

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Meeting Agenda
March 15, 2022**



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

ZOOM INFORMATION:

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.

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II. Call to Order

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of March 8, 2022

IV. Legislative Update

- a. Review: Appropriations Bills (Bernstein Shur)

For more information about these bills, including bill text, please click on the relevant hyperlinks included in the backup materials.

- b. Review: Letter regarding LD 1945 (An Act To Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers)
- c. Review: Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

V. Meeting Schedule

- a. 2022 Federal Priorities Memo (staff and Committee recommendations)
- b. Approving a new nominee to the Parks Commission (from interviews held on February 22, 2022) (Katherine L. Jones, City Clerk)

VI. Adjournment

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Minutes**
March 8, 2022



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

I. ZOOM INFORMATION:

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II. Call to Order

Chair April Fournier called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM

Councilor April Fournier (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Kate Knox

(Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur). Representative Rachel Talbot Ross joined the meeting prior to Item IV.b.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes from the Meeting of March 1, 2022

Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by Councilor Pious Ali to Approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 meeting, vote (3-0).

IV. Legislative Update

a. For Consideration: Written Testimony for LD 1986 (An Act To Exempt Permanently Disabled Veterans from Payment of Property Tax) (5 minutes)

Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by Councilor Pious Ali to submit testimony neither for nor against LD 1986, vote (3-0)

b. Discussion: LD 2003 (An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions) (5 minutes)

A public hearing on this item was held March 7, 2022.

The Committee discussed this legislation and the Mayor reported out on the Mayor's Coalition's participation in providing testimony during the public hearing. It was requested that staff produce testimony in support of this legislation, which the Committee will review throughout the week and submit in advance of the next meeting. Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by Councilor Pious Ali to approve the drafting and submission of testimony in support of LD 2003, vote (3-0).

c. For Discussion: LD 906 (An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water)

A public hearing on this bill was held on February 17, 2022. A work session is scheduled for March 10, 2022.

The Committee discussed this legislation, with input from Representative Talbot Ross. Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by Councilor Pious Ali to approve the drafting and submission of testimony in support of LD 906, vote (3-0)

d. Review of Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur) (5 minutes)

Chris Feeney briefly highlighted the upcoming second work session for remote meetings on March 11, and that testimony was submitted for LD 1899.

V. Other Business

Councilor Ali brought up LD 1945, as he was asked to testify in support of the legislation, and asked the Committee if they would consider changing their position from monitoring to supporting the legislation. A motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Mayor Snyder to approve the creation and distribution of a letter to the State delegation expressing support for LD 1945.

Councilor Fournier asked to discuss LD 1673 given that it was not voted on at the March 1, 2022 meeting. The Committee discussed draft testimony and heard from Representative Talbot Ross on the issue of support for the legislation. A motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Chair Fournier for completion and submittal of draft testimony in support of LD 1673, vote (3-0)

a. Review: Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget (Bernstein Shur) (35 minutes)

The complete document can be viewed at

<https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/8172>.

Kate Knox discussed the Governor's budget and answered the Committee's questions. Kate Knox highlighted that the budget is expected to change significantly as the revenue forecast was much higher than originally anticipated, and as a result give-back checks are expected to increase. Also highlighted were investments in affordable housing, holding steady on revenue sharing, a backup fund for education, money for case management for new mainers and those needing housing, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit.

b. 2022 Federal Priorities Memo (staff and Committee recommendations) (5 minutes)

This item was postponed.

c. Support for Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act (S. 3157)

Staff ask that the Legislative & Nominating Committee consider signing a digital letter of support for the Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act. This legislation calls upon the United States Department of Labor (DOL) to study the factors that impact the employment opportunities of immigrants and refugees who hold international credentials and to issue recommendations for reform.

The Committee decided that the Mayor would sign the letter on the Committee's behalf.

VI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Snyder and seconded by Councilor Ali to adjourn, vote (3-0)

City of Portland

LD 47 [An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Brennan of Portland Committee: Health and Human Services

Law Ref.:

House Status: Enacted

Sort: A

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Motion:

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0

LD 211 [An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston

Law Ref.:

Committee: Labor and Housing

Sort: A

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

House Status: Enacted

Motion:

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

LD 328 [An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing](#)

[Sponsor: Rep. Harnett of Gardiner](#)

[Law Ref.: Committee: Taxation](#)

House Status: Emergency Enacted 123-3

Sort: A

Active Item: 3

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Motion:

Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	(\$22,262,235)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$22,262,235	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

City of Portland

LD 473 An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program

Sponsor: Rep. Morales of South Portland

Law Ref.: Committee: Labor and Housing

House Status: Enacted

Sort: A

Active Item: 5

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Motion:

Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000

LD 576 An Act To Increase Property Tax Relief for Veterans

Sponsor: Pres. Jackson of Aroostook

Law Ref.: Committee: Taxation

House Status: Enacted

Sort: B

Active Item: 3

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Motion:

Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,115,000	\$3,070,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,115,000	\$3,070,000

LD 644 An Act Regarding Motor Vehicle Registration Violations

Sponsor: Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston Committee: Transportation

Law Ref.:

House Status: Enacted

Sort: A

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Motion:

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	(\$376,242)	(\$376,242)	(\$376,242)	(\$376,242)
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$376,242	\$376,242	\$376,242	\$376,242

City of Portland

[LD 647 An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption](#)

[Sponsor: Sen. Keim of Oxford](#)

[Law Ref.: Committee: Taxation](#)

House Status: Enacted

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: B

Motion:

Active Item: 3

Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$111,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$111,000

[LD 651 An Act To Stabilize Student Count in Maine's School Funding Formula](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Law Ref.:

House Status: Enacted

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: B

Motion:

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

Fiscal Note Summary: Increases total cost of public education from kindergarten to grade 12

[LD 654 An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program](#)

[Sponsor: Rep. Arford of Brunswick](#)

[Law Ref.: Committee: Labor and Housing](#)

House Status: Enacted

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: A

Motion:

Active Item: 3

Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

City of Portland

LD 705 Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine's Public Schools

Sponsor: Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Law Ref.:

House Status: Finally Passed
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: C
Motion:

Active Item: 4 Engrosser: Yes

Fiscal Note Summary: Potential State Mandate - Unfunded

State Mandates

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Affected Unit</u>	<u>Affected Unit</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Under current law and Department of Education rule Chapter 125, all school administrative units (SAUs) are required to comply with air quality standards and SAUs with mechanically driven systems must comply with heating, ventilation and air conditioning rules and regulations. However, these rules and regulations are not defined in Chapter 125. This bill directs the Department of Education to amend rule Chapter 125, rule Chapter 60 and rule Chapter 61 to require standards governing air quality and ventilation systems for all schools, including those with nonmechanical ventilation systems. To the extent that the newly defined standards require some schools to upgrade their existing systems or install new systems, expenditure of local revenue may be required.	School		Significant statewide

LD 734 An Act To Set a Minimum Wage for School Support Staff

Sponsor: Rep. Collings of Portland Committee: Labor and Housing
House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Law Ref.:

Sort: A
Motion:

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Note Summary: Future biennium cost increase - local school administrative units

City of Portland

LD 773 An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless

Sponsor: Rep. Brennan of Portland Committee: Labor and
Housing
House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Law Ref.:

Sort: A
Motion:

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0

LD 830 An Act To Restructure the Taxation of Adult Use Marijuana

Sponsor: Rep. Perry of Bangor

Law Ref.: Committee: Taxation

House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: A
Motion:

Active Item: 3
Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	(\$438,088)	(\$661,875)	(\$1,085,000)	(\$1,318,750)
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$444,088	\$661,875	\$1,085,000	\$1,318,750

City of Portland

LD 910 An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

Sponsor: Rep. Brennan of Portland Committee: Health and
Human Services
House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: A
Motion:

Law Ref.:

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$1,685,442	\$1,685,442	\$1,685,442	\$1,685,442
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$1,685,442	\$1,685,442	\$1,685,442	\$1,685,442

LD 912 An Act To Extend Family Medical Leave to Hourly School Employees

Sponsor: Rep. Roeder of Bangor

Law Ref.: Committee: Labor and Housing

House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: C
Motion:

Active Item: 3
Engrosser: Yes

Fiscal Note Summary: Potential State Mandate - Unfunded

State Mandates

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Affected Unit</u>	<u>Affected Unit</u>	<u>Cost</u>
This bill expands federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 protections to school employees who have worked at least 900 hours in the previous 12-month period. Under FMLA, employers are required to continue group health insurance coverage for an employee on FMLA leave under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave.		School	Moderate statewide

City of Portland

[LD 979 An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Sachs of Freeport
Committee: Health and Human Services
House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Law Ref.:
Sort: L
Motion:
Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

Fund for a Healthy Maine	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000

[LD 1071 An Act To Reduce Property Taxes for Maine Residents](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Committee: Taxation

Law Ref.:

House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: A
Motion:
Active Item: 4 Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$18,276,000	\$28,580,000	\$34,356,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$0	\$18,276,000	\$28,580,000	\$34,356,000

[LD 1076 An Act To Support the Operations of Youth Shelters in Maine](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Libby of Androscoggin
Committee: Health and Human Services
House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Law Ref.:
Sort: A
Motion:
Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

City of Portland

[LD 1300 An Act To Require County Governments To Coordinate with Municipalities To Create Plans To Address Homelessness](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Supica of Bangor Committee: State and
Local Government
House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Law Ref.:

Sort: A
Motion:

Active Item: 3 Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$3,240,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$3,240,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000

Fiscal Note Summary: State Mandate - Funded

State Mandates

Activity	Affected Unit	Affected Unit	Cost
Requires counties to consult with the Statewide Homeless Council, regional homeless councils and municipalities to develop and implement a plan to address homelessness.		County	Moderate statewide

[LD 1448 An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption](#)

[Sponsor: Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland](#) [Law Ref.: Committee: Taxation](#)

House Status: Enacted
Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Sort: A
Motion:

Active Item: 3
Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$14,509,293	\$19,638,821	\$20,035,479
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$0	\$14,509,293	\$19,638,821	\$20,035,479

City of Portland

LD 1482 An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners

Sponsor: Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth

Law Ref.: Committee: Taxation

House Status: Enacted

Sort: A

Active Item: 3

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

Motion:

Engrosser: Yes

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$0	\$1,470,000	\$1,985,000	\$2,025,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$0	\$1,470,000	\$1,985,000	\$2,025,000

LD 1541 An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money

Sponsor: Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth

Law Ref.:

Committee: Environment and Natural Resources

Sort: A

House Status: Enacted

Motion:

Active Item: 7 Engrosser: Yes

Senate Status: Placed on Appropriations Table

General Fund	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations	\$0	\$131,292	\$182,758	\$191,047	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers/Adj. to Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$131,292	\$182,758	\$191,047	\$0

City of Portland | City Council

Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Portland Legislative Delegation

From: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee

Date: 3/15/2022

Re: LD 1945

LD 1945, An Act To Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers

Members of Portland's Legislative Delegation:

The Portland City Council's Legislative Committee writes to you to urge you to support LD 1945 "An Act To Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers" when it comes to a vote on the floor.

On March 2, the Judiciary Committee voted LD 1945 "ought to pass – as amended" (two reports – one calls for a study – need direction from committee). Following the Judiciary Committee's vote and after receiving constituent input, the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee voted to support LD 1945 "An Act To Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers".

The provisions included in this bill require companies to obtain our consent before collecting our biometric data, bans them from selling that data, restricts how long they can keep our data and requires them to take steps to safeguard that data while it's in their possession.

An individual's ability to control access to his or her identity, including determining when to reveal it, is an essential aspect of personal security and privacy. The unregulated collection and use of biometrics threatens that right to privacy and puts individuals' identities at risk. For those reasons, we ask that you support the OTP-AM report for LD 1945 (two reports)

Thank you for your consideration.

389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101 | 207-874-8300 | info@portlandmaine.gov

¹Heyman, M. & Dill, J. & Douglass, R. (2018). Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders [White Paper]. Ruderman Family Foundation.
https://www.scribd.com/document/376280678/First-Responder-White-Paper-Final#download&from_embed

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	3/7/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	DEAD	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	Monitor/ Support	2/22/22 9:00 AM Rm 438 SH	3/2/22 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	Voted 3/2/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	ONTP Reported out 3/10/22	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	ONTP Reported out 3/10/22	Bond	Provided testimony.	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	Tabled 2/22/22	Bond		
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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	ONTP Reported out 3/10/22	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	Tabled 2/22/22	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	ONTP Reported out 3/10/22	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	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	3/10/22 11:00 AM Rm 211 COB	Voted 3/10/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Broadband		
1940	2394	An Act To Ensure That Building Codes Allow the Installation and Use of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Products and Equipment That Use Certain Federally Regulated Refrigerants (Title change)	Timberlake	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	2/7/22 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	2/7/22 9:15 AM Rm 216 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 2/16/22	Building codes	From staff - 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	
	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	2/7/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 2/7/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	2/15/22 9:30 AM Rm 208 COB	Voted 2/15/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Education		
1830	2351	An Act To Amend the Election Laws	Luchini	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	1/12/22 9:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/7/22 1:00 PM Rm 437 SH	Voted 2/7/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	DEAD	Employment		
2006	2548	An Act To Improve the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (Emergency)	LaRochelle	LH	Bill Text		3/8/22 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/14/22 11:00 AM Rm 202 COB		Energy Assistance		
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	2/15/22 9:00 AM Rm 206 COB	Voted 2/15/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	3/11/22 9:30 AM Rm 438 SH	Tabled 3/2/22	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

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	3/3/22 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB	Voted 3/3/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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		2/18/22 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	3/3/22 1:00 PM Rm 436 SH	Voted 3/3/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Harassment		
1523	1388	An Act To Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine	Millett	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	2/9/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	3/2/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 3/2/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Health		
1693	1927	An Act To Advance Health Equity, Improve the Well-being of All Maine People and Create a Health Trust	Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text	Monitor	2/9/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	3/2/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 3/2/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Health		
1968	2352	An Act To Expand Access to Mental Health and Crisis Care for Individuals in Jails and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text		3/1/22 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	3/16/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Tabled 3/4/22	Health		
1899	2386	An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights	McCreight	JUD	Bill Text		3/1/22 9:00 AM Rm 438 SH	3/8/22 9:00 AM Rm 438 SH	Voted 3/8/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	2/8/22 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 2/24/22	Health Care	Staff recommends tracking.	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
1966	2596	An Act To Facilitate Access to Heating Assistance	Curry	LH	Bill Text		2/28/22 10:15 AM Rm 202 COB	3/8/22 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/8/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Heating assistance		
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		
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	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/1/22	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	
1961	2339	An Act To Help Alleviate Maine's Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority (Emergency)	Hickman	LH	Bill Text		3/7/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/16/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB		Housing		
2003	2299	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions (Emergency)	Fecteau	LH	Bill Text		3/7/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/14/22 11:00 AM Rm 202 COB		Housing		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	3/10/22 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 3/10/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	3/11/22 10:30 AM Rm 437 SH	Tabled 3/7/22	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 2/22/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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).	

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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	2/7/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 2/7/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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	
1971	2594	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation	Harnett	JUD	Bill Text		2/25/22 10:00 AM Rm 438 SH	3/11/22 9:30 AM Rm 438 SH	Tabled 3/2/22	Right to know		
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	3/3/22 9:30 AM Rm 208 COB	Voted 3/3/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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)	
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	3/7/22 9:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/14/22 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB		Solid waste		
1963	2573	An Act To Create the General Purpose Aid Stabilization Fund	LaRochelle	ECA	Bill Text		2/22/22 10:30 AM Rm 208 COB	3/10/22 11:00 AM Rm 208 COB	Voted 3/10/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Stabilization Fund		
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	OTP-AM Reported out 2/18/22	Technology	Support. Mayor testified.	
2012	2649	An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities To Regulate Timber Harvesting	Dill	ACF	Bill Text					Timber harvesting		
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	2/17/22 10:15 AM Rm 436 SH	Voted 2/17/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	2/14/22 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Voted 2/15/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	2/8/22 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	OTP-AM Reported out 2/18/22			



LEGISLATIVE & NOMINATING COMMITTEE
POLICY PRIORITIES

Correct Restrictions in the ARPA Statute to Create More Affordable Housing

Currently, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (allocated via ARPA) may not be used in tandem with the federal low-income housing tax credit program. Allowing this use is essential to the creation of desperately-needed affordable housing in Portland and throughout the State. Please help pass a fix to the ARPA statute that would allow State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used in tandem with the federal low income housing tax credit program funding.

Support Rep. Pingree's Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act (HR 6693)

Asylum seekers are currently required to wait 365 days to apply for Work Authorization after submitting their Asylum application. This waiting period delays self-sufficiency and, in many cases, represents an additional six months of General Assistance. A wait time reduction benefits Maine's economy, helps address our workforce shortage, and enables new Mainers to be self-sufficient. This bill, introduced by Rep. Pingree in February 2022, would reduce the wait to 30 days.

Continue 100% FEMA reimbursement for the COVID-19 Major Disaster Declaration beyond April 1, 2022 and extension of Maine's non-congregate sheltering waiver

The City of Portland has been sheltering record numbers of individuals and families, and City homeless shelters are far beyond capacity. Since April 2020, the City has been using non-congregate sheltering in area hotels for individuals and families seeking shelter when the City shelters are at capacity to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. People seeking shelter are referred to the City's General Assistance (GA) program and given a voucher for a hotel room at a nearby hotel.

Portland currently receives a 70% reimbursement for GA from Maine DHHS and is responsible for the remaining 30%. Under the current major disaster declaration, Maine has been approved for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement for

non-congregate sheltering (for the remaining 30%) through a waiver. Prior to this, Governor Mills provided CARES Act funding to ensure municipality Public Assistance eligible expenses such as these were reimbursed at 100%.

The number of families that Portland has been sheltering has been rapidly increasing - with many families seeking asylum arriving to Portland from the southern border in the past several months. The City's Finance Director estimates that if Portland is not able to be reimbursed for 100% of non-congregate sheltering expenses and the current demand for sheltering stays flat, it could add \$20M - \$40M of expenses to the City's operating budget, which would result in substantial tax increase (4.8%).

Mandate universal background checks

With larger-city crime and violence having found its way to Maine, the importance of addressing firearm violence and safety has never been greater. There is a clear nexus between firearms, the drug trade, crime and violence. The Supreme Court once noted that "Guns and drugs go hand in hand." Universal background checks would be a valuable tool for reducing gun-related violence and deaths, by reducing avenues and options for access by prohibited persons. Criminals, severely mentally ill people, and domestic abusers remain able to exploit the private sale loophole every day, putting all of our communities at risk.

Funding Support for Adequate Emergency Shelter Space

Portland is housing approximately 1,040 clients nightly at locations throughout Portland. The majority of clients come from other towns, states, and countries. Portland has a site ready for the development of a new emergency shelter, which would provide a safe and clean space to provide shelter and resources; however, financial support is needed for its construction. The current cost estimate is \$20M.

Funding Support to Dredge Portland Harbor Berthing Resources

The City of Portland, in partnership with the City of South Portland, the Portland Harbor Commission and the State of Maine Department of Transportation, was unsuccessful in a second application for \$24 M in federal funding through the RAISE (formerly BUILD) Grant Program to dredge public and private berthing resources in Portland Harbor. While virtually all urban harbors require dredging to mitigate sedimentation caused by natural drainage and stormwater runoff, Portland Harbor's berthing resources are challenged by legacy contaminants and have not been dredged in decades. Recent economic studies emphasize that berthing resources underpin a harbor-wide economy with a \$1B annual impact. Dredging will stabilize losses and expand the potential of the harbor for fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, and emerging opportunities in the "Blue Economy". Active Congressional support for the Portland Dredge Project will be critical for its success.

Funding Support for Police Headquarters Relocation

Portland's 50-year-old headquarters no longer provides the capacity needed to effectively provide the type and level of law enforcement and requests for service seen today. The current building faces maintenance issues, and houses both a regional crime lab and a regional communications center. In addition, it provides space for a federal "safe streets" task force. Federal support is needed to help the department keep pace with growth and challenges in our region.

Funding Support for Fire Stations

In 2017, a consultant determined that at least five of Portland's fire stations need to be completely replaced due to cramped quarters, small lot, age, and required environmental upgrades. As a result of these challenges, we are unable to add additional or larger apparatuses; increase staffing; conduct onsite training; meet ADA requirements; meet living quarters best practices; address potential plumbing and heating systems hazards.

Funding for Workforce Development Training

Increased federal support for training in the skilled trades to develop a more robust talent pipeline, as well as to provide new economic opportunities for minority and low-income populations.

PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING PRIORITIES

- **[The HOME Investment Partnerships Program](#)**: This is a vital resource to ensure the continued creation and maintenance of affordable housing. When construction is completed on recent HOME-funded projects, 275 new units of affordable rental housing will be added to the Portland market.
- **[The Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#)**: This is often the only resource available to fund public infrastructure in lower-income neighborhoods and provide social services to the most vulnerable residents in our community. Recent CDBG projects include road and lighting improvements in the Bayside neighborhood, community policing, and the provision of homeless case workers and housing specialists.
- **[Certified Local Government Funding](#)**: The City relies on this funding to support staffing levels in its Historic Preservation Program; we also anticipate applying for a CLG grant to help fund the restoration of historic Lincoln Park's cast iron fence and granite piers. Local private nonprofit organizations, such as the Tate House and Mechanics Hall, also rely on this vital funding source.

- [Byrne Justice Assistance Grant](#), [COPS](#) and [Project Safe Neighborhoods](#) (all via **Department of Justice**): These programs are critical to enhancing the safety and quality of life in our communities, as well as the safety and wellness of the officers protecting them.