5/10/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Property tax		High
1879	2421	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	Sylvester	LH	Bill Text		1/31/22 9:00 AM Rm 202 COB			PTSD	Support. FD & PD may testify.	
202	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	3/26/21 11:30 AM Rm 437 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Ranked choice		
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	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Revenue sharing	Mayor will testify	
1440	1401	An Act To Provide Safe Gear for Female Firefighters	Roeder	CJPS	Bill Text	Support	4/21/21 2:00 PM Rm 436 SH	4/30/21 1:00 PM Rm 436 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Safety	Staff support, City of Portland already does this.	
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	Carry over approved 7/19/21	School		
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	5/21/21 9:00 AM Rm 208 COB	Carry over approved 6/3/21	School	Check with Superintendent Xavier Botana_defer to Rep. Brennan	
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	4/21/21 12:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	School	Review further	
211	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	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Shelter	Monitor/most likely support. Staff to look into GA/shelter bills; Staff supports (carryover from 129th - LD 1909)	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	4/21/21 12:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Shelter	Concerned as meant to only cover hotel purchases.	
259	886	An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management	McDonald	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor		5/24/21 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	Carry over approved 6/3/21	Solid waste		
197	666	Resolve, To Ensure That Community Mental Health Service Providers Can Access Pandemic Stimulus Funds	Breen	HHS	Bill Text	Support	4/15/21 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	5/13/21 10:30 AM Rm 209 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Stimulus	City staff to review Staff supports	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
290	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	Bill Text	Oppose	5/12/21 9:30 AM Rm 127 SH	5/25/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	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	
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	4/20/21 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Tax	Staff to get additional information	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1771	2437	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	Zager	HHS	Bill Text		1/12/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	1/20/22 11:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 1/20/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Technology	Support. Mayor testified.	
1447	1867	An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates	Gramlich	CJPS	Bill Text	Support	5/7/21 9:00 AM Rm 436 SH	1/19/22 11:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Tabled 1/19/22	Training	Staff support	
	1630	An Act To Increase Access To Transportation for Workforce and Other Essential Transportation Needs								Transportation		High
148	354	An Act To Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting	Fecteau	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	2/8/21 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	4/30/21 1:00 PM Rm 437 SH	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Voting		
	1849	An Act To Assist Maine's Working Waterfront	Sanborn			Need language				Waterfront		High
1889	2274	An Act To Amend the Whistleblowers' Protection Act To Ensure Coverage in Unionized Workplaces	Harnett	LH	Bill Text		2/2/22 9:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Whistleblower Protection		
1338	810	An Act To Prohibit Employers from Retaliating against the Use of Earned Paid Leave (Title change)	Millett	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	4/23/21 9:00 AM Rm 202 COB	4/26/21 12:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21	Workplace rights	No testimony	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
552	857	Resolve, To Improve the Individualized Education Program Process (Title change)	Millett	ECA	Bill Text	Oppose	3/22/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB	4/5/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21		From Xavier Botana: It is a special ed bill that has significant potential costs associated with it. MSMA is strongly opposed and has prepared a fact sheet. I have personally spoken to Rep. Millett about the bill and it's better than it started, but still fundamentally problematic. Anything the team can do to help get it stopped would be appreciated.	
1383	1758	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study the Use of Homework in Public Schools (Title change)	Collings	ECA	Bill Text	Oppose	4/22/21 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	5/4/21 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB	Carry over approved 7/19/21		From Xavier Botana: We oppose the portion of the bill that prohibits homework be assigned to students in PK-5. While it allows a school Board to adopt a policy to allow homework, it is overly broad to say that homework is not allowed at all unless that specific action is taken. School districts should retain the ability to empower administrators and teachers to assign homework. We support the aspect of the bill that calls for a study of homework, but would like to see it extended throughout all grades and focus in particular on ways in which homework can be used to support what students are learning but not be used as a punishment or negatively impact a student's performance.	
1929	2316	An Act To Provide Assistance to Areas Severely Infested with Browntail Moths	Hepler	ACF	Bill Text		2/1/22 11:00 AM Rm 214 COB					



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 969

H.P. 715

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

**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**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BAILEY of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DOORE of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: SANBORN of Cumberland.

Preamble. Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds as described in this Act,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding \$115,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act. The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer of State. The Treasurer of State shall ensure that an account of each bond is kept showing the number of the bond, the name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of sale and the date when payable.

Sec. 3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project in this Act lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general obligation bonds.

Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. The Treasurer of State shall pay interest due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be expended as designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies and entities set forth in this section.

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Provides funds for the construction of a convention center in Portland.

Total	\$100,000,000
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Provides funds for improvements to the Augusta Civic Center.

Total	\$3,000,000
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Provides funds for a competitive grant program to be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development for capital improvements to municipally owned, county-owned and University of Maine System-owned venues used for conventions, concerts, sporting events and community events.

Total	\$12,000,000
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Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 5 do not become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set forth in this Act.

Sec. 7. Appropriation balances at year-end. At the end of each fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general obligation bonds.

Sec. 8. Bonds authorized but not issued. Any bonds authorized but not issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act are deauthorized and may not be issued, except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of time not to exceed 5 years.

Sec. 9. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

"Do you favor a \$115,000,000 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?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the Governor shall proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

SUMMARY

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$115,000,000, will be used 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.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1879

H.P. 1389

House of Representatives, January 5, 2022

**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**

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

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

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*

January 31, 2022

Senator Daughtry, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1879 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

The Association's opposition to this bill should not be misconstrued to suggest that municipal leaders are unappreciative of the vital services provided by public safety officials, all of whom serve to protect property, save lives, and support the efforts of first responders.

To that end, municipal officials oppose the bill due to a difference of opinion with respect to the cost borne by municipal employers because of the enactment of the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) presumption, as well as the absence in the bill of solutions providing much needed services to impacted employees and reducing the burdens placed on property taxpayers.

The Association does not agree with the conclusion found in the Workers' Compensation Board's December 22, 2021 *First Responder Post -traumatic Stress Disorder Presumption* report, indicating that there has been no financial impacts on municipal employers and further contends that the financial impacts are much larger than presented.

Specifically, the Association objects to the claim found on page 9 of the report, stating that *...while the number of PTSD claims being filed has increased, the total benefit costs have stayed relatively constant in comparison to the costs in the pre-presumption period.*

The data presented in the table and the ensuing conclusion assume that a claim opens and closes in a single year, when in fact, claims develop over time; that is, the costs associated with a PTSD injury accumulate annually.

For example, the information presented in the chart shows that as of 2021 the average cost of a 2015 claim was \$84,479, as compared to the average of \$6,244 for a 2020 claim. The difference between the two is that the 2015 figure has developed over seven years as compared to two years. As payments for an injury accumulate, it is not surprising that the costs grow. An "apples to apples" comparison would compare the 2020 data to projected 2027 average costs, which may be much larger.

As noted above, municipal officials support the important contributions of public safety officials and first responders. Local leaders understand the pressures the provision of these

services place on employees, the trauma associated with responding to situations when people are at their most vulnerable, and the stigma associated with asking for help.

The presumption adopted in 2017 did not and cannot change the nature of the work, address shortcomings in the mental health system, create early intervention programs, raise awareness, or impact the cultural changes that are needed. More needs to be done to protect the health and wellbeing of these public servants. The focus should be on ensuring that employees in all areas of Maine have access to the providers necessary to both diagnose and treat PTSD. Simply making it a more costly program will not resolve the challenges facing those suffering from mental health issues.

If the committee is unwilling to honor its promise to sunset this provision and instead chooses to adopt LD 1879 making the presumption of injury permanent, at the very least the Legislature should provide the funds necessary to cover the increased costs to the property taxpayers, as well as adopt the policies and programs necessary to address the underlying issues.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this issue.



To: Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing
From: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee
Date: 1/31/2022
Re: LD 1879

Testimony in Support of 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

Senator Daughtry, Representative Sylvester, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing:

On behalf of the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee, I write to you in support of 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 legislation would repeal the statutory October 1, 2022, expiration of the rebuttal presumption law for the purposes of workers' compensation for law enforcement officers, corrections officers, E-9-1-1 dispatchers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is and has been a real issue for first responders across the country given the stressful, and often traumatic, nature of their work. A study found that 103 firefighters and 140 police officers died by suicide in 2017, compared to 93 firefighter and 129 officer line-of-duty deaths¹. In the Portland Fire Department specifically, from 2016 through 2020, we have had 11 employees go through treatment for some form of PTSD or Mental Health Condition. In 2021 alone, we had 5 firefighters/EMS personnel receive treatment for PTSD, stress, or anxiety.

Access to early intervention by way of assistance programs, counseling, and medical treatment can significantly improve recovery outcomes. We support Maine's first responders' ability to access the benefits they need and have earned.

Thank you for your consideration.



To: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee

From: Anne Torregrossa, Director of HR

Date: 1/31/2022

Re: LD 1879

LD 1879 will make permanent a workers compensation presumption that public safety employees who have post-traumatic stress disorder are presumed to have obtained this at work. This presumption reverses the standard burden of proof required in a worker's compensation case, where employees would ordinarily have to prove that an injury is work-related. Although, practically, the burden of proof on employees is already very low, the presumption addressed by LD 1879 completely eliminates that burden. Instead, the presumption requires the employer to prove that a post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis is not work related, which is a close-to-impossible standard to meet.

Despite its lofty title, what this bill does not do - and what is so desperately needed - is proactive support and prevention for our first responders' mental health. Instead, it continues to shift the burden, both financial and otherwise, onto municipalities rather than addressing the problem holistically.

Although I would not recommend that the City of Portland testify in opposition to this bill, nor would I recommend that the City provide testimony in support. The City and other employers routinely pay workers' compensation claims, and continue to support our employees as they heal, where it appears likely that injuries - including mental injuries - are work related. However, the City has experienced several cases involving this or similar workers compensation presumptions where it appears highly unlikely that the employee's condition was work-related. Unfortunately, presumptions like this can create an opportunity that some would disingenuously exploit while providing little benefit to those who truly do suffer a work-related post-traumatic stress disorder injury.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1909

H.P. 1415

House of Representatives, January 5, 2022

An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs

(EMERGENCY)

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

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McDONALD of Stonington.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: MEYER of Eliot, PERRY of Calais, STOVER of Boothbay, TUELL of East
Machias, ZAGER of Portland.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the number of deaths due to drug overdose continues to rise; and

Whereas, access to clean syringes reduces instances of life-threatening infections; and

Whereas, hospital resources are strained due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, this legislation is necessary to save lives and protect public health; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1341, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Hypodermic apparatus distribution. A hypodermic apparatus exchange program may not limit the number of hypodermic apparatuses given to participants of the program at any time or require the return of a used hypodermic apparatus as a condition for receiving a hypodermic apparatus.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1341, sub-§2, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. Procedures for hypodermic apparatus distribution that are consistent with subsection 1-A;

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits a hypodermic apparatus exchange program from limiting distribution of hypodermic apparatuses to program participants or requiring the exchange of used hypodermic apparatuses.

City of Portland | City Council
Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee
Date: 2/1/2022
Re: LD 1909

Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 1909 An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

On behalf of the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee, I write to you neither for nor against LD 1909, An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs.

We recognize and strongly support efforts to improve treatment of substance use disorders, and are grateful for legislators' consideration of how this may be effectively tackled at the State level. However, as it is written, we believe LD 1909 may have unintended public health, community safety, and fiscal consequences.

First, we are concerned that requiring hypodermic apparatus exchange programs to provide clients with as many needles as they request may result in an increase in needle waste in public spaces. Today, even with the current limitations in place, Portland residents regularly encounter needles on the shoreline, in parks, on trails, and on the sidewalk. In 2021, City staff collected a total of 10,602 needles, only about 55% of which were disposed of properly. The remaining 45% (4,750 needles) were found on the ground in public spaces (parks, playgrounds, sidewalks, trails, on the floor in a public restroom, etc.). We have strong concerns that this bill, as written, would add to this already significant total, as well as result in an increase in costs related to staff cleanup and biohazard disposal.

Second, we believe that prohibiting staff discretion in the implementation of an important public health program may negatively affect the program's outcomes. Public Health staff are highly trained professionals committed to serving their clients with fairness and compassion, and the changes proposed in LD 1909 could hamper their ability to effectively work with and treat their clients.

Again, we appreciate legislators' efforts to address this pressing public health issue. We look forward to working with you to develop alternative solutions and/or amendments to LD 1909, improving community safety and effective service delivery while still expanding access to and the capacity of drug treatment programs. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of
LD 1909, *An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs*

February 1, 2022

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1909 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association.

Of all the issues presented to our policy committee this year, our position on LD 1909 generated much debate, with municipal leaders both supporting and raising concerns with the initiative. At the end of the day, municipal leaders believe the protection of the safety of those suffering from substance use disorders is of greatest priority. For this reason, MMA supports the provisions of the bill enabling greater access to syringe service programs.

However, as the Legislature moves forward, municipal leaders from the state's largest municipalities urge you to address the underlying issue of much needed access to treatment. Of equal importance to local leaders is the implementation of standards for the safe disposal of used needles that unfortunately litter public areas in communities in Maine, putting at risk the municipal officials left to collect the waste.

Municipal officials urge the Committee to not only support the initiative, but to also work on solutions to address treatment and the safe disposal of related waste.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.