

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



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

I. ZOOM INFORMATION:

- a. 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

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)

