



Legislative and Nominating Committee Minutes

January 18, 2022

The January 18, 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), Kristen Dow (Health & Human Services Director), Caity Hager (Emergency Management Coordinator), 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 11, 2021 meeting, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0).

The Committee discussed LD 1772 An act to amend the remote meeting law and maine's FOAA, which would allow the Council to meet as a body in person, but removes the requirement that a space be provided for the public to attend. Mayor Snyder asked for staff feedback.

The Committee discussed LD1830, an act to amend election laws. The Committee will monitor.

The Committee discussed LD 1845, an act to amend the education statutes. Dena Libner will flag this legislation for Portland Public Schools.

The Committee discussed LD 1901 an act to remove restrictions on syringe service programs. Staff recommended monitoring, and the Committee agreed to track this bill.

The Committee discussed 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. The Committee will monitor, but has questions about long-term operations funding for such projects.

Caity Hager and Kristen Dow updated the Committee on Federal Cost Share updates and shelter reimbursements. The Committee decided to have Mayor Snyder make a plan to meet with the Congressional Delegation to discuss FEMA reimbursement as outlined by Caity Hager, and the work authorization waiting period for asylum seekers outlined by Kristen Dow.

The Committee discussed the carryover bill LD910, which would raise General Assistance reimbursement to 100% for Tribal members and 90% for all others using assistance.

Kate Knox noted that the State Delegation may want comments on the recent housing bill from the City, as several of its provisions could have significant impacts on the City of Portland.

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