

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Meeting Agenda
March 29, 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 March 22, 2022 Meeting

IV. Legislative Update

- a. Legislative Update (Bernstein Shur)
- b. LD 1988 (An Act To Establish That the Provision of Emergency Medical Services by an Ambulance Service Is an Essential Service and To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State)

V. Other Business

- a. Scheduling: Next Meeting with the Portland Delegation

VI. Adjournment

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Minutes
March 22, 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 8:10 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) were present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Draft Minutes from the 3/15/22 Meeting

Motion was made by Mayor Snyder and seconded by Councilor Ali to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting, vote (3-0)

IV. Legislative Update

a. Review of LD 484 (An Act To Change Maine's Tax Laws)

Senator Chipman requested the Committee's support of this legislation, specifically for Bernstein Shur to conduct outreach efforts rather than submitting written testimony. The Committee decided to support having Bernstein Shur discuss the Committee's support with the Appropriations Committee with the caveat that homelessness and resettlement remain the Committee's top priority.

b. Review of Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

Chris Feeney explained that committee work is winding down, and the legislature is moving toward finalizing bills and taking votes on the floor. A change package was submitted this week for appropriations.

V. Other Business

a. Review 2022 Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the 2022 Work Plan and discussed adjustments based on progress made this quarter. Also highlighted was increased outreach in the Nominating Committee work and filling of positions for boards and commissions, as well as increased interaction with the state delegation and federal representatives. The committee also directed Bernstein Shur staff to generate a "cheat sheet" for legislators so that they can reference the City's policy positions while they vote on the floor.

VI. Adjournment

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

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	3/25/22 9:00 AM Rm 438 SH	Tabled 3/23/22	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	DEAD	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	DEAD	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	Tabled 2/22/22	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	2/22/22 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH	DEAD	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	DEAD	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.	

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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		

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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	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/25/22	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 1/19/22	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	3/16/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/16/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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	MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/23/22	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	Work session reconsidered 3/18/22	Voted 3/18/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	FOIA	Staff is supporting	

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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	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	Voted 3/16/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	

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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.	
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	DEAD	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	3/18/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/18/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Housing		

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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	3/16/22 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/16/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	Housing		
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	Voted 3/11/22 OTP Not rpt out	Marijuana		

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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).	
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	Voted 3/11/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	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		

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category	Notes	Priority
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	
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	Voted 3/14/22 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	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	

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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	
484	1853	An Act To Change Maine's Tax Laws	Chipman	TAX	Bill Text	Support	2/8/22 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	2/17/22 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	Voted 2/17/22 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Tax		
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	MAJ: OTP MIN: ONTP Reported out 3/16/22	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			

Sponsor: Rep Talbot Ross

Drafter: JO

Date: March 9, 2022 11pm

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March 9 11pm - From Rep Talbot Ross - Proposed Committee Amendment to LD 1988

An Act to Establish that the Provision of Emergency Medical Services by an Ambulance Service Is an Essential Service and To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

Amend the bill by striking section 1 and inserting new sections 1 and 2 to read:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §81-A is amended to read:

81-A. Statement of purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective emergency medical services system to ensure optimum patient care. The Legislature finds that emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service are essential services. The Legislature finds that the provision of medical assistance in an emergency is a matter of vital concern affecting the health, safety and welfare of the public.

It is the intent of the Legislature to designate that a central agency be responsible for the coordination and integration of all state activities concerning emergency medical services and the overall planning, evaluation, coordination, facilitation and regulation of emergency medical services systems. Further, the Legislature finds that the provision of prompt, efficient and effective emergency medical dispatch and emergency medical care, a well-coordinated trauma care system, effective communication between prehospital care providers and hospitals and the safe handling and transportation, and the treatment and nontransport under appropriate medical guidance, of the sick and injured are key elements of an emergency medical services system. This chapter is intended to promote the public health, safety and welfare by providing for the creation of a statewide emergency medical services system with standards for all providers of emergency medical services.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §86-A is enacted to read:

§86-A. Ambulance services are essential services

Emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service are essential services and as essential as services provided by a fire department or law enforcement agency.

Amend the bill in existing section 2 by deleting subsection 2 on lines 21 through 40 on page 1 and inserting the following:

2. Commission membership. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of ~~13~~ 17 members:

A. ~~Six~~ Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

(1) Two members of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

(2) Two members who are employed or volunteer in the field of emergency medical services, including one member who represents a community of 10,000 residents or more and one member who represents a community of fewer than 10,000 residents;

~~(3) One member from the Department of Public Safety nominated by the Governor at the President's request; and~~

(3) One member who represents a statewide association of emergency medical services providers;

(4) One member who represents a private, for-profit ambulance service;

(5) One member who represents a statewide association of municipalities; and

B. ~~Six~~ Eight members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

(1) Four members of the House of Representatives, including 2 members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and 2 members of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

(2) One member who represents a tribal emergency medical service; ~~and~~

(3) One member who represents a volunteer emergency medical service;

(4) One member who represents county government; and

(5) One member who represents a statewide association of hospitals; and

C. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee; and

D. The Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety or the director's designee.

Amend the bill in section 2 by deleting subsection 5 and inserting the following:

5. Duties; Meetings. The commission shall examine and make recommendations on the structure, support of and delivery of emergency medical services in the State. The commission shall maintain communication and coordinate with the Maine Emergency Medical Services so that the Maine Emergency Medical Services strategic planning initiative and the commission are informed of the work being done by the other initiative. The commission may look at all aspects of emergency medical services, including but not limited to workforce development, training, compensation, retention, costs, reimbursement rates, organization and local and state support. The commission is authorized to hold a maximum of 6 meetings.

SUMMARY

This amendment adds emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service as essential services to the statement of purpose in Title 32 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 2-B, on emergency medical services. The amendment removes reference in the bill in Title 32 Maine Revised Statutes, section 86-A, to eligibility for federal funding as the purpose for which emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service are designated as

emergency medical services. The amendment adds 4 persons to the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State: a person who represents a statewide association of municipalities and a person who represents a statewide association of emergency medical services appointed by the President of the Senate and a person who represents county government and a person who represents a statewide association of hospitals appointed by the Speaker of the House. The amendment substitutes the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety or the director's designee for a person from the Department of Public Safety nominated by the Governor at the President's request. The amendment adds to the duties of the commission examining and making recommendations on the structure of emergency medical services and maintaining communication and coordinating with the Maine Emergency Medical Services so that the Maine Emergency Medical Services strategic planning initiative and the commission are informed of the work being done by the other initiative. The amendment adds language authorizing the commission to hold a maximum of 6 meetings.

Why is it important to reference EMS as an essential service?

Inserting this language into the Statement of Purpose affirms that EMS is as important as other public safety services (i.e., fire and law enforcement). It also acknowledges that this should be part of future and ongoing legislative and rulemaking efforts along the lines of other characteristics in the Statement of Purpose.

Workforce shortage

The workforce challenge is in a crisis status – and it is one that will take both understanding and coordination between the Legislature and the Executive branch to develop immediate, mid-term, and long-term action items.

Review of Maine EMS

The enabling legislation under which EMS operates was established in 1982, and while it has had technical adjustments since then, much of it remains as initially implemented. Forty years later, the system is in a different place and the expectations are significantly different. These expectations have been highlighted by the pandemic at the same time the workforce has been pushed to its breaking point. This bill will allow for the creation of a Blue-Ribbon Commission that will include Maine EMS leadership as well as Legislators and EMS providers to who work collaboratively with the Maine EMS strategic planning process and allow for potential legislation to be submitted early in the 131st Legislative session.

Overlapping/competing/conflicting with the Maine EMS strategic planning process

Maine EMS contracted with a national EMS consultant to conduct an extensive strategic planning process with the Board of EMS. That process is beginning now. There will be progress reports provided by 6/30/22 and another on 8/30/22. The final report is due by 11/1/22. That process will include statewide input from stakeholders on a wide range of operational issues.

Having the Blue-Ribbon Commission working closely with the Board during this process provides an added level of oversight and objectivity to the Board's process.

The two are complimentary and provide a synergy to the process.

How will this help the statewide EMS system?

This legislation recognizes that there are both operational and policy tracks that must work in coordination to move the system forward. The operational track is the Board of EMS who promulgate rules under which EMS personnel and services must operate. The authority for them to do so comes from the policy (legislative) track.

Ability to do the work in only 6 meetings

Working with the Blue-Ribbon Commission chairs, reading material will be compiled and distributed to provide background information for the Commission members. Orientation meetings will then be held and include progress reports from the Board's Strategic Planning process. A goal will be to leave adequate meetings to work with final report from Maine EMS and coordinate the recommendations for legislative action in the 131st.