

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Minutes**
February 1, 2022



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, Chair
Mayor Kate Snyder
Councilor Pious Ali

I. ZOOM INFORMATION:

a. 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:

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II. Call to Order

Chair Fournier called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

Councilor April Fournier (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Tina Pettingill (Acting Public Health Director), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

III. Approval of Meeting minutes

a. Minutes from the Meeting of January 25, 2022

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0)

IV. Legislative Update

a. Review of New Bills and Public Hearings (Bernstein Shur)

Chris Feeney outlined the following legislation:

1. LD 1940 (An Act to Ensure that Building Codes Allow Installation and Use of Products and Equipment that Use Certain Federally Regulated Refrigerants). Committee will monitor this legislation.
2. LD 1925 (An Act to Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers). Committee will monitor this legislation.
3. LD 1523 (An Act to Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine)
4. LD 1693 (An Act to Advance Health Equity, Improve the Well Being of All Maine People and Create a Health Trust)

Tina Pettingill explained the Public Health perspective on LD 1523 and LD 1693, and explained the context regarding implementing a Health Trust. Committee will monitor both bills.

The Committee discussed LD 1925, and decided to wait until the next meeting to make a decision on whether or not to support this legislation.

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)

The Committee discussed LD 969, and will request more information on the bill and discuss it further with the State Delegation at the next joint meeting.

c. Discussion: 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)

Staff now recommends not supporting this legislation as it is a complex issue that has received significant response in hearing. The Committee will discuss this matter in more detail at the next Legislative Committee meeting, and make a decision regarding submitting testimony at that time.

d. Draft Testimony: LD 1909 (An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs)

The Committee expressed support for providing draft testimony to Representative Zager in advance of submitting testimony on the bill. Councilor Ali made a motion to approve the testimony, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote (3-0)

V. Other Business

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

Kathy Jones presented information on a new onboarding and tracking site to improve management of boards and commissions to improve the experience of the public when applying for boards and commissions, and improving transparency for members of the public wishing to volunteer for boards and commissions.

VI. Adjournment

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 a.m., seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0)