



Legislative Committee Meeting 02- 25-2019 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Meeting
February 25, 2019

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Approval of February 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

III. Legislative Update

- a. Review of new Education Non-Funding LD's Report
- b. Review of new LD's Report/Tracker
- c. LD Back Up Material/Staff Review

IV. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next Meeting March 4, 2019 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM.

V. Public Comment

VI. Adjournment

VII. Legislative Committee Workshop 9:30 AM -10:30 AM

**CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
February 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

The February 11, 2019 Meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 a.m. in Room 209, Portland City Hall, Portland, Maine

A. Attendance/Introductions:

8:00 AM Meeting:

Councilor Pious Ali, Chair, Councilor Jill Duson, Mayor Ethan Strimling, ; Portland Board of Education Member Laurie Davis; Portland Board of Education Member Emily Figador; Kate Knox, Esq. Bernstein Shur team (by phone);Alysia Melnick, Esq., Bernstein Shur team; Chris Feeney, Bernstein Shur team; Alicia Gardiner, Executive Director of Budget and Finance, PPS; Corporation Counsel Danielle West-Chuhta; Mike Murray(Staff);

9:00 AM Meeting:

The 8 AM meeting attendees were joined by Rep. Rachel Talbot-Ross; Re. Eric Jorgensen; Rep. Ed Crockett; Rep. Dick Farnsworth (Phone); Rep Michael Brennan (phone); Xavier Botana, PPS Superintendent

B. Approval of Minutes:

1. Motion to approve the January 28, 2019 minutes made by Councilor Duson; second by Mayor Strimling; minutes approved 3-0.
2. Motion to approve the February 4, 2019 minutes made by Councilor Duson; second by Mayor Strimling; minutes approved 3-0.

C. Review of legislative bills bills/bill tracker:

LD 482 – Request Staff input
LD 489 - Remove
LD 514 – Request Staff Input
LD 522 – MMA to oppose;
LD 523 – Outcome Only
LD 529 - Remove
LD 537 – Track
LD 542 – Remove
LD 550 – Request Staff input
LD 554 – Remove
LD 557 – PPS to Review
LD 560 – Request Staff input
LD 562 – Request Staff input
LD 563 – Request Staff input
LD 564 – Remove
LD 582 – Request Staff input
LD 591 – Track
LD 609 – Place in folder with similar LD's for further review
LD 643 – Remove

LD 645 – Remove
LD 647 – Support
LD 651 – PPS to Review
LD 655 – Remove
LD 670 – Outcome
LD 672 – PPS to Review
LD 682 – Place in Folder with Similar LDs for further review

D Review of non-funding education bills by Committee and Portland Board of Education and PPS Staff;

E. General discussion between Legislative Committee and delegation members; discussion centered around Governor Mills recently released budget; possible impacts on municipal and education budgets; discussion about level of funding for appropriations.

E. Next Meeting Date

February 25, 2019– 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Legislative Committee
9:30 AM -10:30 AM – LC Work Plan Meeting

March 4, 2019 – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Legislative Committee Meeting

F. Adjournment

Mayor Strimling made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Duson,; vote 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.



**Bernstein, Shur,
Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.**
146 Capitol Street
PO Box 5057
Augusta, ME 04332-5057

T (207) 623 - 1596

F (207) 626 - 0200

Memorandum

To: Portland Education - Non Funding Report

From: Bernstein Shur

Date: February 15, 2019

Re: New Legislative Bills Report

Please find below the new legislative documents (LD) printed this week that we have flagged to be of possible interest to your organization. Please indicate to us which bills you would like included on your tracking report.

Thank you.

[LD 696, SP0209](#)

An Act To Protect Public Employees from Identity Theft

[LD 703, SP0216](#)

An Act To Help Maine Students Succeed

[LD 712, HP0517](#)

An Act To Fully Fund After-school and Preschool Programs in the School Funding Formula, Increase the Economically Disadvantaged Student Factor in the School Funding Formula and Increase the School Construction Debt Service Limit

[LD 721, HP0526](#)

An Act To Encourage Public Participation in School Board Meetings

[LD 729, HP0534](#)

An Act Regarding the Probationary Period for Teachers

[LD 736, HP0541](#)

An Act To Protect Students during Elections Held at Their Schools

[LD 770, HP0575](#)

An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools

[LD 791, SP0235](#)

An Act To Provide School Districts with Full State Funding for Students with High-cost Special Education Needs

[LD 836, HP0610](#)

An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers

[LD 843, HP0617](#)

An Act To Clarify Parental Consent Regarding the Release of Student Information

[LD 858, HP0632](#)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Make Recommendations for the Establishment of a Maine School Safety Center

[LD 859, HP0633](#)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions

[LD 882, HP0656](#)

Resolve, To Require the Examination of the System of Learning Results



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From: Bernstein Shur
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Thank you.

[LD 505, HP0362](#)

An Act To Require the Use of Reusable Food Ware at Eating Establishments

[LD 534, HP0391](#)

An Act To Make Ballot Questions Easier To Read and Understand for Maine Voters

[LD 535, HP0392](#)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Maine's Rail Infrastructure and Expand Passenger Rail Service

[LD 547, SP0169](#)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Maine Aquaculture

[LD 571, HP0415](#)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Initiate a Service Development Plan for Commuter and Passenger Train Service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area

[LD 590, HP0434](#)

An Act To Promote Climate Resiliency Measures To Protect Beaches and Near-shore Infrastructure

[LD 619, HP0447](#)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting

[LD 627, HP0455](#)

An Act Regarding Portable Electronic Device Content, Location Information and Tracking Devices

[LD 696, SP0209](#)

An Act To Protect Public Employees from Identity Theft

[LD 712, HP0517](#)

An Act To Fully Fund After-school and Preschool Programs in the School Funding Formula, Increase the Economically Disadvantaged Student Factor in the School Funding Formula and Increase the School Construction Debt Service Limit

[LD 736, HP0541](#)

An Act To Protect Students during Elections Held at Their Schools

[LD 746, HP0551](#)

An Act To Allow Municipalities To Determine the Duration of Development Districts Funded by Assessments

[LD 751, HP0556](#)

An Act To Reinstate the State Property Tax Deferral Program for Maine's Senior Homeowners

[LD 753, HP0558](#)

An Act To Allow Voters To Choose Ongoing Absentee Voter Status

[LD 778, SP0222](#)

An Act To Create the Fund for Municipalities To Improve Pedestrian Safety

[LD 780, SP0224](#)

An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits

[LD 788, SP0232](#)

An Act To Authorize the Use of Handheld Narcotics Analyzers

[LD 791, SP0235](#)

An Act To Provide School Districts with Full State Funding for Students with High-cost Special Education Needs

[LD 794, SP0239](#)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the Municipal Investment Trust Fund

[LD 811, SP0247](#)

An Act To Provide Additional Flexibility in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Programs for Seniors

[LD 812, SP0248](#)

An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes on Homesteads of Individuals Who Are 66 Years of Age or Older

[LD 824, HP0598](#)

An Act To Allow a Municipality To Opt Out of Collecting Personal Property and Business Equipment Taxes

[LD 836, HP0610](#)

An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers

[LD 837, HP0611](#)

An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Certain Persons Who Are at Least 75 Years of Age

[LD 839, HP0613](#)

An Act To Increase Funding for Multimodal Transportation

[LD 844, HP0618](#)

An Act To Prohibit Driverless Commercial Vehicles

[LD 859, HP0633](#)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions

[LD 861, HP0635](#)

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research

[LD 868, HP0642](#)

An Act To Require That the Terms of a Settlement to Which a Local Unit of Government Is a Party Be Made Available to the Public

[LD 887, HP0661](#)

An Act To Improve the Property Tax Fairness Credit

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>363</u>	1559	An Act To Protect Residents of Assisted Living Facilities	Miramant	HHS	This bill requires nursing facilities and assisted living and residential care facilities that provide services to a person who requires assistance with activities of daily living to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation or use an automated external defibrillator in the event of a suspected sudden cardiac arrest unless the person has made a health care decision that includes an order not to resuscitate. It requires those facilities to store the necessary equipment to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation or use an automated external defibrillator. It requires those facilities to provide training to their employees on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use an automated external defibrillator. The bill also directs those facilities to establish a process for quickly determining in the event of a medical emergency whether an individual residing in the facility has made a health care decision that includes an order not to resuscitate.	MM to send to Barron Center for review (2/4)	2/20/19 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB		Testified	Assisted Living
<u>16</u>	333	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to improve waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities to address sea level rise.					Bonds
<u>47</u>	332	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used for the rehabilitation or new construction of fire stations by municipalities.	T – support	1/22/19 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Bonds

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>48</u>	329	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless.	T – support	1/22/19 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Bonds
<u>148</u>	387	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund and To Give Priority Status to Certain School Facility Upgrades (Bond)	Millett	AFA	The funds provided by the bond issue in Part A of this bill, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund for the purpose of providing funds to public schools for renovation and capital repairs. Part B of this bill gives upgrades of facilities required to meet prekindergarten facility standards and for prekindergarten capacity building Priority 4 status for loans from the fund to school administrative units for school repair and renovation.		2/12/19 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Bonds
<u>172</u>	326	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Smart City Technology (Bond)	Brennan	AFA	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used to provide funds through the Maine Technology Institute to allow municipalities to invest in smart and connected infrastructure, technology and capacity, including but not limited to information and communications technology such as broadband connectivity, connected sensors and data aggregation platforms; light-emitting diode lighting; adaptive traffic control signals; autonomous vehicle projects; electric vehicle infrastructure; and distributed power generation, storage and management.	Support / Testify	2/19/19 1:45 PM Rm 228 COB		Submitting testimony in support	Bonds

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>469</u>	987	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funding for Upgrades of Learning Spaces and Other Projects Funded by the School Revolving Renovation Fund (Bond)	Farnsworth	AFA	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2020-21, will be used to provide funds to the School Revolving Renovation Fund for the purpose of providing funds to public schools to upgrade learning spaces in school buildings and make other necessary repairs.	M (defer to PPS)	2/12/19 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Bonds
<u>438</u>	1649	An Act To Allow the Creation of New Innovative School Models by Removing the Cap on the Number of Authorized Charter Schools	Pouliot	ECA	This bill removes the cap on the number of charter schools the Maine Charter School Commission may authorize.	T				Charter Schools
<u>333</u>	884	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Dangerous Dogs and Nuisance Dogs To Allow for Flexibility in Protection Dog Training	Skolfield	ACF	This bill repeals the law prohibiting a person from training or encouraging a dog that is not directly involved with a protection dog training program recognized by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police to be aggressive toward or attack another person or domesticated animal.	MM to send to code enforcement for review (2/4)	2/28/19 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB			Dogs

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>329</u>	352	An Act To Exempt from Criminal Liability Persons Reporting a Drug-related Medical Emergency	Cardone	CJPS	This bill exempts from arrest or prosecution a person who in good faith seeks medical assistance for another person experiencing a drug-related overdose or who is experiencing a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance. The person may not be arrested or prosecuted for a violation of laws prohibiting the possession of scheduled drugs, acquiring drugs by deception, the possession of hypodermic apparatuses and the use of drug paraphernalia or a violation of probation if the grounds for arrest or prosecution are obtained as a result of the person's seeking medical assistance or experiencing a drug-related overdose.	MM to send to law enforcement for review (2/4)	2/20/19 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH			Drugs
<u>53</u>	430	An Act To Clarify Local Referendum Ballots	Sanborn	SLG	This bill requires that municipal initiative and referendum questions be listed on election ballots using sequential capital letters of the alphabet rather than sequential numbers.	City Support	2/4/19 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	2/11/19 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/11/19 OTP-AM Not rpt out	Elections
<u>186</u>	1724	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Specify the Qualifications of Electors	Faulkingham	VLA	This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to specify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States may vote in a state, county or municipal or other local election.					Elections
<u>459</u>	937	An Act To Include Homelessness in the Laws Governing Emergency General Assistance	Chipman	HHS	This bill defines "homelessness" for the purposes of the laws governing general assistance and specifies that a person experiencing or facing homelessness who meets the conditions for receiving emergency assistance in current law is eligible for emergency general assistance.	M (DM to discuss with sponsor)				General Assistance

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>89</u>	713	An Act To Impose Requirements on the Rental of Residential Property That Has Been Used in the Manufacture of Methamphetamine	Mastraccio	JUD	This bill requires that landlords and other persons entering into a lease or tenancy at will agreement for residential property ensure that property used in the manufacture of methamphetamine be decontaminated and tested in accordance with the standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's March 2013 revised edition of the Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup or other standards established in rule by the Department of Economic and Community Development. The bill also requires that landlords and other persons entering into a lease or tenancy at will agreement disclose to the potential tenant or lessee that a property has been used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. The bill makes violation of these provisions a civil violation, punishable by a fine of up to \$500, and also states that failure to decontaminate or disclose constitutes a breach of the implied warranty of fitness for human habitation. The bill gives the Department of Economic and Community Development authority to adopt rules to implement these provisions.	Monitor	2/12/19 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	2/19/19 1:15 PM Rm 438 SH		Housing

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>353</u>	1662	An Act To Classify Recovery Residences as One-family Dwellings for the Purposes of the Fire Code	Fecteau	CJPS	This bill requires a recovery residence located in a house to be considered a one-family dwelling under rules concerning safety to life from fire if the recovery residence has no more than 6 occupants and contains a fire extinguisher and smoke detector in each room. This bill also defines "recovery residence" as an alcohol-free and illegal substance-free shared living residence for persons recovering from substance use disorder that provides peer support and connects residents to support services and community resources.	Check w/ Keith/fire	2/25/19 1:00 PM Rm 436 SH			Housing
<u>390</u>	273	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Dangerous Buildings	Johansen	SLG	This bill allows a municipality or county seeking an order of demolition of a dangerous building to seek a writ of attachment of the property on which the building is located.	Track	2/20/19 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB			Housing
<u>591</u>	1784	An Act To Create Flexibility in Affordable Housing Calculations	Sylvester	LH	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to allow exemptions in the calculation of the affordable housing cap for per unit expenditures.					Housing

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>415</u>	1186	An Act To Enhance the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program	Verow	LH	This bill makes changes to the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. 1. It makes enrollment in the program mandatory for a county or municipal law enforcement officer or municipal firefighter with a date of hire on or after January 1, 2020 and offers one-time open enrollment until July 1, 2020 to those officers and firefighters with a date of hire after November 1, 2006 who elected not to enroll. 2. It increases the employee contribution for participation in the program from 1.5% of gross wages to 2.5% and makes corresponding changes to the contribution requirements for retirees with less than 5 years of contributions upon retirement. 3. It allows a retiree to be eligible if the retiree is less than 50 years of age as long as the retiree has at least 25 years of service in a position as a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter and has participated in the special consolidation retirement plan from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. 4. It increases the state subsidy for the retiree's share of the costs of health insurance coverage from 45% to 100%. 5. It requires that all retirees be provided health insurance coverage through the group health plan provided to state employees beginning January 1, 2020.	MM to send to law enforcement for review (2/4)				Insurance

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>550</u>	1051	An Act To Amend the Definition of "Subdivision" in the Laws Governing Planning and Land Use Regulation for Subdivisions and a Provision Excepting the Division of a New or Existing Structure from Those Laws Beginning July 1, 2018	Libby	ENR	This bill changes the date by which definitions of "subdivision" that are in municipal ordinances and that conflict with state law must comply with the definition of "subdivision" in state law. It also extends the time municipalities have to register an ordinance with a conflicting definition with the registry of deeds. The bill also removes cross-references to the site location of development laws in an exemption to municipal subdivision review and adds a cross-reference to the law governing municipal site plan review ordinances.					Land use
<u>335</u>	890	An Act To Require the State To Distribute 25 Percent of Adult Use Marijuana Retail Sales and Excise Tax Revenue to Generating Municipalities	Warren	TAX	This bill allocates 25% of the gross sales and excise tax revenue generated by adult use marijuana establishments in the State to the municipalities where the revenue was generated and makes a reduction to the amount deposited in the Adult Use Marijuana Public Health and Safety Fund.	Track				Marijuana
<u>402</u>	586	An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers	Tipping	LH	This bill annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay until it is \$55,224 on January 1, 2022. The bill provides for an annual adjustment, beginning January 1, 2023, based on the percentage annual increase in certain earnings as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.	MM to send to Danielle for review (2/4)				Minimum Salary

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>101</u>	553	An Act To Reestablish the Pesticide Notification Registry	Pluecker	ACF	This bill reestablishes the law, which was repealed by Public Law 2011, chapter 332, governing the development and maintenance of a registry of the properties of residents, lessees and property owners who request that their properties be placed on a registry in order that they receive advance notification of the outdoor application of pesticides near their properties.					Pesticides
<u>560</u>	2224	An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners	Grohoski	TAX	This bill provides that a permanent resident of the State who owns a homestead in the State does not need to own the homestead for the preceding 12 months in order to qualify for the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption.		2/20/19 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			Property tax
<u>655</u>	1370	An Act To Allow Municipalities To Send Separate Tax Bills for Municipal and County and School Taxes	Ordway	SLG	This bill permits municipalities to issue separate bills for the portion of their tax commitments attributable to education funding and the portion attributable to county taxes and all other municipal costs.					Property tax
<u>133</u>	542	An Act To Fully Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing for Fiscal Year 2018-19 (Emergency)	Evangelos	TAX	This bill restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 2% for the entire fiscal year 2018-19. The law currently requires revenue sharing to revert to 5% beginning July 1, 2019.					Revenue Sharing
<u>193</u>	328	An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing (Emergency)	Harnett	TAX	This bill restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 2% 6 months earlier than currently provided in law.					Revenue Sharing
<u>444</u>	165	An Act To Fully Restore Revenue Sharing (Emergency)	Bellows	TAX	This bill restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 2% 3 months earlier than currently provided in law.	M				Revenue Sharing

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>136</u>	721	An Act To Establish a Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Program	Rudnicki	ECA	This bill establishes the special education circuit breaker reimbursement program, in which the Department of Education reimburses school administrative units, for a student whose eligible special education costs exceed 4 times the statewide EPS per-pupil rate, 75% of the amount of the special education costs that are above 4 times the statewide EPS per-pupil rate. The bill requires the department to distribute reimbursements to eligible school administrative units on a quarterly basis, and the reimbursements must be deposited in a separate revolving account that may be spent only on approved special education services.					School
<u>240</u>	1783	An Act To Allow Public Employers of Teachers to Negotiate Regarding Educational Policies	Sylvester	LH	This bill allows, but does not require, public employers of teachers to negotiate with respect to educational policies.	School opposes/ No COP position	2/20/19 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB			School
<u>345</u>	1178	An Act To Help New Teachers Succeed	McCrea	ECA	This bill requires a probationary teacher to be evaluated during each year of employment as a probationary teacher and provides that if a 3rd-year probationary teacher does not receive a summative effectiveness rating indicating ineffectiveness during the first or 2nd year of the probationary teacher's contract, the probationary teacher's contract must be extended automatically. This bill also requires special procedures for probationary teachers in a school administrative unit's performance evaluation and professional growth system.	Track				School

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>395</u>	439	An Act To Protect Access to Outside-of-school Enrichment Opportunities	Berry	ECA	This bill establishes that a school administrative unit may not prohibit a student from accessing outside-of-school enrichment opportunities unless the student is failing to meet academic standards and that a school administrative unit may not prohibit or otherwise restrict an authorized school employee or volunteer from involvement unless the student is failing to meet academic standards or the enrichment opportunity is part of a corporate sponsorship and the employee's or volunteer's involvement is inconsistent with the educational policy of the school administrative unit.	More Info	2/20/19 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School
<u>405</u>	706	An Act To Increase the Statewide Minimum Salary for Teachers	Kornfield	ECA	This bill increases the minimum salary for certified teachers, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. This bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to increase the state share of the total allocation to a qualifying school administrative unit to achieve the minimum salary for certified teachers.	T (defer to PPS)				School

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>462</u>	802	An Act To Provide Paid Family Leave to Public School Employees	Pierce	LH	This bill provides that a full-time employee of a school administrative unit is entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid family medical leave and may not be required to use sick or other kinds of leave for the birth of the employee's child or the employee's domestic partner's child or for the placement of a child 16 years of age or less with the employee or the employee's domestic partner in connection with the adoption of the child by the employee or the employee's domestic partner. The bill also provides that the employer and employee may negotiate whether leave is taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.	M (defer to PPS)				School
<u>512</u>	991	Resolve, To Create the Task Force To Study and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services (Emergency)	Farnsworth	ECA	This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services to examine the national trends and relevant models of governing and delivering early childhood special education systems and the short-term and long-term costs and benefits to the Department of Education's proposed plan to restructure the Child Development Services System and to make recommendations for an early childhood special education services program plan.					School

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>589</u>	1749	Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education To Adopt Rules Prohibiting Teachers in Public Schools from Engaging in Political, Ideological or Religious Advocacy in the Classroom	Lockman	ECA	This resolve directs the State Board of Education to adopt major substantive rules prohibiting teachers in public schools from engaging in political, religious or ideological advocacy in the classroom or from introducing any controversial subject matter that is not germane to the topic of the course being taught, with penalties for violations up to and including termination of the teacher. This resolve requires the State Board of Education to provide written notice of the rules to all affected teachers, parents and students and for teachers to receive annually at least 3 hours of continuing teacher education to instruct the teachers on the rules. Finally, this resolve requests professional teacher organizations and unions to voluntarily adopt an educator's code of ethics and professional responsibility that incorporates the rules and that specifically prohibits teachers in kindergarten to grade 12 instruction from using the classroom for political indoctrination.	Oppose	2/21/19 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School
<u>605</u>	2131	An Act To Improve Antihunger Programs in Maine Schools	Moore	ECA	This bill requires the Department of Education on an annual basis to provide information to public schools regarding Internet-based applications for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.	Support				School

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<u>632</u>	1050	An Act To Promote Free, Appropriate Public Education	Warren	ECA	This bill eliminates the provision that requires the Child Development Services System to provide free, appropriate public education to a preschool child with disabilities who reaches 5 years of age between July 1st and October 15th if the child's individualized education program team determines that it is in the best interest of the child to delay enrollment in kindergarten for one year.					School
<u>55</u>	364	An Act To Return the Normal Cost of Teacher Retirement to the State	Stearns	ECA	This bill changes the method for funding teacher retirement costs. It repeals those provisions of law enacted pursuant to Public Law 2013, chapter 368 that require school administrative units and private schools to pay for teacher retirement.	Support / Testify	1/30/19 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School Funding
<u>237</u>	1539	An Act To Appropriate Funds for Coaching Services for Existing and New Prekindergarten Programs	Farnsworth	ECA	This bill provides ongoing funds for coaching services to provide teaching support for new and existing prekindergarten programs throughout the State.	MM to gather more information				School Funding
<u>259</u>	280	An Act To Require the State To Meet the Mandatory 55 Percent Contribution to Schools	Miramant	ECA	This bill increases the target for the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total cost of the components of essential programs and services to 55%, as required by law, beginning in fiscal year 2019-20 and continuing at that rate annually.	M (support)				School Funding
<u>309</u>	99	An Act To Eliminate the Regional Adjustment for Public School Systems	Stewart	ECA	This bill removes the regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for school administrative units under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.	Track				School Funding

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>358</u>	1542	An Act To Fully Fund Career and Technical Education for Fiscal Year 2018-19 (Emergency)	Woodsome	ECA	This bill provides \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the Department of Education in order to fully fund the cost of career and technical education pursuant to current law. This bill also amends Public Law 2017, chapter 446 to reflect the additional funding.	Track				School Funding
<u>359</u>	658	An Act To Address Student Hunger with a "Breakfast after the Bell" Program	Moore	ECA	This bill requires a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year to operate an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day for students at that public school. It also provides a process for a school administrative unit to opt out of the alternative breakfast delivery service. This bill requires the Department of Education to adopt rules to develop an application process and to adopt standards to address evaluation criteria based on need for funding assistance for alternative breakfast delivery services in school administrative units. It also requires the department to develop a means to track health and academic outcomes of students and schools that participate in alternative breakfast delivery services.	Track				School Funding

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>385</u>	180	An Act To Base School Funding on the Number of Students Sent by a Town to a Regional School Unit	Ackley	ECA	This bill amends the method by which the share of the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 is calculated for a municipality that is within a regional school unit. Current law establishes that share as the lesser of the municipality's total cost of education as determined under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 1 and an amount equal to the product of the education mill rate for the municipality multiplied by the total valuation of property in the municipality. This bill instead determines the share of the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 of a municipality within a regional school unit based upon the product of the statewide per-pupil rate calculated under Title 20-A, section 15671-A, subsection 2-A and the number of pupils in the municipality who reside in the municipality and who are educated at public expense. The bill phases in this method of determining a municipality's share of the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 over 3 years: in fiscal year 2020-21, the total cost is 2/3 of the amount determined based on property values and 1/3 of the amount determined based on number of pupils; in fiscal year 2021-22, the total cost is 1/3 of the amount determined based on property values and 2/3 of the amount determined based on number of pupils; and, in fiscal year 2022-23 and subsequent years, the total cost is determined based entirely on number of pupils.	Track				School Funding
<u>392</u>	292	An Act To Fund Maine's School-based Health Centers	Handy	HHS	This bill provides ongoing funding for school-based health centers from the Fund for a Healthy Maine within the Department of Health and Human Services.	Support / Track	2/25/19 12:00 PM Rm 209 COB			School Funding

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>404</u>	1856	An Act To Fund the School Revolving Renovation Fund	Kornfield	ECA	This bill provides one-time funds to be deposited in the School Revolving Renovation Fund to be used for the purposes specified in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-F, subsection 3.	T (defer to PPS)	2/21/19 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School Funding
<u>412</u>	962	An Act To Restore System Administration Allocations in Maine School Administrative Units to the Level Prescribed for Fiscal Year 2017-18	McCrea	ECA	Current law requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, a portion of the system administration allocation must be allocated to school administrative units that have established regionalized administrative services. This bill instead establishes the system administration allocation at \$135 per pupil, the same as it was for fiscal year 2017-18, and repeals provisions that increase for future fiscal years the per-pupil amount and restrict allocation of portions of the funds to school administrative units that have established regionalized administrative services.	M (defer to PPS)				School Funding
<u>419</u>	569	An Act To Require a Minimum Salary of \$50,000 for Public School Teachers	Collings	ECA	This bill requires that the minimum salary of certified teachers in public schools be established at \$50,000 for the school year starting after June 30, 2020.	T (defer to PPS)				School Funding
<u>427</u>	338	An Act To Require the State To Fund Teacher Retirement	Brennan	ECA	This bill changes the method for funding teacher retirement costs. It repeals those provisions of law enacted pursuant to Public Law 2013, chapter 368 that require school administrative units and private schools to pay a portion of the costs for teacher retirement.	T (defer to PPS)	2/21/19 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School Funding

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>468</u>	989	An Act To Require That the State Fund on an Ongoing Basis a Minimum of 50 Percent of the Costs Associated with Public Preschool Programs	Farnsworth	ECA	This bill requires the State to fund a minimum of 50% of the costs of eligible public preschool programs for each year the school administrative unit operates the eligible public preschool program, other than the year in which the school administrative unit receives start-up funds.	M (defer to PPS)				School Funding
<u>557</u>	817	An Act To Create and Fund the School Revolving Maintenance Fund To Support the Usefulness and Longevity of Public School Buildings (Emergency)	Moore	ECA	This bill establishes the School Revolving Maintenance Fund as a nonlapsing fund administered by the Department of Education to make loans to school administrative units for minor school infrastructure maintenance and construction projects. The bill requires the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules and transfers \$30,000,000 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the School Revolving Maintenance Fund.		2/21/19 1:00 PM Rm 208 COB			School Funding

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>651</u>	990	An Act To Facilitate School Access to Federal Title I Funds and Improve the Delivery of Special Education Services	Farnsworth	ECA	This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing special education. 1. It adds 4 provisions to the laws regarding nontraditional limited purpose schools that were part of Department of Education rule Chapter 250 which has been repealed. 2. It adds response to intervention systems to the minimum requirements for basic school approval to ensure an all-encompassing, tiered system of support for general and special education students. It also clarifies that rules regarding those requirements are major substantive rules. 3. It facilitates collaboration between general education and special education, including a clarification that the Department of Education is required to facilitate a process to help schools apply for schoolwide status with respect to federal Title I funds. 4. It promotes dual certification programs by the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. 5. It requires recodification of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Part 4, subpart 1, concerning special education, by the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. 6. It requires a review of the purpose of the maintenance of effort funding component of the essential programs and services funding formula and whether it is accomplishing this purpose and how to increase equity among all school administrative units. 7. It requires a review and improvement of MaineCare billing systems and procedures through a pilot program through the Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services.					School Funding

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>563</u>	507	An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Sea Level Rise	Blume	SLG	This bill amends the State's growth planning and land use laws to reflect that addressing the effects of sea level rise is a state planning and regulatory goal. The bill amends the laws regarding the State's coastal management policies to direct state, local and certain federal agencies responsible for regulating, planning, developing or managing coastal resources to conduct their activities affecting the coastal area consistent with the policy of encouraging the assessment of and planning for the effects of the rise in sea level. The bill provides that a coastal municipality or multimunicipal region that includes a coastal municipality, if the municipality or region adopts a growth management program under the State's growth planning and land use laws, may include in its comprehensive plan projections regarding sea level changes and the potential effects of the rise in sea level and may develop a coordinated plan for addressing the effects of the rise in sea level. The bill also provides that "coastal municipality" means a municipality or township in the coastal zone as identified by a coastal program administered by the Department of Marine Resources.		2/27/19 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB			Sea Level

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>562</u>	509	An Act To Improve Shoreland Zoning Rules and Enforcement To Support Municipalities	Blume	ENR	This bill amends the laws relating to the State's regulation of the shoreland zone as follows. 1. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development to provide both basic and advanced training to code enforcement officers in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement. Current law only requires that the office provide basic training to code enforcement officers. 2. It increases the maximum per day civil penalty for a specific violation of a municipal land use law or ordinance from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and increases the maximum per day civil penalty for a specific violation of a municipal shoreland zoning ordinance occurring within an area zoned for resource protection from \$5,000 to \$10,000. 3. It provides that a municipal shoreland zoning ordinance must require an applicant for a permit for development within the shoreland zone to provide to the municipal permitting authority preconstruction and postconstruction photographs of the shoreline vegetation and development site.		3/1/19 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB			Shoreland

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>582</u>	508	An Act To Increase Vegetative Buffers in the Shoreland Zone	Fay	ENR	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. To protect water bodies from nonpoint source pollution, this bill proposes to amend the laws governing shoreland zoning to increase the vegetative buffer requirement from 75 feet to 150 feet for certain areas in the shoreland zone. The bill also proposes to remove provisions in law that grandfather certain parcels of land and that allow smaller vegetative buffers on those parcels.				DEAD 2/12/19 LTW	Shoreland
<u>369</u>	<u>150</u>	An Act To Support Healthy Workplaces and Healthy Families by Providing Earned Paid Sick Leave to Certain Employees	Millett	LH	This bill creates a right to earned paid sick leave for employees who are employed by an employer that employs more than 5 employees. The bill also creates a right to earned unpaid sick leave for employees of an employer that employs 5 or fewer employees. This bill takes effect January 1, 2021.	M (support general policy)	2/25/19 11:00 AM Rm 202 COB			Sick Leave
<u>448</u>	1799	An Act Repealing Tax Lien Foreclosure Requirements	Gratwick	TAX	This bill removes the provisions enacted in Public Law 2017, chapter 478 that established a preforeclosure process that municipalities must use in order to foreclose on homestead property for nonpayment of property tax if the owner is 65 years of age or older and has income and liquid assets below specified limits.	M (MM to send to Danielle for further review)	2/26/19 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			Tax, Homestead Property

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>451</u>	325	An Act To Repeal the Recently Enacted Changes to the Law Governing Tax Lien Foreclosure	Moore	TAX	This bill repeals or removes the changes to the foreclosure law that were made by Public Law 2017, chapter 478. Under that law, a municipality is restricted in how it may sell a foreclosed property that was owned by a person who is at least 65 years of age, occupied the property as a homestead and meets specified income and asset requirements. The law also places specific notice requirements regarding the foreclosure process on the State Tax Assessor and municipalities and provides for continuous eligibility under the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption for a person who loses ownership of a homestead to tax lien foreclosure and subsequently regains ownership of the homestead; these provisions are also removed by this bill.	M (MM to send to Danielle for further review)	2/26/19 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			Tax, Homestead Property

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>65</u>	434	An Act To Allow Municipalities To Impose a Seasonal or Year-round Local Option Sales Tax	Beebe-Center	TAX	This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax, which may be seasonal, if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. The referendum question must identify the rate of the local option sales tax, specify the months during which it will be imposed if not year-round and identify the purposes for which the revenue will be used. The local option sales tax would be collected and administered by the State in the same manner as the sales and use tax. Revenue from the local option sales tax is distributed to the municipality imposing the local option sales tax. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law.	Support / Testify				Tax, Local Option
<u>156</u>	281	An Act To Allow Regional Service Center Municipalities To Assess an Additional One Percent Sales Tax for Infrastructure Costs	Miramant	TAX	This bill allows a municipality that is a service center community to impose a local option sales tax of no more than 1% by local referendum for the purpose of funding local infrastructure costs.					Tax, Local Option

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>478</u>	63	An Act To Allow All-terrain Vehicles To Be Used on a Public Way	Jackson	TRAN	This bill, beginning in 2020, allows the operation of an all-terrain vehicle, or ATV, on a public way as long as the ATV is registered and meets specified safety equipment requirements and the operator is licensed and has insurance. This bill establishes an annual registration fee of \$33, the same as for ATVs under current law. The bill does not affect the operation of ATVs off of public ways. This bill prohibits the operation of an ATV on a public way with a posted speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour. The Department of Transportation may adopt rules or a municipality or county may adopt an ordinance to restrict or prohibit the operation of an ATV on a way if the department, county or municipality determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary in the interest of public safety.	MM to investigate effects on islands				Transportation

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Summary	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Category
<u>647</u>	568	An Act To Attract, Educate and Retain New State Residents To Strengthen the Workforce	Cloutier	ECA	This bill creates various programs to provide education, services and training for the State's workforce immigrant populations in the following ways: 1. It establishes the Welcome Center Initiative to operate welcome centers in adult education programs to provide education, services and training for foreign-trained workers in municipalities or regions of the State that have immigrant populations or that have industries that are experiencing a shortage of trained workers, patterned after the New Mainers Resource Center operated by the City of Portland adult education program through a pilot program created by the 126th Legislature. The bill provides funds for grants for proposed welcome centers; 2. It directs the Department of Education's office of adult education and family literacy to: A. Administer a vocation-specific English language acquisition and workforce training program for immigrants in the State and establish a statewide competitive grant process to carry out the purposes of the program; B. Establish and implement a local community planning support program to provide a planning process for communities to provide English language acquisition and training in vocational skills, identify employers or areas that would benefit from immigrant residency or employment and cultivate community support to integrate immigrants into the communities and local workforce. The office must establish a grant process to carry out the purposes of the program; and C. Develop and implement a grant process to award grants to adult education programs to increase English language acquisition instruction. The bill provides	Support - submit ltr from Ed Dept				Workforce

LD #	LR #	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	COP Position	Status
<u>336</u>	1168	An Act To Require That Notice of Lead Abatement Orders Be Filed with the Registry of Deeds	Cloutier	HHS	Outcome only	
<u>458</u>	936	An Act To Require Motorists To Yield to Transit Buses	Chipman	TRAN	Outcome only	
<u>482</u>	754	An Act To Reduce the Participation Thresholds for Various Municipal Referenda and To Change the Measurement of Those Thresholds from Votes Cast for and against the Question to Votes in Favor of the Question	Pouliot	SLG	Outcome only	
<u>514</u>	903	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Political Party Representation of Election Clerks	Schneck	VLA	Outcome only	
<u>522</u>	1286	An Act To Prohibit the Imposition by Municipalities of General Restrictions on Rents and Rental Properties	Strom	LH	Outcome only	
<u>523</u>	1105	An Act To Permit the Indoor Production of Industrial Hemp (Emergency)	Johansen	ACF	Outcome only	
<u>670</u>	570	An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage for Large Employers	Collings	LH	Outcome only	



Memorandum

TO: Chair Ali and Members of the Legislative Committee
FROM: Michael Murray, Assistant to the City Manager
CC: Jon Jennings, City Manager
SUBJECT: Staff Updates on LD's
DATE: February 22, 2019

The following is a summary of staff comments on LD's that are under consideration by the Legislative Committee:

LD 172 – “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Smart City Technology”; Public Hearing was held on 2-19-2019; City Manager provided testimony in support of LD 172; Testimony is attached;

LD 329 – “An Act to Exempt from Criminal Liability Persons Reporting a Drug-related Medical Emergency”. Chief Malloch indicates Police are supportive of Good Samaritan Laws. Chief Malloch testified in support of the LD on 2-20-2019;

LD 353 – “Act to Classify Recovery Residences as One-family Dwellings for the Purposes of the Fire Code”. The Committee has requested staff input on this LD; Fire Department opposes unless an amendment is made to “no more than 5 persons” to align with the Fire Code; a public hearing is scheduled for 2/25/2019 @ 1pm;

LD 372 – “An Act To Increase the Safety of Municipal Residents by Allowing Municipalities To Address Downed Wires in Extended Power Outages”. Staff is bringing this LD forward and has concerns that utilities will put more and more emphasis on municipalities, along with the costs and customer service concerns, to have downed utility wires moved during an extended power outage. A public hearing was held February 14, 2019;

LD 402 – “An Act to Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers”. Committee has requested staff input; Finance Director has concerns that if LD 402 is passed, the increased salary level for inclusion of overtime will cause an increase in the tax rate within two years;

LD 415 – “An Act to Enhance the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program”. Committee has requested staff input;

LD 482- “An Act to Reduce Participation Thresholds for Various Municipal Referenda and To Change the Measurement of Those Thresholds from Votes Cast for and against the Question to Votes in Favor of the Question”. City Clerk states the LD deals only with RSU withdrawal procedures.



LD 514 – “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Political Party Representation of Election Clerks”. A public hearing was held 2-20-2019; MTCCA is supporting this legislation; testimony is attached.

LD 532 – “Resolve, Directing Professional Licensing and Certification Boards To Study the Barriers To Obtaining Professional Licensure and Certification”. Staff is requesting the Legislative Committee review this LD; public hearing was held on 2-19-2019; background memo is attached.

LD 550 – “An Act to Amend the Definition of ‘Subdivision’ in the Laws Governing Planning and Land Use Regulation for Subdivisions and a Provision Excepting the Division of a New or Existing Structure from Those Laws Beginning July 1, 2018.” Staff indicates that the definition of “Site Plan Review: could be amended, but can live with the LD as is.

LD 560 – An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners”. Assessor and Finance Director are both supportive of this LD.

LD 562 – “An Act to Improve Shoreland Zoning Rules and Enforcement to Support Municipalities”. Staff has no concerns with the proposed LD.

LD 563 – “An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Sea Level Rise”. Staff concern that the LD creates an unfunded mandate; better if LD included funding for a generally accepted source of data and analysis that municipalities can use to meet this requirement, or at least refer municipalities to a third party platform that is accepted to use.

LD 582 – “An Act To Increase Vegetative Buffers in the Shoreland Zone”. LD is Dead.

LD 746 - “An Act To Allow Municipalities To Determine the Duration of Development Districts Funded by Assessments”. This LD is the legislation brought forward by Portland Downtown; Portland Downtown requested a letter of support; letter is attached in back up material.

LD 798 – “An Act To Protect Maine Children and Students from Preventable Diseases by Repealing Certain Exemptions from the Laws Governing Immunization Requirements”. Staff is supportive of this LD and will testify in support of the LD if it is requested by the Legislative Committee.



CITY OF PORTLAND
Executive Department
Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

February 15, 2019

Testimony for Public Hearing - Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
LD 172 "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Smart City Technology"

To the Members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

I regret that I am not able to be there in person to deliver this testimony during the public hearing, however, please accept this written testimony as a testament to the belief that smart city technologies can make a positive impact on quality of life issues for Maine's cities and towns.

The City of Portland kicked off its first smart city project in January 2018 with the implementation of new LED street lights. This project was made possible by our acquisition of streetlights from Central Maine Power. Portland was the first city in Maine to do this under the provision of state law that was enacted in 2013. Buying the streetlights and converting them to LED is providing us with more than \$1 million in savings annually, and reduces electrical use for street lighting by 2.7 million kWh per year. Since this time, we've fielded inquiries from other Maine cities and towns who are interested in replicating the LED street light effort.

The savings realized from this first project has allowed us to embark on additional smart city technology projects. We've installed smart traffic signals in Morrill's Corner that use artificial intelligence to predict and respond to road conditions in real time. Following a few months of use, data shows a 20% reduction in wait times. We're now in the process of deploying this technology in additional intersection to increase traffic flow and reduce congestion. We've also been able to deploy public WiFi spots and Electric Vehicle charging stations, and we're part of a pilot project that could pave the way for the use of a Highly Autonomous Vehicle shuttle in our downtown.

The City of Portland is working to make our community an innovation hub, a place where data and technology are used to improve people's lives and make interactions with city government more efficient. I truly feel that these efforts will make us a more connected city. A city that is more livable, workable, sustainable, and resilient. I talk a lot about how Portland has a "special sauce" when it comes to our quality of life, and our job is to not mess up that special sauce, but to improve on it. Every Maine city and town has its own special sauce as well, and the exciting thing for me is that there are smart city technologies that can help all of us achieve efficiencies, save money, and improve the quality of life for our taxpayers.

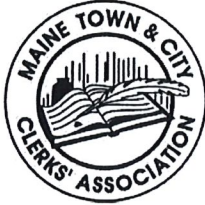
I believe that a \$15 million bond will go far in helping communities in Maine implement smart city technologies, thereby spurring economic growth and improving residents and visitors lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon P. Jennings".

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (In Maine) • 207-623-8428
Fax 207-626-5947

LD 514

Date: February 15, 2019

To: Senator Louis J. Luchini, Senate Chair
Representative John Schneck, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Vice-Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association
City Clerk, City of Waterville

Re: LD 514 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Political Party
Representation of Election Clerks

Position: SUPPORT

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in Support of LD 514. We feel it is important for interested citizens who are registered voters to be able to work at the polls regardless of their political party enrollment. Working at the polls as a citizen election worker is an administrative task and not a political one. As you know, work involves checking in voters, distributing ballots, monitoring the ballot box and so forth. All of this work is conducted in a highly visible public setting in view of all voters, media, candidates and others. This work is conducted under the supervision of a citizen election warden who is appointed by the municipal officers and trained by the municipal clerk. Politics should be removed from the administrative and logistical functions of a polling place. The need to hire an equal balanced number of workers from both major political parties is antiquated and is one of the last remaining election tasks still requiring party enrollment. Years ago, towns had Boards of Voter Registration which required members to be representing each of the major parties to ensure voter registrations were not rejected for invalid reasons. This system was eliminated many years ago and replaced with the Registrar of Voters position in place today in all towns.

We do understand that the Secretary of State's Office will be presenting some proposed amendments to adjust the language in the LD and we look forward to working with everyone to develop new statute language to allow all citizens an equal opportunity to work at the polls if they so wish.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments today with the Committee. The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at 680-4211 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov

Representing Over 400 Municipalities

Memo

TO: Greg Mitchell, Director, Economic Development
From: Julia Trujillo Luengo, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity
Re: **Consideration for Adopting Formal Position on LD 532**
Date: February 15, 2019

Summary

LD 532 directs each professional licensing and certification board under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, in consultation with the Department of the Attorney General, to undertake a thorough review of its rules and procedures and survey its licensees and certificate holders and applicants for licensure or certification to research barriers to obtaining licensure and certification, including existing deficiencies in reciprocity provisions.

Alignment with the Office of Economic Opportunity Scope of Work

The scope of LD532 and its outcome flawlessly align with one of the main Actions and its Indicator of Success found in the Office of Economic Opportunity's Strategic Action Plan for Inclusion:

Action: *Advocate with the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the individual State boards of professional licensing, among others, to mitigate the challenges to licensing for those with foreign credentials and work experience outside of the United States.*

Indicator of Success: *By June 2020, two or more boards (or similar institutions) have reviewed the licensing process as it pertains to foreign trained professionals; have addressed at least one documented barrier for foreign trained individuals; and, have followed with at least one more recommendation found in the November, 2018 New Mainers' Resource Center Report.*

Relevance for the City of Portland

In addition, LD532 would have a considerable impact across many areas of interest to the City of Portland at large such as: workforce training, social services and cash assistance, among others. It would explore the reciprocity of credentialing and licensure for any newcomer to Maine and the barriers they face to licensing or certification, including those unique to foreign trained individuals.

According to a report by a Partnership for a New American Economy, the City of Portland's Office of Economic Opportunity and the Portland Regional Chamber, the share of immigrants in Portland aged 25 and up with a bachelor's degree or higher was up to 37% in 2016. Since then, the number has climbed. The overall number of participants enrolled at the New Mainers'

Resource Center (Portland Adult Education) in 2017 was 438. 180 had an undergraduate degree or higher in comparison to the 158 from the previous year and 75 had a graduate degree or above in comparison to the 51 in 2016.

Unfortunately, most of these trained individuals do not find employment that match their educational and professional backgrounds but instead, they remain perpetually underemployed.

LD532 would not solve all the challenges mitigating this "brain waste" in Portland. However, it will advance the employment of this untapped talent in positions that match their professional backgrounds, their current career aspirations and meet employer demand.

Lastly, it would also undertake a tremendous effort in research, mapping and comprehensive recommendations that OEO does not have the capacity to undertake at this time. Their efforts and results would benefit the entire state of Maine. Therefore, ideally, the lead should live with the State and not a single municipality.

Recommendations

OEO recommends for the City of Portland to track the bill and its evolution but most importantly, to take a formal position via written and/or in-person testimony.



Executive Department
Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

LD 746

February 13, 2019

Senator Ned Claxton and
Representative Danny Martin, Co-Chairs
State and Local Government Committee
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Subject: **Letter of Support for An Act To Allow Municipalities To Determine the Duration of Development Districts Funded by Assessments (Maine 129 – HP 551)**

Dear Maine State and Local Government Committee Co-Chairs and Members:

Please accept this letter in support for "*An Act To Allow Municipalities To Determine the Duration of Development Districts Funded by Assessments*" (copy attached).

The City of Portland is concerned about the near-term expiration of one Portland City Council approved development district located within the City's urban core which has been instrumental in supporting downtown redevelopment and community economic vitality. The City of Portland supports local control to extend the term of development districts (funded by assessments) beyond the existing State statutory thirty (30) year time limitation when there are proven results and accomplishments. Despite the fact that the Portland Downtown Development District has been in place for twenty-seven years, more work needs to be done to maintain and continually improve the City's downtown economy. Here is background information to support the City's position.

On March 16, 1992, the Portland City Council established a single development district, funded by assessments, in the urban core of the City to provide enhanced municipal services to stimulate increased private sector investment. The assessment, levied annually, generates funds to invest in the following type of activities:

Beautification – landscaping, decorations, street banners, capital improvements, and maintenance;
Cleanliness - street and sidewalk sweeping and snow removal, trash and graffiti removal;
Public Safety – additional Police protection;
Events – five major events are held annually; and
Marketing area business through a directory, website, and periodic newsletters.

Maine State and Local Government Committee
February 13, 2019
Page 2

The above activities are managed by a non-profit organization named Portland Downtown (PD), which is overseen by a Board of Directors including representatives of property owners and residents of the Development District. The PD Board holds monthly public meetings. Annually, the PD Board presents its budget and work plan to the Portland City Council in a public meeting when the City Council establishes the annual district assessment.

Please feel to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon P. Jennings". The signature is stylized with a large "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager