

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. MARK W. EVES
CHAIR

SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID E. BOULTER



SEN. SETH A. GOODALL
SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU
SEN. TROY D. JACKSON
SEN. ROGER J. KATZ
REP. SETH A. BERRY
REP. KENNETH W. FREDETTE
REP. JEFFREY M. MCCABE
REP. ALEXANDER R. WILLETTE

126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

126th Legislature
Legislative Council

Thursday, March 28, 2013
2:30 P.M.

2nd REVISED AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2013 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	Acceptance
	REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
❖ 15	• Executive Director's Report (Mr. Boulter)	Information
❖ 17	• Fiscal Report (Mr. Pennoyer)	Information
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
	• Personnel Committee (no report)	
	• State House Facilities Committee	
	OLD BUSINESS	
21	Item #1: Council Actions Taken By Ballot (No Action Required)	Information
22	Item #2: Maine Capitol Connection Channel (MPBN response to questions)	Discussion

- 24 Item #3: Request for Legislature's Participation in Maine Employers' Initiative, a Program of the Maine Development Foundation (Rep. Hayes) **Decision**

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ 34 Item #1: Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests **Roll Call Vote**
- 38 Item #2: Time Warner Cable Offer to Provide Televisions for Public and Legislator Use in the State House (Ms. Melinda Poore, Vice President, Government Relations) **Decision**
- 39 Item #3: Request for Information Session with Legislators (Mark Vogelzang, President and CEO, MPBN) **Decision**
- 40 Item #4: Ranking of Legislative Websites by OpenState.org (Mr. Clark) **Discussion**
- 53 Item #5: Legislative Emergency Notification System: Request for Briefing (Rep. Berry) **Information**
- 56 Item #6: Notifications of Committee Hearings and Work Sessions (Rep. Berry) **Discussion**
- 60 Item #7: Submission of the *Measures of Growth in Focus 2013* (Maine Economic Growth Council) (complete report to be distributed at the meeting) **Acceptance**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

REP. MARK W. EVES
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126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
February 28, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Legislative Council Chair Mark Eves called the February 28, 2013 Legislative Council meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Alfond, Senator Goodall, Senator Thibodeau and Senator Katz

Absent: Senator Jackson (arrived shortly after start of meeting)

Representatives: Speaker Eves, Representative Berry, Representative McCabe, Representative Fredette and Representative Willette

Legislative Officers: Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Robert Hunt, Assistant Clerk of the House
David E. Boulter, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Dawna Lopatosky, Legislative Finance Director
Debra Olken, Human Resources Director
Marion Hylan Barr, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Suzanne Gresser, Revisor of Statutes
John Barden, Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library
Scott Clark, Director, Legislative Information Technology
Beth Ashcroft, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability

Speaker Eves convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 29, 2013 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for January 29, 2013 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Representative Willette. Second by Representative Fredette. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Jackson absent).**

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

Executive Director's Report

David Boulter, Executive Director, reported on the following:

1. Maine Capitol Connection Channel

MPBN's Maine's Capitol Connection Channel (MCCC) is in its fourth week of operation, televising various proceedings of the Legislature. Mr. Boulter met with each joint standing committee to explain the recent agreement entered into by the Legislative Council and MPBN and to invite suggestions by Legislators. The initial response by members has been favorable, and televising the legislative sessions, public hearings and work sessions has proceeded smoothly. The pilot program runs through mid-June 2013. Mr. Boulter included the current MCCC station guide in the Legislative Council packet.

2. Laws of Maine Digitized

Through the extraordinary efforts of Director John Barden and the staff of the Law and Legislative Reference Library, the entire record of the Laws of Maine, dating back to Maine's statehood in 1820, has been scanned and is available in a digitized format. In all, over 132,000 pages and 69,329 laws and resolves have been converted to electronic format and will be available to the public through the library. The project began in December 2009 and was completed earlier this month. An indexing protocol will now be developed for ease of search and public access.

3. Bill Drafting Status

As of Wednesday, February 27, 2013, the Revisor's office has drafted over 1,065 bills and sentiments. Of those, 350 are out for sponsor review and signature. The current number of bills, excluding any after-deadline bill requests, is 1701.

Representative Fredette asked whether MPBN's coverage of legislative proceedings resulted in any decreased coverage of high school basketball tournament games this year and requested that MPBN be asked to respond in writing. Mr. Boulter commented that he had posed that question to MPBN's program director who responded that there has been no decreased coverage of the games. Mr. Boulter will request a formal response from MPBN.

Fiscal Report

Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, reported on the following:

Revenue Update

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2013 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
January	\$259.3	\$302.7	\$43.4	16.7%	\$242.0	25.1%
FYTD	\$1,563.4	\$1,607.4	\$44.0	2.8%	\$1,554.7	3.4%

General Fund revenue was above budget projections by \$43.4 million (16.7%) for the month of January and by \$44.0 million (2.8%) for the fiscal year through January. January's variance was

due to the significant positive variance in Individual Income Tax collections. Final estimated payments for the 2012 tax year, due by January 15th, increased significantly. Individual Income Tax collections for December and January may be attributed to taxpayer behavior shifting income into 2012 in anticipation of federal tax increases. Some of this effect may reduce estimated tax payments revenue later in this fiscal year or reduce revenue in future fiscal years. Also contributing to January's significant income tax variance was a delay in the start of federal income tax processing season which delayed refund processing and contributed \$19.4 million to the variance. Much of the refund positive variance should be offset in the next several months.

Sales and Use Tax performance is a concern as is Corporate Income Tax performance; both are under budget through January. Taxable sales performance for the holiday season was more than 3% below the 2011 holiday season and high heating oil prices and significant gasoline price increases will be a further drag on taxable sales.

Highway Fund Revenue Update

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2013 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
January	\$25.9	\$26.1	\$0.2	0.6%	\$26.8	-2.6%
FYTD	\$172.1	\$171.4	(\$0.7)	-0.4%	\$168.9	1.4%

Highway Fund revenue was \$0.2 million (0.6%) over budget in January, but was \$0.7 million (0.4%) under budget for the fiscal year through January. Gasoline Tax revenue performance continues to be a major concern for the Highway Fund, lagging behind projections despite rather significant downward adjustments in the December revenue forecast. With recent prices increases and some national forecasts indicating no change until after Labor Day, negative variances in this category will likely continue until adjusted in the next revenue forecast.

Cash Balance Update

The average balance in the cash pool improved in January, being only \$9.5 million less than a year ago and \$65.1 million higher than last month. January's substantial positive variance related to Individual Income Tax final estimated payments and refund processing helped improved General Fund internal borrowing, which averaged \$46.1 million less in January compared with December 2012. However, General Fund internal borrowing remained roughly \$50 million higher than in January 2012. While the improvements in General Fund cash position resulted in additional budget savings from lowered assumptions on the extent of external cash flow borrowing required this fiscal year, there is still an assumption that some external cash flow borrowing will be required in FY 2013.

Legislative Council Chair Eves asked if there was any objection to taking one item out of order. There was no objection. The Chair then moved to **New Business, Item 1.**

Item #1: Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests / Addendum

Legislative Council Chair Eves explained the criteria and general procedures to be used for considering after deadline bill requests, the criteria being: why the bill request is late (filed after the cloture deadline), why it is an emergency, necessary to be considered this session, and whether there is a related bill that has been or will be introduced that could be used as the vehicle to address the issue without the necessity of introducing an after deadline bill. Legislative sponsors may speak briefly to their bill request to explain how it meets the criteria for

introduction. Representative Fredette asked Mr. Boulter what standard for bill introduction has been used in past 1st regular sessions. Mr. Boulter responded that past Legislative Councils have generally been more lenient in accepting after deadline bill requests at the first meeting when they were considered since typically some of the requests were filed very soon after the cloture deadline. The Legislative Council would usually apply a more rigorous standard at subsequent meetings. This has been the case regardless of the party in the majority.

Mr. Boulter reminded the Legislative Council members that a roll-call vote is required for each bill request and 6 affirmative votes are required for acceptance of a bill request for introduction.

Representative Fredette stated that he supports the standard process for consideration of after deadline requests, but for a cloture deadline to have meaning, after deadline requests should have a high standard for acceptance.

The Legislative Council then proceeded to consider and vote on the bill requests in accordance with the established protocol. Of the 26 bill requests, the council authorized 21 requests for introduction in the 1st Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, 1 failed to be authorized, 1 was withdrawn, and 3 were tabled until a future Legislative Council meeting. Of the 13 joint resolutions, the council authorized 7 requests for introduction in the 1st Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, and 6 failed to be authorized. The Legislative Council's actions on the requests are included on the attached list.

The Legislative Council then returned to the other items on its agenda.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Personnel Committee

Speaker Eves, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the following report.

The Personnel Committee met earlier today, February 28, 2013, to consider the reappointments of nonpartisan office directors Scott Clark and Suzanne Gresser for a second 3-year term. The committee met with Mr. Clark and Ms. Gresser and discussed their accomplishments and challenges during the past 3 years and goals for the upcoming years. Upon the recommendation of Executive Director Boulter, the Personnel Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Legislative Council reappoint Mr. Clark and Ms. Gresser to new 3-year terms.

Motion: That upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council reappoint Scott Clark to a new 3-year term as Director of the Office of Legislative Information Technology, the date of his appointment being retroactive to January 25, 2013; further, that upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council reappoint Suzanne Gresser to a new 3-year term as Director of the Office of Revisor of Statutes, the date of her appointment being retroactive to January 25, 2013; and further, that they each be granted a one-step salary increase upon resumption of step increases in the Legislature. Motion by Speaker Eves. Second by Senator Alford. **Motion passed unanimous (10-0-0).**

Speaker Eves expressed his appreciation to both Director Clark and Revisor Gresser for their work, commitment and professionalism.

2. State House Facilities Committee

Representative Berry, Chair of the State House Facilities Committee presented the following report.

The State House Facilities Committee met for the first time on February 21st and was briefed by Bureau of Capitol Police Chief Russell Gauvin on security screening at the State House. Chief Gauvin provided a brief history of the establishment of the security screening process that began in January of 2012, staffing costs and policy considerations. Members were provided a copy of the Legislative Council's Policy on Security Screening. Members asked for additional information regarding the screening, various options that would help move people through the screening process more efficiently especially when there are larger crowds and costs. The committee will continue its discussion at the next meeting.

Senator Katz asked if the committee had discussed reducing or eliminating security in the State House. Representative Berry responded that it was discussed, but the focus was on making it more efficient and cost-effective, rather than eliminating security screening.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Council Chair Eves asked if there was any objection to taking a second item out of order. Hearing no objection, the Chair then moved to **New Business, Item 4.**

Item #4: Request for Legislature's Participation in Maine Employers' Initiative, a Program of the Maine Development Foundation (Representative Hayes)

Representative Hayes presented her request by providing the Legislative Council with an overview of the MDF's Maine Employers' Initiative, an opportunity for an employer to encourage its employees to attain post-secondary degrees. She noted that among the Maine Development Foundation's Measures of Growth benchmarks is one to increase the number of adults who hold post-secondary degrees as one way to improve Maine's economy.

She indicated that there is no cost for an employer, such as the Maine Legislature, to join the Maine Employers' Initiatives, but once an employer joins, there are benefits that accrue to employees through arrangements with Maine's institutions of higher education.

Senator Goodall asked about MDF's view on the Legislature joining the initiative. Representative Hayes responded that MDF would be thrilled according to MDF's president with whom she had spoken.

Representative Hayes discussed some of the employee benefits, such as ones provided by Thomas College, an institution of higher education, that provides educational opportunities to employees of participating employers. The college offers one graduate course to employees free of charge, and a 10% reduction in tuition costs for subsequent courses.

Senator Goodall indicated that he is not familiar with the program and expressed a desire to better understand the program and an employer's obligations, if any, before acting on the request.

Motion: That the Legislative Council table the request by Representative Hayes that the Legislature participate in the Maine Employers' Initiative until a future Legislative Council meeting. Motion by Senator Goodall. Second by Representative Berry. **Motion passed (6-4,** with Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz, Representative Fredette and Representative Willette opposed).

The Legislative Council then returned to the other items on its agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Action Taken by Ballot since January 29, 2013 Meeting

The following decisions were made by ballot.

Legislative Council Decision:

That upon the unanimous recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, the Legislative Council approve budget savings totaling \$374,814 to be achieved in legislative accounts during the 2012-2013 biennium by lapsing funds to the General Fund in accordance with the subcommittee's recommendations; further, that upon the recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, the Legislative Council approve these adjustments in lieu of the deappropriations contained in the Governor's supplemental budget for fiscal year 2012-13; and further, that the Executive Director be directed to prepare and transmit all necessary implementing language reflecting this decision of the Legislative Council to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on behalf of the Legislative Council for inclusion in the committee amendment to the Governor's supplemental budget bill for fiscal year 2012-13.

Motion by: Senator Justin Alford

Second by: Representative Jeff McCabe

Approved: February 7, 2013
not vote)

Vote: 9-0-0-1 in favor (Senator Goodall did

Legislative Council Decision:

That the Legislative Council approve budget savings totaling \$1.0 million to be achieved in legislative accounts during the 2012-2013 biennium by lapsing funds to the General Fund; further, that the Executive Director be directed to prepare and transmit all necessary implementing language reflecting this decision of the Legislative Council to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on behalf of the Legislative Council for inclusion in the committee amendment to the Governor's supplemental budget bill for fiscal year 2012-13.

Motion by: Senator Justin Alford

Second by: Representative Mark Eves

Approved: February 13, 2013

Vote: 10-0-0-0 in favor

Request for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 2017 An Act to Amend the Law Pertaining to the Amount of Methamphetamine Precursors that May be Bought or Sold

Submitted by: Representative Alexander Willette

Approved: February 22, 2013

Vote: 10-0-0-0 in favor

Item #2: Memorandum of Understanding between the Legislative Council and MPBN for Pilot Maine Capitol Connection Channel

The Memorandum of Understanding was presented to the Legislative Council for information purposes only. No further action of the Legislative Council was required.

Representative Berry asked whether MPBN intended to provide closed captioning of its broadcasts of legislative proceedings, which is helpful to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Mr. Boulter stated that he would raise the matter with MPBN.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2: Proposed Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies (Ms. Hylan Barr)

Ms. Hylan Barr reviewed the proposed Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies as well as the background and procedures relevant to this policy. Mr. Boulter explained that the proposed policy is consistent with the ones for previous years. Representative Berry inquired if the budget for the legislative studies had changed. Mr. Boulter replied that the legislative studies budget of \$10,000 is consistent with previous years.

Motion: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies. Motion by Representative Willette. Second by Senator Jackson.
Motion passed unanimous (10-0).

Item #3: Request to serve lunch to attendees of Maine Credit Union Day in the Hall of Flags on March 28, 2013 (Request by Maine Credit Union League)

Ms. Quincy Hentzel, Director of Governmental Affairs for the Maine Credit Union League, requested that for its event, Maine Credit Union Day, to be held in the Hall of Flags on March 28, 2013, the Maine Credit Union League be given an exemption to the limitation on food served as established in the *Legislative Council Policy on the Use of the Hall of Flags*.

Mr. Boulter explained the request by the Maine Credit Union League to serve a meal to legislators in the Hall of Flags on "Maine Credit Union Day". He also drew Legislative Council members attention to the *Legislative Council Policy on the Use of the Hall of Flags* adopted in January 2006. Under the policy, food is allowed in the Hall of Flags subject to limitations, including that with few exceptions, the food served may not constitute a meal. The request by MCUL would not be consistent with the policy and, therefore, would require Legislative Council approval.

A Legislative Council member noted that one of the events where a meal may be served is Maine Banker's Day. Senator Thibodeau expressed concern that an expansion of the policy to allow meals would lead to a competitive situation among groups feeling compelled to serve ever more elaborate meals. [Note: Maine Banker's Association has not hosted Maine Banker's Day for the past 2 years and has not scheduled to do so in 2013.]

President Alfond indicated he would make a motion for approval of the request with the condition that Mr. Boulter work with the MCUL to ensure that the serving of food remains generally in keeping with past practices such as limiting the food to 'finger food' and not providing a sit-down meal.

Motion: That the Legislative Council approve the request by the Maine Credit Union League subject to the Executive Director and the League working out event details that will result in honoring the intent of the policy with respect to food in the Hall of Flags. Motion by Senator Alfond. Second by Senator Jackson. **Motion passed unanimous (10-0).**

Following the vote, President Alfond suggested that the State House Facilities Committee look at the policy to assure groups are treated fairly and the Legislative Council is not opening the door for an onslaught of requests for exceptions to the meal limitation in the policy.

Item #5: 2012 Annual Report on Activities and Performance, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (Ms. Ashcroft)

OPEGA Director Ashcroft presented OPEGA's Annual Report for 2012. She noted that the report is required by law to be submitted to the Legislature. She then proceeded to summarize key aspects of the report.

Ms. Ashcroft reminded members that OPEGA goals are to provide timely, relevant and useful information and recommendations, conduct all work with objectivity and accuracy, communicate regularly on OPEGA activities, results and impacts, and to utilize resources effectively, efficiently and economically. She briefly discussed OPEGA accomplishments, noting that the report identifies the number of visits to the OPEGA website (8,600 from 49 states and 89 countries) and the percentage of recommendations that have been partially or fully implemented by agencies.

Ms. Ashcroft stated that the office worked on 8 projects in 2012 as well as 2011, completed 4 projects in 2012 and issued a full report or information brief for each one. OPEGA drafted 2 pieces of legislation in 2012, one being related to quasi-independent agencies that was subsequently enacted by the Legislature. The 2nd one related to LD 34 (annual reporting by Child Development Services). The Government Oversight Committee assigned 3 "rapid response" projects and 4 other priority projects to OPEGA in 2011/2012. Ms. Ashcroft stated that OPEGA can devote limited resources only to following up on past reports and tracking agency responses to recommendations. She drew members attention to a chart of cumulative recommendations found on page 12 of the report, totaling 178 recommendations, of those 58% have had action taken.

Senator Katz commented that he believes the Legislature receives excellent value from OPEGA.

Representative Berry asked if OPEGA publishes a listing of all recommendations that are reflected in the noted chart that could be accessed in a consolidated manner rather than reviewing

individual reports. Ms. Ashcroft responded that she maintains a spreadsheet in the office but it is not generally available; that is a project on OPEGA's list.

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the 2012 Annual Report on Activities and Performance, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and place it on file. Motion by Senator Alford. Second by Representative Willette. **Motion passed unanimous (10-0).**

Item #6: Proposal for "Olympia Snowe Day" (Senator Katz)

Senator Katz drew Legislative Council members' attention to his memo proposing an "Olympia Snowe Day" that would include an invitation to former U.S. Senator Snowe to address a joint convention of the Legislature this session.

The purpose would be to recognize her many years of service to Maine and the Nation. He noted that Senator Snowe was born in Augusta and was a member of the Maine House of Representatives from 1972 to 1976 and of the Senate from 1976 to 1978. She then served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 8 terms and in the U.S. Senate for 3 terms, concluding a 34 year record of service to Maine in the U.S. Congress. Senator Katz indicated that her length of service is longer than any other official's in the state in the last 100 years, and further noted her reputation to reach out to both parties. He concluded by saying that he is suggesting that the Legislative Council chair invite Senator Snowe to the Legislature to extend the Legislature's thanks, offering her the opportunity to address the Legislature, and to hold a reception for her in the Hall of Flags in late April or early May.

After a brief discussion, the Legislative Council generally concluded that an invitation to Senator Snowe to address the Legislature in joint convention should properly be extended by the President and the Speaker.

Several Legislative Council members commented that it would be an honor for Senator Snowe to address the Legislature.

Motion: That the Legislative Council recommend to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House that in recognition of her public service they extend an invitation to former U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe to address a joint convention of the Maine Legislature this legislative session. Motion by Senator Goodall. Second by Representative McCabe. **Motion passed unanimous (10-0).**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Having no other business to consider or announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

**126th Maine State Legislature
Legislative Council
Requests to Introduce Legislation
First Regular Session
As of: 2/28/2013**

SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 2024	Sen. James A. Boyle <u>Title</u> - An Act To Establish a Resource and Development Coordinating Council	<u>Action</u> - PASSED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 2030	Rep. Joseph E. Brooks <u>Title</u> - An Act To Increase Mileage Reimbursement and Compensation for Jurors	<u>Action</u> - PASSED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 1991	Rep. Alan M. Casavant <u>Title</u> - An Act To Improve Citizen Access to Legal Representation	<u>Action</u> - PASSED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 2021	Sen. Margaret M. Craven <u>Title</u> - An Act To Ban the Use or Possession of Synthetic Cannabinoids	<u>Action</u> - TABLED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 2001	Spkr. Mark W. Eves <u>Title</u> - An Act To Amend the Charter of the South Berwick Water District	<u>Action</u> - PASSED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 1996	Rep. Lori Fowle <u>Title</u> - An Act To Amend the Motorcycle Safety Inspection Law	<u>Action</u> - FAILED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 2045	Sen. Geoffrey M. Gratwick <u>Title</u> - An Act To Increase the Transparency of Charges and Expenses of Hospitals That Receive State Funding	<u>Action</u> - PASSED
SPONSOR: <u>LR #</u> 2039	Sen. Anne M. Haskell <u>Title</u> - Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Labor To Support the Coordinated Services District System	<u>Action</u> - TABLED

SPONSOR:	Rep. Teresea Hayes	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2015	An Act To Increase Access to Postsecondary Education for Maine's Children	TABLED
SPONSOR:	Sen. Troy D. Jackson	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1989	An Act To Encourage Economic Development in the Forest Products Industry	PASSED
1990	An Act Regarding the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Certain State Retirees When the Cost of Living Declines	TABLED
2034	An Act To Establish the Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Exceptional Students	PASSED
2035	Resolve, To Establish a Consistent Workers' Compensation Classification for Pharmacies	PASSED
2042	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Maine Community Reinvestment and Job Creation Fund	PASSED
2043	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Community Development Block Grant Program	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Sen. Roger J. Katz	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2025	Resolve, Authorizing the Sale of the Guy P. Gannett House in Augusta to a Nonprofit Organization for Use as a Museum	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Catherine M. Nadeau	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2004	An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Tax Credit for Educational Opportunity	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Sen. John L. Patrick	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2023	An Act To Ensure the Choice of a Pharmacy for Injured Employees under the Workers' Compensation Act of 1992	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Robert J. Saucier	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2003	An Act To Exempt from Sales Tax the Sales of Adaptive Equipment To Make a Vehicle Handicapped Accessible	PASSED
2007	An Act To Exempt New Cars from Motor Vehicle Inspection for 2 Years Following Initial Purchase	PASSED

2009	An Act To Repeal the Requirement That Proof of Citizenship Be Submitted for Renewal of a Driver's License	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Sen. Thomas B. Saviello	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2038	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To More Equitably Fund the Liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System	WITHDRAWN
SPONSOR:	Rep. Thomas M. Tyler	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1986	An Act To Facilitate Children's Testimony	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Lisa R. Villa	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1998	An Act To Encourage the Consolidation of Certain Municipal Services among Communities	PASSED
1999	An Act To Transfer Authority over the Cumberland County Recreation District from the State to the Cumberland County Commissioners	PASSED
2000	Resolve, To Direct the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management To Develop a Portable Voucher System to Subsidize Housing for Veterans in the State	PASSED

JOINT RESOLUTION

SPONSOR:	Rep. Henry John Bear	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2029	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE TO THE HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS JUST AND EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMPARABLE TO THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDED TO THE PENOBSCOT NATION AND THE PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Katherine W. Cassidy	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1012	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ADOPT THE VETERANS REMEMBERED FLAG IN HONOR OF ALL VETERANS	PASSED

SPONSOR:	Rep. Matthea Daughtry	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
879	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT TO RECONSIDER AND OVERTURN THE CITIZENS UNITED DECISION	FAILED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Jeffrey Evangelos	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
976	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN THE CITIZENS UNITED DECISION	FAILED
SPONSOR:	Sen. Geoffrey M. Gratwick	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1438	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED PERSONS UNDER THE LAW	FAILED
SPONSOR:	Sen. Troy D. Jackson	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
80	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF E15 GASOLINE	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Brian L. Jones	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
258	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE FREE SPEECH RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS	FAILED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Dennis L. Keschl	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2026	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT THE CLEAN AIR ACT AND FUND THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENSURES HEALTHY AIR FOR MAINE FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Sen. John L. Patrick	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1983	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REINSTITUTE THE GLASS-STEAGALL ACT	PASSED

SPONSOR:	Rep. Deane Rykerson	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
925	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT "PERSONS" UNDER THE LAW	FAILED
SPONSOR:	Rep. Ryan D. Tipping-Spitz	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1226	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AMEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN THE CITIZENS UNITED DECISION	FAILED
SPONSOR:	Sen. John L. Tuttle, Jr	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2028	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENCOURAGE THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO REVERSE ITS DECISION TO ABOLISH WRESTLING FOR THE 2012 OLYMPICS	PASSED
SPONSOR:	Sen. Richard G. Woodbury	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
66	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE THE RULING OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT IN "CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION"	PASSED

REP. MARK W. EVES
CHAIR

SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID E. BOULTER



SEN. SETH A. GOODALL
SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU
SEN. TROY D. JACKSON
SEN. ROGER J. KATZ
REP. SETH A. BERRY
REP. KENNETH W. FREDETTE
REP. JEFFREY M. MCCABE
REP. ALEXANDER R. WILLETTE

126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Legislative Council

**Executive Director's Report
March 28, 2013**

1. EMS Memorial Construction

The Bureau of General Services is working with representatives of a group authorized to construct a memorial to EMS personnel along State Street. Construction will begin this spring. BGS has shared the plans with me and I am assisting in limited fashion so that the site development is compatible with legislative areas and future plans for improvements in the vicinity.

2. Legislation Potentially Affecting Legislative Council

A number of bills have been introduced this session that affect in some way the Legislative Council or its jurisdiction. Key ones are identified below.

- A. LD 474: *An Act to Require Edible Landscaping in a Portion of Capitol Park*, which would require development and maintenance of edible landscaping in Capitol Park was heard by the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government and was the subject of several work sessions. The Legislative Council has jurisdiction over Capitol Park.
- B. LD 978: *An Act to Enhance Public Participation in Legislative Committee Proceedings* through the Internet would require all proceedings of joint standing committees to be available to the public through a live video broadcast that allows for remote participation and would require permanent retention of the video proceedings. The bill was heard by the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.
- C. LD 339: *An Act to Require Public Hearings by the Legislature to be Recorded and Posted on the Internet*, would require the Legislative Council by January 1, 2014 to arrange to record all joint standing committee public hearings and make those records accessible to the public on the Legislature's website within 72 hours of the hearing. It would prohibit a committee from holding a work session until the hearing record is posted on the website. It would also require permanent retention of the audio, video or written record. The bill status after is an anticipated divided report by the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

- D. LD 785: *An Act to Ensure the Periodic Review and Revision of Statutory Provisions* would direct the Revisor's office and the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis to jointly review program evaluation reports annually and submit a report that lists statutory provisions that may require legislature review and amendment. The Revisor of Statutes currently has authority to recommend statutory revisions.
- E. LD 821: *An Act to Allocate the Balance of Funds Not Expended by the Task Force on Franco-Americans* would allocate certain unspent funds now held by the Legislative Council to the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine and direct that remaining funds be expended on the Legislature's "Franco-American Day."

Fiscal Briefing

Legislative Council Meeting

March 28, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund Revenue Update

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2013 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
February	\$129.9	\$112.1	(\$17.8)	-13.7%	\$137.8	-18.6%
FYTD	\$1,693.3	\$1,719.4	\$26.1	1.5%	\$1,692.4	1.6%

General Fund revenue was under budget by \$17.8 million (13.7%) for the month of February, but remained over budget for the fiscal year by \$26.1 million (1.5%). Much of February's variance reflects a \$10 million variance from individual income tax refund processing catching up in February after a slow start this year. Individual Income Tax was still \$48.8 million over budget for the fiscal year through February. Indications are that a good portion of this variance will hold up this year. However, Corporate Income Tax and Sales and Use Tax collections continue to be the major areas of concern for General Fund revenue performance, despite the modest positive variance for Sales and Use Tax in February (January taxable sales). Preliminary data for March shows both of these categories roughly \$5 million and \$10 million, respectively, under budget for the month. Lottery revenue was under budget by \$2.4 million in February, but much of this will be offset in March as a result of the timing of the reimbursement for a \$2 million Powerball prize payout.

2. Highway Fund Revenue Update

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2013 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
February	\$25.8	\$25.3	(\$0.4)	-1.6%	\$25.8	-1.6%
FYTD	\$197.9	\$196.7	(\$1.2)	-0.6%	\$194.7	1.0%

Highway Fund revenue was under budget by \$0.4 million (1.6%) in February and \$1.2 million (0.6%) for the fiscal year through February. Fuel Taxes are the cause of the negative variance, which are under budget for the fiscal year through February by \$2.1 million. Positive variances from motor vehicle registrations and fees have offset only a portion of the Fuel Taxes negative variances.

3. Cash Update

The average balance in the cash pool in February was \$407.9 million, \$26.0 million more than a year ago. General Fund internal borrowing remains higher than last year; February was \$28.0 million higher than February 2012. Absent any significant variances that will negatively affect cash balances, the State should be able to avoid external borrowing again this year.

4. Revenue Forecasting Update

The Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission (CEFC) met on Tuesday, March 26th and had a follow up conference call on the morning of the 28th after the release of important 2012 Personal Income data that was lower than previous projections. The CEFC's forecast is due Monday, April 1st. While the CEFC made only modest changes to their previous forecast, the calendar year 2013 Personal Income forecast revision downward, which is only partially offset by a 2014 upward revision, may drive revenue estimates for the major taxes downward for each year of the forecast period. The Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC) will be meeting during the last week in April to update the revenue forecast for its May 1st reporting deadline. The timing of the meeting will allow the RFC to react to preliminary data from April Individual Income Tax filings.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013 (FY 2013)
February 2013 Revenue Variance Report

Fiscal Briefing - Page 2 of 4

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2013 Budgeted Totals
	February '13 Budget	February '13 Actual	February '13 Var.	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Sales and Use Tax	63,596,516	63,800,543	204,027	600,226,694	594,739,394	(5,487,300)	-0.9%	0.8%	1,006,986,404
Service Provider Tax	4,342,603	3,866,967	(475,636)	30,521,703	28,999,294	(1,522,409)	-5.0%	1.0%	53,586,812
Individual Income Tax	32,545,000	26,326,059	(6,218,941)	851,914,000	900,741,825	48,827,825	5.7%	5.4%	1,413,890,000
Corporate Income Tax	6,839,373	3,912,326	(2,927,047)	86,880,671	80,296,722	(6,583,949)	-7.6%	-35.3%	186,021,732
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	10,175,630	9,256,885	(918,745)	92,970,787	91,877,195	(1,093,592)	-1.2%	-3.9%	138,180,000
Insurance Companies Tax	913,272	1,043,504	130,232	15,141,280	15,453,225	311,945	2.1%	0.3%	80,715,000
Estate Tax	3,587,800	3,296,054	(291,746)	36,315,033	33,741,977	(2,573,056)	-7.1%	77.3%	57,878,175
Other Taxes and Fees *	9,226,294	7,411,630	(1,814,664)	87,612,133	85,108,817	(2,503,316)	-2.9%	17.5%	151,399,353
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	2,002,396	2,132,461	130,065	15,317,161	15,438,520	121,359	0.8%	-9.6%	24,452,139
Income from Investments	6,019	12,683	6,664	59,922	89,954	30,032	50.1%	-52.9%	66,082
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,042,304	1,671,248	(2,371,056)	34,359,610	32,292,113	(2,067,497)	-6.0%	-7.6%	52,550,000
Transfers to Tax Relief Programs *	(2,981,762)	(3,932,183)	(950,421)	(106,437,894)	(105,830,490)	607,404	0.6%	2.3%	(112,086,562)
Transfers for Municipal Revenue Sharing	(8,112,044)	(10,674,638)	(2,562,594)	(61,411,434)	(64,321,922)	(2,910,488)	-4.7%	1.2%	(93,076,067)
Other Revenue *	3,696,391	3,947,394	251,003	9,835,191	10,823,216	988,025	10.0%	-21.2%	60,219,187
Totals	129,879,792	112,070,933	(17,808,859)	1,693,304,857	1,719,449,840	26,144,983	1.5%	1.6%	3,020,782,255

* Additional detail by subcategory for these categories is presented on the following page.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013 (FY 2013)
February 2013 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	February '13			Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2013 Budgeted Totals
	Budget	Actual	Var.	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Detail of Other Taxes and Fees:									
- Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	0	0	0	11,979,881	9,654,297	(2,325,584)	-19.4%	-19.8%	14,114,107
- Real Estate Transfer Tax	616,782	546,186	(70,596)	5,511,290	5,979,057	467,767	8.5%	12.1%	9,142,526
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	1,704,360	1,196,572	(507,788)	14,038,389	13,167,943	(870,446)	-6.2%	-4.3%	20,940,313
- Corporation Fees and Licenses	849,429	378,576	(470,854)	2,302,086	2,073,572	(228,515)	-9.9%	-13.7%	7,847,099
- Telecommunication Excise Tax	0	0	0	0	(403,834)	(403,834)	N/A	84.1%	11,000,000
- Finance Industry Fees	1,906,099	2,345,610	439,511	15,727,502	16,786,280	1,058,778	6.7%	3.5%	23,351,990
- Milk Handling Fee	86,927	99,247	12,320	1,902,290	1,934,925	32,635	1.7%	161.8%	2,249,995
- Racino Revenue	1,508,558	1,173,136	(335,422)	10,424,237	9,580,324	(843,913)	-8.1%	49.7%	16,458,622
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	306,233	200,684	(105,549)	2,492,756	2,356,649	(136,107)	-5.5%	-0.3%	4,763,561
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	1,415,681	825,469	(590,212)	11,285,766	11,038,174	(247,592)	-2.2%	5.2%	16,214,189
- Other Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees	832,225	646,149	(186,076)	11,947,936	12,941,431	993,495	8.3%	146.0%	25,316,951
Subtotal - Other Taxes and Fees	9,226,294	7,411,630	(1,814,664)	87,612,133	85,108,817	(2,503,316)	-2.9%	17.5%	151,399,353
Detail of Other Revenue:									
- Liquor Sales and Operations	2,292	2,550	258	18,336	15,150	(3,186)	-17.4%	-33.4%	28,084,900
- Targeted Case Management (DHHS)	175,449	613,087	437,638	1,403,591	1,625,779	222,188	15.8%	-51.4%	2,105,386
- State Cost Allocation Program	1,145,009	1,239,230	94,221	10,420,139	10,350,150	(69,989)	-0.7%	21.2%	16,115,330
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	6,000,000
- Toursim Transfer	0	0	0	(9,932,319)	(9,932,319)	0	0.0%	-5.4%	(9,932,319)
- Transfer to Maine Milk Pool	(105,227)	0	105,227	(1,583,003)	(1,520,704)	62,299	3.9%	-501.3%	(2,007,657)
- Transfer to STAR Transportation Fund	0	0	0	(6,137,811)	(6,137,811)	0	0.0%	-92.0%	(6,137,811)
- Other Miscellaneous Revenue	2,478,868	2,092,527	(386,341)	15,646,258	16,422,971	776,713	5.0%	11.8%	25,991,358
Subtotal - Other Revenue	3,696,391	3,947,394	251,003	9,835,191	10,823,216	988,025	10.0%	-21.2%	60,219,187
Detail of Transfers to Tax Relief Programs:									
- Me. Resident Prop. Tax Program (Circuitbreaker)	(1,024,703)	(1,148,365)	(123,662)	(39,306,532)	(37,190,639)	2,115,893	5.4%	3.8%	(43,081,877)
- BETR - Business Equipment Tax Reimb.	(1,307,366)	(2,653,056)	(1,345,690)	(45,775,659)	(47,784,601)	(2,008,942)	-4.4%	5.4%	(47,632,583)
- BETE - Municipal Bus. Equip. Tax Reimb.	(649,693)	(130,762)	518,931	(21,355,703)	(20,855,249)	500,454	2.3%	-9.0%	(21,372,102)
Subtotal - Tax Relief Transfers	(2,981,762)	(3,932,183)	(950,421)	(106,437,894)	(105,830,490)	607,404	0.6%	2.3%	(112,086,562)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue - Total	1,797,840	1,116,505	(681,335)	14,444,612	14,214,176	(230,436)	-1.6%	4.8%	21,894,711

**Highway Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013 (FY 2013)**

February 2013 Revenue Variance Report

Fiscal Briefing - Page 4 of 4

Revenue Category	February '13			Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2013 Budgeted Totals
	Budget	Actual	Var.	Budget	Actual	Variance	% Variance	% Change from Prior Year	
Fuel Taxes:									
- Gasoline Tax	14,753,488	14,666,857	(86,631)	117,521,684	116,544,074	(977,610)	-0.8%	-2.0%	194,210,000
- Special Fuel and Road Use Taxes	4,008,486	3,233,714	(774,772)	27,569,940	26,306,450	(1,263,490)	-4.6%	-2.7%	45,180,000
- Transcap Transfers - Fuel Taxes	(1,387,423)	(1,318,832)	68,591	(12,203,675)	(12,068,878)	134,797	1.1%	1.5%	(17,590,004)
- Other Fund Gasoline Tax Distributions	(368,942)	(368,044)	898	(3,360,232)	(3,339,439)	20,793	0.6%	4.4%	(4,856,610)
Subtotal - Fuel Taxes	17,005,609	16,213,696	(791,913)	129,527,717	127,442,207	(2,085,510)	-1.6%	-2.1%	216,943,386
Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees:									
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	4,473,688	4,525,277	51,589	40,110,569	40,519,370	408,801	1.0%	-0.6%	64,805,936
- License Plate Fees	226,398	247,837	21,439	1,978,900	2,093,180	114,280	5.8%	0.3%	3,351,681
- Long-term Trailer Registration Fees	1,323,132	1,854,756	531,624	5,795,261	5,871,573	76,312	1.3%	0.0%	9,384,523
- Title Fees	1,015,014	1,163,820	148,806	13,542,002	14,167,365	625,363	4.6%	83.8%	17,836,273
- Motor Vehicle Operator License Fees	742,658	654,280	(88,378)	5,749,557	5,609,163	(140,395)	-2.4%	3.7%	8,761,371
- Transcap Transfers - Motor Vehicle Fees	0	0	0	(9,250,744)	(9,342,402)	(91,658)	-1.0%	-23.7%	(16,764,002)
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Reg. & Fees	7,780,890	8,445,970	665,080	57,925,545	58,918,249	992,704	1.7%	8.6%	87,375,782
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	248,540	4,302	(244,238)	1,988,320	2,275,648	287,328	14.5%	3.3%	2,982,500
Other Highway Fund Taxes and Fees	84,890	88,678	3,788	800,996	796,465	(4,531)	-0.6%	-5.5%	1,276,365
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	83,743	67,844	(15,899)	675,428	696,737	21,309	3.2%	21.2%	1,039,868
Interest Earnings	10,521	7,939	(2,582)	81,502	51,448	(30,054)	-36.9%	-22.2%	124,642
Other Highway Fund Revenue	539,308	512,771	(26,537)	6,875,150	6,542,472	(332,678)	-4.8%	-0.6%	9,123,222
Totals	25,753,501	25,341,201	(412,300)	197,874,658	196,723,225	(1,151,434)	-0.6%	1.0%	318,865,765

**Legislative Council Actions
Taken by Ballot Since the
February 28, 2013 Council Meeting**

Legislative Council Decision:

That the Legislative Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$100.00 for providing refreshments at a reception on Thursday, March 21, 2013 for Women's History Month.

Motion by: Representative Seth Berry

Second by: Representative Jeffrey McCabe

Approved: March 21, 2013

Vote: 9-0-0-1 in favor (Rep. Alex Willette absent)

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Maine Public Broadcasting Network

1450 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240-3595 · 800-884-1717 · 207-783-9101 · Fax 207-783-5193

March 22, 2013

David Boulter
Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Office of the Executive Director
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear David,

I would like to communicate the following information to The Legislative Council in response to their questions regarding the *Maine Capitol Connection* Channel.

1. *What impact if any, did televising of legislative proceedings on the Maine Capitol Connection Channel have on coverage of the high school basketball tournament games this year?*

We're pleased to report that in spite of a very challenging schedule of the launch of *Maine Capitol Connection* on Feb. 5, followed by High School Basketball later that month, MPBN was able to deliver our first ever games in High Definition for the citizens of Maine, and aired 44 games this year.

2. *Does MPBN plan to provide closed captioning of legislative proceedings aired on the Maine Capitol Connection Channel, a service that would be useful to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community? If so, the date that would begin?*

We agree that it would be useful for the handicapped community, and MPBN has already held a meeting with a representative from the Department of Labor regarding the options. The financial challenges of closed captioning the *Maine Capitol Connection* are significant. It is important to note that even though the initial requirement deadline is March 30, 2013, MPBN and many other non-profits would be exempted from the regulations requiring captioning the video service by FCC regulations, as the requirement has a threshold of three million dollars for the channel in annual revenues.

3. *What is the status of discussions between MPBN and Comcast and Metromedia to cover legislative proceedings on those cable television networks?*

As we have stated publicly to the legislative committees, our desire is to have all the cable systems in Maine carry this service on their basic tier. We have achieved significant cable penetration already and will continue to offer this service to all cable systems.

Television • Radio • Education • Internet

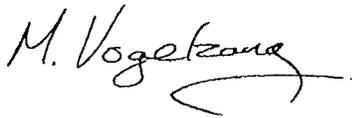
With offices and studios in Bangor, Lewiston and Portland
mpbn.net

Time Warner, which has placed this channel on its digital service state wide provides this service to approximately 85% of all cabled households in Maine. It's important to note that MPBN offers the channel as a free, over-the-air broadcast TV channel state wide, which lowers the barrier of entry, and is unique among many of the Legislative systems in the United States, where most are usually offered only via cable systems.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at mvogelzang@mbpn.net or at 207-440-0700.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Vogelzang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark Vogelzang
President & CEO
Maine Public Broadcasting Network

cc: Mal Leary
Managing Editor

The Maine Employers' Initiative (MEI) provides Maine's public and private employers with technical assistance, training and statewide recognition for taking steps to promote educational and career advancement opportunities for their employees. Over 200 Maine employers are currently members of MEI.

MEI has three primary strategies:

1. Create opportunities for Maine workers in the workplace by working directly with employers;
2. Work to align educational programs with the needs of Maine's employers and businesses; and
3. Attract and retain the qualified workers that Maine needs to prosper.

The Maine Employers' Initiative has a goal of 500 Maine employers committing to take just one more step to promote education and training opportunities for their employees. Research shows that when employers demonstrate their support of skill development and higher education, whether that is mentoring an employee, sponsoring a training program, providing flex time for classes or paying for some portion of tuition, the employees are far more likely to take action to pursue a degree or reach for a career goal. The Initiative envisions that this will result in 5,000 more degree and certificate holders in Maine.

Commitment from the Employer:

It does not cost anything to sign up. It is a simple process outlined on-line. Essentially you fill out a needs assessment, choose another step to take to support your employees (list provided), and sign a commitment letter. It is very flexible and designed to work for you.

Benefits to Employees:

The benefits sheet is attached but includes access to a variety of programs as well as an expanding list of tuition discounts to Maine colleges and universities.

Ed Cervone | President & CEO
Maine Development Foundation | 295 Water St., Ste. 5 Augusta | ME 04330
Direct: 207-626-3112 | F: 207-622-6346 | www.mdf.org

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Empowering Maine People to Power Maine's Economy



Join other committed Maine employers who are leading the way to increase the skill & knowledge levels of Maine workers.

About the Program: The Maine Employers' Initiative is a program of the Maine Development Foundation focused on working directly with employers to provide education and career development opportunities for Maine workers and non-traditional students. We all know that an educated workforce is essential for Maine's future growth. Yet, Maine is the lowest in the New England region in the percentage of adults with a college degree. This low education level puts Maine residents at a disadvantage for earnings potential and professional advancement, and limits the state's ability to retain and attract knowledge-based businesses and jobs. Two-thirds of all high-growth, high-wage jobs in the state require post-secondary education and training. It's no surprise that in 2008, Maine ranked 37th in the nation for household income and was the lowest in New England on that measure.

The good news is that we have a unique opportunity given our demographics to focus on improving skills and knowledge of the non-traditional students and working adults. Today's workforce is largely the same workforce Maine will have in 10 years, and we don't have enough people with adequate education and skills to fill the jobs even if all of Maine's kids go on to complete college programs and stay in Maine. According to the 2010 Census, there are almost 220,000 adults in Maine who started college but didn't complete a degree. There are countless others who could be trained to fill a more highly skilled position with their current employer or another. We have a tremendous opportunity to take our demographics and make them work to our advantage by focusing on the working adult and non-traditional students in Maine.

Employers Play a Critical Role: Research shows that when employers demonstrate their support for higher education or skills training/development-- whether that is sponsoring a training program, providing flex time for classes, or helping to pay for tuition or certificate programs -- employees are far more likely to take action.

Benefits: Employers who join MEI benefit from tuition discounts, public recognition as a committed employer, and connections to resources and best practices—not to mention the most important benefits: increased value of the workforce and higher retention rates and employee loyalty.

Sign Up Today: Consider how you are currently supporting your employees to pursue education and career goals, and take just one more step to enhance those efforts. You'll join a growing number of employers around the state who are working together to improve Maine's current and future workforce. Follow these three simple steps:

- Complete the Needs Assessment Survey (takes just 7 minutes) – on the web at: www.mdf.org/mei_overview.php
- Review the list of options and choose an extra step that fits your business or craft your own;
- Take that one step by submitting the commitment letter to us by fax, email or postal mail.

If you need assistance identifying one more step, we can help. You are welcome to contact us at 207-626-3124 or mei@mdf.org.

THE MAINE EMPLOYERS' INITIATIVE

A program of the **MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

EMPLOYER STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CAREER & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WORKPLACE

Take Steps to Build Awareness About the Value of Higher Education and Career Development

Promote the need for and value of professional certification and college degree/higher education:

- Mention education achievement and career development in company mission statement to show value
- Provide information on the importance of attaining a degree or professional credentials through multiple mediums – in the office, in company communications, etc.
- Include discussion of individual educational and career goals in annual employee reviews
- Link college degree or certification and training to potential opportunities within the company or field of work – outline possibilities for increased earning potential/career development based on credentials
- Engage employees in discussion about what type of expertise and education might benefit the company: make it a shared vision

Promote or remind employees of the benefits currently available:

- Promote existing employer benefits in the office, in meetings, or via email or paystub inserts
- Promote local/state/national programs that support higher education to employees

Actively Support Employees in Planning for College or Career Development

- Establish employer/employee coaching and goal setting in the area of higher education or career development – similarly, establish mentoring relationships in these areas with employees
- Creative flexible scheduling opportunities to fit school or training into work schedules
- Allow employees to use company computers/other resources to complete coursework

Create a Pathway for Employees to Pay for College, Certification or Other Advancement

Link employees to resources available to them from outside sources/agencies:

- College Savings Accounts, including Lifelong Learning Accounts as well as the Harold Alfond College Challenge
- Tax credits for college costs
- Scholarships
- Financial literacy assistance programs to show employees how they can finance/save for education

Provide resources directly to employees:

- Reimburse tuition costs or a portion of tuition costs
- Reimburse books or other expenses related to education
- Tuition remission (tuition assistance in advance)
- Learn while you earn program: Employer pays tuition, employee pays back through long term payroll deduction
- Employer hosts classes on site for employees
- Employer can apply un-used time off to costs of education or professional certification
- Employer can coordinate with educational partners to bring information directly into the workplace

HOME ABOUT US PROGRAMS MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATIONS EVENTS

Home > Programs > Maine Employers' Initiative > Background



Background

Maine Employers' Initiative

The Maine Employers' Initiative provides Maine's public and private employers with technical assistance, training and statewide recognition for taking steps to promote educational and career advancement opportunities for their employees.

Maine lags New England in the proportion of the adult workforce with two- and four-year college degrees, putting the state at a competitive disadvantage for both employers and employees. While there is a growing focus on our school students to encourage and support them in attending college, the Maine Employers' Initiative is focused on working with employers to support their adult workers in engaging in further training and education. As we transition to more industries, sectors and jobs that require higher and higher levels of skill and education, Maine must work to ensure that the workforce keeps up with the need, and the opportunities, in our changing economy.

The Maine Employers' Initiative has three primary strategies:

- Create opportunities for Maine workers in the workplace by working directly with employers;
- Work to align educational programs with the needs of Maine's employers and businesses; and
- Attract and retain the qualified workers that Maine needs to prosper.

The Initiative is one of the five action strategies of the Maine Compact for Higher Education, which seeks to increase the number of degree holders in Maine by 40,000 above current projections by the year 2020. In April of 2007, with the help of the Maine Community Foundation, MDF was awarded grant funding from the Lumina Foundation and the Ford Foundation to launch the initiative. The Lumina Foundation for Education strives to help people to achieve their potential by expanding access and success in education beyond high school.

The Goal

The Maine Employers' Initiative has a goal of 500 Maine employers committing to take just one more step to promote education and training opportunities for their employees. Research shows that when employers demonstrate their support of skill development and higher education, whether that is mentoring an employee, sponsoring a training program, providing flex time for classes or paying for some portion of tuition, the employees are far more likely to take action to pursue a degree or reach for a career goal. The Initiative envisions that this will result in 5,000 more degree and certificate holders in Maine.

[back to top](#)

Search:

295 WATER STREET, SUITE 5, AUGUSTA, ME 04330 PHONE: 207-622-6345 FAX: 207-622-6348 EMAIL: mdf@mdf.org

Maine Employers' Initiative

- Overview
- Background
- Advisory Council
- MEI Employers
- MEI Resources
- Toolkit
- Sign Up
- Employer Success Stories

CONTACT

Maggie Drummond-Bahl
Phone 207-626-3124



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Maine Employers' Initiative Committed Employers:

• Acrobat Research • Androscoggin Bank • Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce • Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice • ASK...for Home Care • Auburn Savings Bank, FSB • Axiom Technologies • Bangor Savings Bank • Barber Foods • Bates College • Bath Iron Works • Burgess Advertising & Marketing • Central Maine Community College • Central Maine Healthcare Corporation • Cianbro Corporation • Coastal Enterprises, Inc. • Community Health & Counseling Services • Community Pharmacies • Creative Work Systems • Custom Disability Solutions • Dale Carnegie Maine • Dead River Company • Disability RMS • Eastern Maine Development Corporation • Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems • Eastern Maine Medical Center • Employment Times • FHC, Inc. • Finance Authority of Maine • FISC Solutions • Fluid Imaging Technologies, Inc. • Geiger • Goodwill Industries of Northern New England • Goold Health Systems • Greenville Adult & Community Education • Hussey Seating Company • Inland Hospital • The Jackson Laboratory • Kennebec Savings Bank • Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce • Kennebec Valley Community Action Program • Kennebec Valley Community College • Lebel & Harriman, LLP • Lewiston Adult Education • City of Lewiston • Lohman Animal Health • Loring Job Corps Center • Madison Paper Industries • Maine Centers for Women, Work & Community • Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers • Maine Civil Liberties Union Foundation • Maine Community Action Association • Maine Community Foundation • Maine Compact for Higher Education • Maine Development Foundation • Maine Eye Care Associates • Maine Humanities Council • Maine Municipal Association • Maine Oxy • Maine Public Broadcasting Network • Maine Public Employees Retirement System • Maine State Chamber of Commerce • Maine Technology Institute • Maine Wind Industry Initiative • Maine Women's Lobby & Maine Women's Policy Center • MaineGeneral Health • MaineHousing • Manufacturers Association of Maine • Market Decisions LLC • Massabesic Center for Adult Learning • MD-IT • Mercy Hospital • Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce • Mid-State Machine Products • Mitchell Institute • MMG Insurance • Mobius, Inc. • Morris Yachts, Inc. • Motivational Services, Inc. • MSAD #3 Adult & Community Education Programs • New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. • Northern Maine Community College • Northern New England Housing Investment Fund • Oakhurst Dairy • Peoples Choice Credit Union • Peoples United Bank • Phillips-Strickland House & Boyd Place • PowerPay, LLC • Pratt & Whitney • Redington-Fairview General Hospital • RH Reny's Inc • RSU 20 Adult Education • Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution • Saint Joseph's College of Maine • Sanford Community Adult Education • Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce • Sebecook Valley Hospital • Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Whitefield Adult Education • SHRM Maine State Council • Skowhegan Savings Bank • Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber • Southern New Hampshire University • St. Mary's Health System • Susan L. Curtis Foundation • Tambrands Inc., a Procter & Gamble Co. • Texas Instruments • Thomas College • Unity College • University of Maine System • University of Southern Maine • USM, Lewiston-Auburn College • Unum • Valley Distributors, Inc. • City of Waterville • Town of Wells • Windham Adult Education • Women Unlimited • Wright Express • Wright-Pierce • York County Community College



**Your Employer is a member
of a statewide initiative that
qualifies YOU for benefits;
read on for details!**

Tuition Discounts

As the employee of a member of the Maine Employers' Initiative, you qualify for discounts at several Maine institutions if you want to take classes or return to school to get a degree.

- **Thomas College Graduate & Continuing Education Division will waive application fees, offer a 10% course discount, and provide the first course free of charge.** The discount applies to part-time bachelor's and master's degree programs, not accelerated or full-time programs, and the "first course free" applies to eligible new students beginning in fall 2012. To take advantage of the discount, students should contact Thomas by visiting www.thomas.edu, calling 207-859-1102, or emailing grad@thomas.edu.
- **Saint Joseph's College Online offers a 15% discount to member employees.** For details go to: www.online.sjcme.edu To take advantage of this benefit, contact Suzanne Murphy at Saint Joseph's College at 207-893-7824 or smurphy@sjcme.edu.
- **The New England College of Business & Finance offers a 25% discount to member employees and their families.** For details of the programs offered online go to: www.necb.edu For assistance, contact Joanne Lakin at 603-867-4391 or joanne.lakin@necb.edu.
- **University of Maine at Presque Isle offers the Simplest deal in the state: a 10% credit discount to member employees for the first 30 hours of courses.** For details or assistance, contact Erin Benson at 207-768-9453 or erin.benson@umpi.edu.
- **The University of New England will waive application fees for member employees.** To have your application fee waived, contact Cynthia Forrest at 207-602-2372 or CForrest@une.edu.
- **The University of Maine at Fort Kent is now offering a discount of 50% on tuition for the second 3 or 4 credit course to all member employers and employees.** If you don't happen to be in Northern Maine, don't worry: UMFK has 9 online degree programs, 4 online certificate programs, and a whole host of distance learning and online course offerings. To take advantage of this great discount, contact Scott Voisine at 834-8644 or voisine@maine.edu.
- **Husson University is now offering a tuition discount for all programs except Pharmacy, Nursing, Occupational and Physical Therapy.** The discount ranges from 5% to 15%, and includes additional credit toward an MBA, as well as 10% off certificate program offerings. Please contact Amber Timms at 941-7148 or TimmsA@husson.edu to take advantage of this great offer.

Other Benefits & Resources

- **Southern New Hampshire University offers lower tuition to Maine students – generally 30% lower.** To find out about programs offered at SNHU, go to: www.snhu.edu or contact Bo Yerxa at the Brunswick Center at 207-725-6486 or oyerxa@snhu.edu
- **The Opportunity Maine Program offers a tax credit for student loan payments to all students who earn a degree at a Maine school and continue to live and work here.** For details go to: www.opportunitymaine.org/opportunity-maine-program

Other Benefits & Resources Cont'd...

- Jump start a degree by receiving college credit for work done outside the classroom in a work setting or other venue. You can save time and money by doing a prior learning assessment to verify college credit you may have already earned. Go to: www.usm.maine.edu/pla or www.uma.edu/portfolioassessment.html or www.cael.org
- The Harold Alfond College Challenge provides a one-time \$500 grant for all Maine resident babies to open a NextGen® college savings account by the baby's first birthday, regardless of family income. Initial or subsequent contributions are not required to receive the Alfond Grant. For terms and conditions and more details go to: www.500forbaby.org
- Maine also has programs that provide matching grants to eligible NextGen® college savings accounts regardless of family income. The matching grants range from \$50 up to \$400. For terms and conditions and more details go to: www.famemaine.com/nextgen
- Need help financing college classes or degree? You and your employer can match funds with a LifeLong Learning Account. For information, go to: www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/lila/index.shtml
- Transitioning from high school degree to college level classes or degree path? Want to talk with someone just to find out what your options are? Contact Maine College Transitions at: www.maine.gov/education/aded/dev/transitions.htm
- Maine Apprenticeship Program - Gain experience and education at the same time, working directly in an industry of your choice. For more information go to: www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/apprenticeship/workers/index.shtml
- Maine Educational Loan Authority (MELA) was established by the Maine Legislature in 1988 to provide a supplemental or alternative student loan program to bridge the gap between the full cost of a college education and traditional financial aid resources such as scholarships, grants, and Federal education loans. The Maine Loan® is a credit based education loan and allows borrowers to borrow up to the full cost of an undergraduate or graduate education less other financial aid. For more information about MELA and The Maine Loan program, please call 1-800-922-6352 or visit: www.mela.net

Scholarships

- **The Competitive Skills Scholarship Program (CSSP)** offered through the Career Centers: Post-secondary degree or certificate programs for high wage jobs in industries that need skilled workers; Income eligibility - 200% of the federal poverty level. For more details go to: www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/cssp/index.shtml
- **Sunrise County Economic Council's (SCEC) Eaton Foundation Young Adult Scholarship Program** targets young adults aged 18-29. Financial assistance of up to \$500 for Washington County residents attending training and/or certification courses, not covered by traditional forms of financial aid, which will increase their employability and/or career advancement potential. For details go to: www.sunrisecounty.org/crmacna.html
- **Osher Scholarships** are available to Maine residents of all ages. Osher Scholarship covers costs to take one course, including books and required materials for individuals who have never completed a college course. For details go to: www.mccs.me.edu/student/osher.html
- **The Maine Sea Coast Mission Scholarships** for non-traditional students of all ages and HS students who are residents of the islands and coastal communities of Downeast Maine enrolling in degree programs or taking specialized courses to prepare for advancement in a variety of fields. For more information about the scholarship deadlines and requirements, call Terri Rodick, 207-288-5097. For details go to: www.seacoastmission.org/scholarships.html

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

MAINE EMPLOYERS' INITIATIVE

Maine Employers' Initiative Partner Organization Name

Contact Name _____
Contact Title _____
Email _____
Phone Number _____

Organization Name _____
Organization Address _____

Please Describe Your Organization's Step to Increase Education & Career Opportunity in your workplace.

What change is your organization going to make? How is this different from what you are doing now?

When will the change take place?

How many employees will be impacted by the change?

Commitment Pledge

As a Maine Employers' Initiative partner, our organization is committed to taking this one step to increase the skills, knowledge and education among Maine's workforce. The Initiative has permission to use our organization's name and logo on promotional materials.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

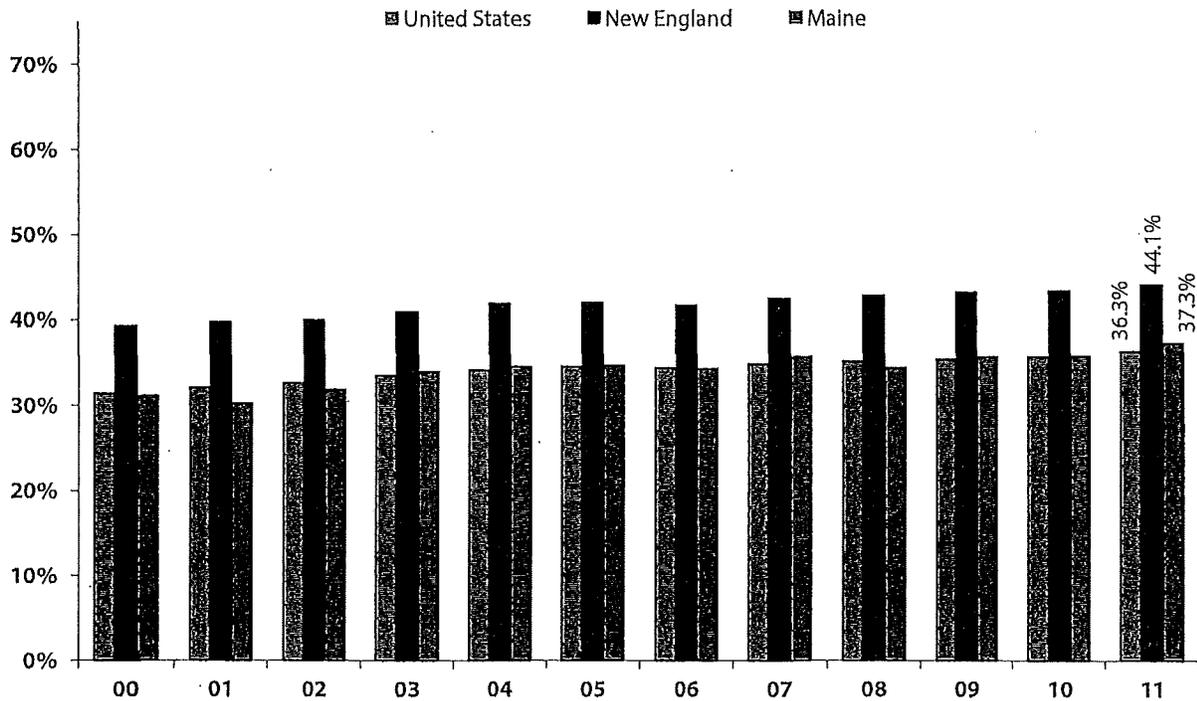
295 Water Street, Suite 5, Augusta, Maine 04330
Tel: 207/626-3119 Fax: 207/622-6346 mdrummond@mdf.org



9. Higher Degree Attainment

Benchmark: The percentage of Maine residents age 25 and over with a higher degree will increase to at least the New England average by 2020.

Higher Degree Attainment Among Residents Age 25 and Over 2000 - 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Maine Moves Ahead of U.S. Average and Closes Gap with New England Average: Continued Improvement Necessary to Meet Benchmark

The percentage of Maine residents age 25 and older holding an Associate's, Bachelor's, or advanced degree increased from 35.8% in 2010 to 37.3% in 2011. Maine's growth exceeded that of New England and the United States.

Maine's percentage of Bachelor's degree holders increased from 17.3% to 17.9% and the percentage of advanced degree holders increased from 9.5% to 10.5% while the percentage of Associate's degrees remained at approximately 9%. Maine was essentially the same as the U.S. average on Bachelor's and advanced degrees while both trailed the New England averages of 21.0% and 15.1%.

According to the Mitchell Institute's *College Access and Persistence in Maine*, Maine's high school graduation rate increased from 74% in 2000 to 83% in 2011, but the percentage of graduates attending college within one year of graduation (about 60%) has not improved. In 2010, 84% of first-year college students in Maine continued to their second year. Educate Maine reports that the 2010 graduation rates* were 59% for the University of Maine System and 31% for the Maine Community College System.

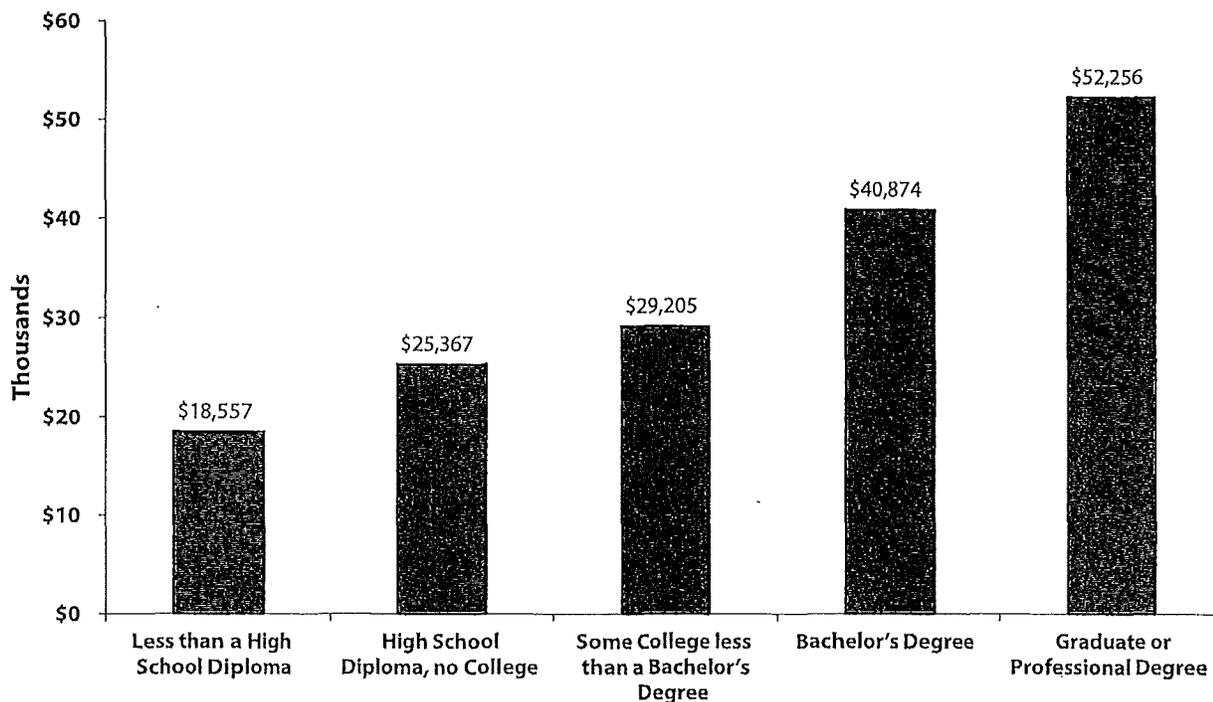
Higher education is critical to providing workers with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's knowledge-driven economy. This enables Maine businesses to compete in the new economy. An educated workforce is critical to businesses deciding to invest, locate, and expand in Maine. The Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce found that demand for college-educated workers in Maine is projected to be approximately seven times greater than for high school graduates by 2018.

*Graduation within 150% of normal program (6 years for Bachelor's degrees and 3 years for Associate's degrees); excludes students who transfer and part-time students.

(continued on next page)

9. Higher Degree Attainment (Continued)

2011 Maine Median Earnings for Population Age 25 and Over by Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Educational attainment is linked to many other issues benchmarked in this report. As the second chart shows, Maine's median earnings increase with educational attainment. Greater educational attainment also improves employment, productivity, innovation, health and wellness, per capita incomes, and gross domestic product. This, in turn, generates more tax revenue that can be used for needed services and investments, such as roads, broadband, and research and development. Education also is a key to a healthy, functioning democracy, and improved self-esteem and aspirations. Education provides the means to move many indicators in this report.

Improving attainment levels starts with positioning people to succeed by investing in high-quality early childhood development. A healthy K-12 system must then prepare students to succeed in higher education and other post-secondary training options. Higher education institutions must provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to succeed in the careers available in the economy of today and tomorrow.

Given Maine's demographics, young people and current students alone will not be enough to sufficiently boost the state's educational attainment. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are upwards of 200,000 individuals in Maine who have some amount of college credit but have not completed their degree. Engaging these and other adults in continuing their education must be a part of Maine's efforts to improve overall educational attainment.

There are a number of existing efforts in Maine focused on improving educational attainment. The Maine Children's Growth Council and the Maine Early Learning Investment Group focus on improving the early childhood system. Educate Maine works to transform the entire system. Programs like the MELMAC Education Foundation and Jobs for Maine's Graduates are working to ensure that high school graduates who want to continue their education follow through with their plans. The Maine Employers' Initiative works with employers to improve skills and training in the incumbent workforce, connects employers and educators with one another, and engages new populations in the Maine workforce.

Related indicators: Per Capita Personal Income, Gross Domestic Product, Employment, Fourth Grade Reading Scores, Eighth Grade Math Scores, State and Local Tax Burden, Poverty

**126th Maine State Legislature
Legislative Council
Requests to Introduce Legislation
First Regular Session
As of: 3/22/2013**

SPONSOR:	Sen. Margaret M. Craven	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2064	An Act To Clarify Limitations on Home Insurance Policies	
2069	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Amend the MaineCare Benefits Manual	
SPONSOR:	Rep. Kenneth W. Fredette	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2067	Resolve, To Establish the Task Force on Poverty and Personal Responsibility	
2068	An Act To Promote the Delivery of Natural Gas to Central Maine	
SPONSOR:	Rep. David D. Johnson	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2065	An Act To Avoid Potential Loss of Revenue by Municipalities from Donated Land	
SPONSOR:	Sen. Roger J. Katz	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2071	An Act Regarding Security in the State House	
SPONSOR:	Rep. L. Gary Knight	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2074	An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to Secession by a Municipality from a County	
SPONSOR:	Rep. Catherine M. Nadeau	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2062	An Act To Protect Children from Internet Exposure without Parental Consent	
SPONSOR:	Sen. John L. Patrick	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2072	An Act To Reinstate Local Workforce Investment Boards under the Jurisdiction of the State Workforce Investment Board	

SPONSOR: Rep. Matthew G. Pouliot
LR # - Title - Action
 2063 An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to Employee Health Insurance

SPONSOR: Rep. Diane Russell
LR # - Title - Action
 2049 An Act To Ensure That the Governor and Legislators Share the Sacrifice with Civil Servants in the Event of a State Government Shutdown

SPONSOR: Rep. Deborah J. Sanderson
LR # - Title - Action
 2055 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Hospital Leave Days for MaineCare Recipients

SPONSOR: Rep. Jeremy G. Saxton
LR # - Title - Action
 2061 An Act To Decrease the Class of the Crime of Driving a Motor Vehicle without a License for 30 Days

SPONSOR: Rep. Madonna M. Soctomah
LR # - Title - Action
 2057 Resolve, Directing the State to Confer the Tribal Government to Open Discussions Regarding the Federal Violence Against Women Act **NOTE: TITLE CHANGE**

SPONSOR: Sen. John L. Tuttle, Jr
LR # - Title - Action
 2052 An Act To Amend the Labor Laws as They Relate to Payment of Required Medical Examinations

2059 An Act To Make Parents More Aware of Eating Disorders

JOINT RESOLUTION

SPONSOR: Rep. Seth A. Berry
LR # - Title - Action
 2047 JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REPLACE SEQUESTRATION

TABLED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SPONSOR: Sen. Margaret M. Craven
LR # - Title - Action
 2021 An Act To Ban the Use or Possession of Synthetic Cannabinoids Tabled 02/28/13

SPONSOR: Sen. Anne M. Haskell
LR # - Title - Action
 2039 Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Labor To Support the Coordinated Services District System Tabled 02/28/13

SPONSOR: Rep. Teresea Hayes
LR # - Title - Action
 2015 An Act To Increase Access to Postsecondary Education for Maine's Children Tabled 02/28/13

SPONSOR: Sen. Troy D. Jackson
LR # - Title - Action
 1990 An Act Regarding the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Certain State Retirees When the Cost of Living Declines Tabled 02/28/13

**126th Maine State Legislature
ADDENDUM
Legislative Council
Requests to Introduce Legislation
First Regular Session**

Actions Taken After March 22, 2013

SPONSOR:	Rep. Mark Dion	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2082	An Act To Allow a Setoff of a Bailor's Property under Certain Conditions	
SPONSOR:	Sen. Stanley Gerzofsky	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2081	An Act To Preserve Marine Resources Licenses for Active Duty Service Members	
SPONSOR:	Sen. Anne Haskell	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2078	An Act To Review Tax Expenditures on a Revolving Basis	
SPONSOR:	Sen. Troy Jackson	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2077	An Act Regarding the Valuation of Certain Trucks	
SPONSOR:	Rep. Madonna Soctomah	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2083	An Act To Allow Licensed Clubs To Allow Their Members To Purchase Tickets to a Scheduled Event at the Time of the Event	

Joint Resolution

SPONSOR:	Rep. Scott Hamann	
<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2080	JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE NARGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC	



Melinda Poore
Vice President Government Relations
Northeast

March 25, 2013

Dear Legislative Council Members,

Time Warner Cable would like to provide real time news and information to people doing business at the Capitol. This public service initiative would entail High Definition (HD) televisions with HD service to specified areas of the State House, listed below. Time Warner Cable has been working closely with David Boulter and members of the IT team to ensure that the proper procedures and technical specifications have been followed since new wiring and equipment is needed to deliver the High Definition signals to the State House.

Areas for service:

- 26" HD TV located in cafeteria across from security; mounted on a corner/swivel bracket
- Legislative Work Room 420 - 40" HD TV on wall mount
- Legislative Conference Room (next to Welcome Center) - 40" HD TV on wall mount

The TV's will have a border at the bottom of the screen that says, "Courtesy of Time Warner Cable." All costs to install and deliver these services will be covered by Time Warner Cable. We had hoped to include the Cross Cafeteria in this initiative by providing two HD TV's but BGS denied our offer.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

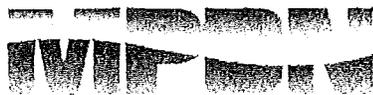
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melinda Poore".

Melinda Poore
Vice President, Government Relations

118 Johnson Road
Portland, ME 04102

Tel (207) 253-2217
Mobile (207) 939-3314
melinda.poore@twcable.com



Maine Public Broadcasting Network

1450 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240-3595 · 800-884-1717 · 207-783-9101 · Fax 207-783-5193

March 21, 2013

House Speaker Mark W. Eves
Chairman, Maine Legislative Council
State House Station # 2
Augusta, ME 04333

Senate President Justin Alford
Vice-Chairman, Maine Legislative Council
State House Station # 3
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Eves and President Alford,

Thank you for your support of *Maine Capitol Connection*, the Maine Public Broadcasting Network's pilot program to televise the proceedings of state government.

We would like the opportunity to have an informational session for lawmakers where we could get feedback on the *Maine Capitol Connection* pilot and suggestions on how to improve the service.

With the pace of the legislature increasing, we would like to hold the meeting somewhere in the Capitol so lawmakers can easily attend. I have discussed this with Executive Director David Boulter and I am writing to ask the Council allow us to hold the session in the Legislative Council Chamber or other suitable room.

We are hoping to hold this meeting on a day the legislature is in session during the first two weeks in April and offer the following as potential meeting dates: April 2, 3, 9 or 10th.

Again, my thanks for your support for MPBN and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Vogelzang', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark Vogelzang
President and CEO
Maine Public Broadcasting Network

cc: David Boulter
Mal Leary

Television • Radio • Education • Internet

With offices and studios in Bangor, Lewiston and Portland
mpbn.net

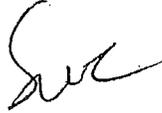
Memorandum

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE

2013 MAR 21 A 11:19

To: David Boulter, Executive Director

From: Scott Clark, Director of Information Technology



Date: March 19, 2013

Re: OpenStates.org Assessment of the Website

I reviewed the OpenStates.org assessment of the Maine State Legislature's website. In addition to the table of scores comparing states I reviewed the information they provided about the project and about their organization in general. Finally, I exchanged emails with James Turk from OpenStates.org regarding the assessment to get more details about the scoring methodology. Although Mr. Turk and I discussed a couple items they missed in the assessment, I would not generally dispute the assessment of the technical aspects based on the criteria they were using. That said, the criteria used are focus mainly on an organization such as OpenStates.org ability to obtain and use information from the Legislature's website. Below I provide some analysis of the results.

The "**Completeness**" score is 0 in a range of 0 to -1 meaning Maine received the highest score OpenStates.org gave.

The "**Timeliness**" score is 1 in a range of 1 to -1 meaning Maine received the highest score OpenStates.org gave.

The "**Ease of Access**" score is -1 in a range of 1 to -2 meaning Maine is below average. Their evaluators found it difficult to find the information they wanted. Mr. Turk acknowledged right up front that this category is subjective. However, I agree the website can present a challenge finding some information quickly. We have an ongoing project to modernize the homepage and make it more intuitive, to reduce duplication and to reduce the number of clicks required access to summary information.

It is important to note that Mr. Turk reported OpenStates.org's evaluation focused on finding a simple list of bills and they could not. That information is in fact on the website but is not prominent. Instead the website features a robust bill search and advanced bill search which lead to chamber and committee bill summary and schedule information. The options and presentation of that information have been greatly improved in the last year including incorporating changes recommended by staff and users since the start of this session. Mr. Turk stated that generally search features and advanced search features are complicated and they were looking for a simple list. I provided the location (URL) of the simple bill list to Mr. Turk to help them extract

(scrape) the information they needed. Unfortunately, their criteria did not include services such as the summaries and schedules nor the posting of testimony which we added and then improved at the request of constituents.

The “**Machine Readable**” score is 0 in a range of 2 to -2 meaning Maine is average. The information OpenStates.org was looking for is there, but they have to scrape it from the website. Scraping means their computer system robotically interacts with the website and as pages would have appeared to a user the system extracts the information. The extracted information is placed in the OpenStates.org database so they can use it to provide information to their users.

OpenStates.org was looking for the website to provide all of the information they want in a bulk, standard form such as comma separated values (CSV). The ability to just download that bulk data makes it easy for OpenStates.org, the news media or any other users to capture the data and place it their own database to present the information or to analyze the information and produce summaries and reports to meet their objectives. Mr. Turk pointed out that NH and NJ received an overall score of ‘A’ because they provide that service. Adding a machine readable export of the databases is a policy decision. Although they are scraping the information, providing it in bulk, makes it easier to aggregate, analyze, report and potentially mislead because it may be out of context. The labeling and context provided by the presentation on the legislative website would not be present in the bulk data files. For example the series of procedural and substantive votes on a bill could be reported simply as votes on a bill or members changing votes on a bill. To provide the downloadable files desired by OpenStates.org the Legislature’s IT Office would have to extract information from the chamber systems and the bill status system each night and store it so these entities could download/import it as needed.

The “**Standards**” score is 0 in a range of 1 to -1 meaning Maine is average. OpenStates.org criteria was the ability to open or download bills and amendments in various formats. They observed the PDF and HTML (web) formats provided. Unfortunately the extra point was not given for including a plain text format that can be opened by free software (WordPad or OpenOffice). I pointed out to Mr. Turk the third format provided in the same location is rich text format (RTF) which can be opened by the free software such as OpenOffice. The label on the website is “Word Format” which may have misled the evaluators to think only Microsoft Word (not free software) would work. The label will be reviewed and changed to be more accurate.

The “**Permanence**” score is 0 in a range of 2 to -2 meaning Maine is average. Although the website has historical information about bills back to the 112th Legislature, the website does not have all of the historical information they wanted. Their issue is not having historical list of legislators related to the historical bills. Previous members are listed, but only as sponsors on the divided reports and other work products. A list of members is not maintained from session to session.

Conclusion:

Based on their criteria set by OpenStates.org the website score is relatively fair. In the process of gathering more information about the criteria and method I pointed out to Mr. Turk a couple items missed in their evaluation which would have led to a higher score. I provided the location of the simple list of bills albeit not easy find and I provided the location of the basic-format bill text download option albeit a label change would make that clearer.

There are three criteria OpenStates.org evaluated which greatly reduced the score that can be addressed.

1) Two (2) points could be added in the “**Machine Readable**” category if the Legislative Council wants to approve the export the existing database information into a machine readable format. IT would need to program the export and add the link to the website. This is a policy decision because it provides the information in a manner that allows outside groups to analyze and report the information outside of the context set on the Legislature’s website.

2) The minus (-1) in the “**Ease of Access**” category could be improved by making the simple bill list more prominent. This requires a modest investment of IT time once the location is selected. Selection of the location could be done in coordination with the Information Office and perhaps input from Mr. Turk at OpenStates.org.

3) The zero (0) in the “**Permanence**” could be increased by posting historical, basic committee member information on the website. The bill status system contains that information and could be used as a source for posting it to the webpage.

Beyond this one survey and set of criteria my assessment is that there are other ease-of-access issues that are more significant than those identified by OpenState.org that need to be addressed to improve the website user’s experience:

1) Finding documents and other information is difficult.

2) The presentation to the public is office-oriented, rather than by major areas of interest from an end user’s perspective.

3) Information is duplicated and scattered and has different paths to find it, different updating schedules and sometimes slightly different or conflicting information.

4) The website is a loose federation of websites, rather than a single, unified website.

The ongoing modernization project for the homepage and nonpartisan offices is addressing the first issue and some of the second issue with a content and document management component.

The project should be expanded to include other parts of the website to increase the usability of the website with the goal of presenting a “Maine State Legislature website”.

To appropriately address ease-of-use issues across the whole website, I recommend a much more coordinated and integrated legislative website be developed and that effort be incorporated into IT’s current modernization project be expanded. A more coordinated governance by the IT Office will provide the public with an easy to use, seamless view of legislative information and thereby improve their experience.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Legislative Data Report Card - Open States

Your browser is *ancient!* [Upgrade to a different browser](#) or [install Google Chrome Frame](#) to experience this site.

[Login or Sign up](#)

Select a State



Open Legislative Data Report Card

Comparing how state legislatures make their data publicly available.

For more context, read this post and see our methodology.

(Note: Since the publication of this report card several states have come to us with additional information or made changes that would affect their score. Details are available below.)

State	Completeness	Timeliness	Ease of Access	Machine Readability	Standards	Permanence	Grade
Alabama	0	1	<u>-2</u>	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>-1</u>	F
Alaska	0	1	0	0	0	2	B
Arizona	0	0	<u>-1</u>	<u>0</u>	0	2	C
Arkansas	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	A
California	0	0	<u>-1</u>	<u>1</u>	0	<u>0</u>	D
Colorado	0	1	0	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>-2</u>	F
Connecticut	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	A
Delaware	0	1	<u>-1</u>	0	0	2	C
District of Columbia	0	<u>0</u>	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	C
Florida	0	1	0	<u>-1</u>	0	2	C
Georgia	0	0	0	<u>2</u>	0	2	A
Hawaii	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	0	2	C
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	C

Legislative Data Report Card - Open States

State	Completeness	Timeliness	Ease of Access	Machine Readability	Standards	Permanence	Grade
Illinois	0	1	0	<u>-1</u>	0	2	C
Indiana	<u>-1</u>	<u>1</u>	0	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>0</u>	D
Iowa	0	1	0	<u>-1</u>	0	2	C
Kansas	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2	A
Kentucky	0	0	0	<u>-2</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>0</u>	F
Louisiana	0	1	<u>-1</u>	<u>-1</u>	0	0	D
Maine	0	1	<u>-1</u>	0	0	<u>0</u>	D
Maryland	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	B
Massachusetts	<u>-1</u>	1	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	0	<u>-1</u>	F
Michigan	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>0</u>	C
Minnesota	<u>-1</u>	1	0	0	0	2	C
Mississippi	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	B
Missouri	0	0	0	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>2</u>	C
Montana	0	1	0	<u>-1</u>	0	2	C
Nebraska	0	0	0	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>-1</u>	F
Nevada	0	1	0	0	0	<u>2</u>	B
New Hampshire	0	0	0	<u>2</u>	0	2	A
New Jersey	0	0	<u>-1</u>	<u>2</u>	0	<u>2</u>	B
New Mexico	0	0	0	<u>-1</u>	0	2	C
New York	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	<u>A</u>
North Carolina	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	A
North Dakota	0	0	0	<u>-1</u>	0	<u>2</u>	C
Ohio	0	1	<u>-1</u>	<u>1</u>	0	2	B
Oklahoma	0	1	<u>-1</u>	0	0	<u>0</u>	D

Legislative Data Report Card - Open States

State	Completeness	Timeliness	Ease of Access	Machine Readability	Standards	Permanence	Grade
Oregon	0	<u>-1</u>	0	0	0	2	C
Pennsylvania	0	0	0	0	0	2	C
Rhode Island	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>-1</u>	<u>D</u>
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	2	C
South Dakota	0	1	<u>-1</u>	0	0	2	C
Tennessee	0	1	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	C
Texas	<u>-1</u>	1	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	0	2	A
Utah	0	0	<u>1</u>	0	0	2	B
Vermont	0	1	0	0	0	2	B
Virginia	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	B
Washington	0	1	0	<u>2</u>	0	2	A
West Virginia	0	1	<u>1</u>	<u>-1</u>	0	2	B
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	D
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	2	C

Methodology

Each state was evaluated in six categories based largely on the Ten Principles For Opening Up Government Information. Each score is based on at least two members of staff and a volunteer during our state survey. Additionally, state legislatures were contacted (unless noted in their score) to ensure that our information on bulk data availability and timeliness was as accurate as possible.

The specific criteria for each category are as follows:

COMPLETENESS

We evaluated each state on the data collected by Open States: bills, legislators, committees, votes and events. We also took note if a state went above and beyond to provide this information and other relevant contextual information such as supporting documents, legislative journals and schedules. Points were deducted for missing data, often roll call votes.

- 0 State provides full breadth of legislative artifacts Open States collects: bills, legislators, votes, and committees.
- 1 State does not provide stand-alone roll call votes.

TIMELINESS

Legislative information is most relevant when it happens, and many states are publishing information in real time. Unfortunately, there are also states where updates are more infrequent and showing up days after a legislative action took place. States were dinged if data took more than 48 hours to go online.

- 1 Multiple updates throughout the day, real time or as close to it as systems will allow.
- 0 Site updates once or twice daily, typically at the end of the legislative day.
- 1 Updates take longer than 24 hours to appear on the site, often up to a week.

EASE OF ACCESS

Common web technologies such as Flash or JavaScript can cause problems when reviewing legislative data. We found that the majority of sites work fairly well without JavaScript, but some received lower scores due to being extremely difficult to navigate, impossible to bookmark bills, and in extreme cases, completely unusable.

- 1 Site was considered exceptionally well layed out by multiple evaluators, no issues with Javascript.
- 0 Site was deemed average by those that evaluated it and/or had minor Javascript dependencies.
- 1 Site was considered more difficult than average to use by members of staff or volunteers or had more severe Javascript dependencies.
- 2 Site was considered extremely difficult to use with a heavy reliance on irregular browser behavior and Javascript.

MACHINE READABILITY

For many sites, the Open States team wrote scrapers to collect legislative information from the website code—a slow, tedious and error prone process. We collected data faster and more reliably when data was provided in a machine-readable format such as XML, JSON, CSV or via bulk downloads. If a state posted PDF image files or scanned documents, it received the lowest score possible.

- 2 Essentially all data can be found in machine-readable formats.
- 1 Lots of data in machine readable format but substantial portions that still required scraping HTML.
- 0 No machine readable data but standard screen scraping techniques applied.
- 1 Site had information that was much more difficult than average to collect.
(Data only accessible via PDF or that required screen scraper to emulate Javascript.)
- 2 Site had information that was unaccessible to Open States due to use of scanned PDFs.

USE OF COMMONLY OWNED STANDARDS

Because our ability to access most of a state's data is represented by the above "Machine Readability" metric, we decided to use this provision to measure how a state made their bill text available. Making text available in HTML or PDF is the norm, and was considered an acceptable commonly owned standard (PDFs are a commonly owned standard, but it would be certainly nice to see alternative options where bill text is only available via PDF). States that only make documents available in Microsoft Word or Wordperfect formats require an individual to purchase expensive software or rely on free alternatives that may not preserve the correct formatting. It is worth noting, all states except for two met the common criteria of providing HTML and/or PDF only, one state (Kansas) went above and beyond and another (Kentucky) did not even meet this threshold.

- 1 State made an effort to go above and beyond.
- 0 State provided bills in PDF and/or HTML format and nothing better (plaintext, ODT, etc.).
- 1 State only provided bills in a proprietary format.

PERMANENCE

Many states move or remove information when a new session starts, much to the dismay of citizens seeking information on old proposals and researchers that may have cited a link (e.g. <http://somelegislature.gov/HB1> vs <http://somelegislature.gov/2011/HB1>) only to see it point to a different bill in the following session. Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, wrote an article declaring [Cool URIs Don't Change](#) and we agree.

This poses a particular challenge to us since every page on OpenStates.org points to the page we collected data from, but if a state changes their site then users lose the ability to check us against the original source. Most (but not all) states are good about at least preserving bill information, but few were equally as good about preserving information about out-of-office legislators and historical committees, equally important parts of the legislative process.

- 2 All information is available in a permanent location and data goes back a reasonable amount of time (a decade or so).
- 1 Almost all information has a permanent location but a single data set doesn't.
(Or a recent change to the site has wiped out historical links but information appears to be preservable going forward.)
- 0 Legislator & committee information lacks a permanent location (such as committees and legislators) but most is acceptable.
- 1 Ability to link to old information is badly damaged and and/or there is less than a decade of historical information.
- 2 Vital information like bills or versions lack a permanent location.

CHANGELOG

Since the initial publication of this report card on March 11th, 2013 some states have provided us with additional information or made changes in response that have affected their score. These changes are reflected below and noted on the report card itself.

Rhode Island - On March 12th, 2013 we confirmed with Rhode Island IT staff that data is updated in real-time, not weekly as we had initially been told. This information raised their score by 2 points, bringing them into the 'D' class.

New York - On March 12th, 2013 New York Senate staff reached out and clarified their update policy, raising their score by a point and putting them into the 'A' class. A better API was also pointed out to us, which may affect their machine readability score in the future.

RESOURCES

Reach Out to Us: [About Open States](#) [Contact Us](#) [@openstates](#) **Use Our Data:**

[API](#) [Bulk Downloads](#) [Python Client Library](#) [Issue Tracker](#)

Contribute: [Contributor's Guide](#) [Code on GitHub](#) [Writing Scrapers](#)

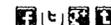
Our privacy policy details how personally identifiable information that is collected on our websites is handled. [Read our terms of service.](#)

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OUR MISSION

The Sunlight Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that uses the power of the Internet to catalyze greater government openness and transparency, and provides new tools and resources for media and citizens, alike. We are committed to improving access to government information by making it available online, indeed redefining "public" information as meaning "online," and by creating new tools and websites to enable individuals and communities to better access that information and put it to use.



The Sunlight Foundation uses cutting-edge technology and ideas to make government transparent and accountable.

Want to be part of our team? Check out open positions.

- ☒ Policy Fellow
- ☒ Manager of Project Implementation

We want to catalyze greater government transparency by engaging individual citizens and communities -- technologists, policy wonks, open government advocates and ordinary citizens — demanding policies that will enable all of us to hold government accountable. Sunlight develops and encourages new government policies to make it more open and transparent, facilitates searchable, sortable and machine readable databases, builds tools and websites to enable easy access to information, fosters distributed research projects as a community building tool, engages in advocacy for 21st century laws to require that government make data available in real time and trains thousands of journalists and citizens in using data and the web to watchdog Washington.

Major elements of our work include the Sunlight Labs, Sunlight Reporting Group, Sunlight Live and the Open House Project.

Donate

We need your help to make our government more transparent. Support the Sunlight Foundation today!

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1818 N Street NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
contact@sunlightfoundation.com
202-742-1520

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Select a State

About

Open States is a collection of tools that make it possible for citizens to track what is happening in their state's capitol by aggregating information from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Using the site is simple: enter a U.S. address or select a state to start to research bills, review voting records, contact elected officials and more. Check out this Sunlight Academy tutorial to see how Open States can help citizens, journalists and activists learn more about their state government.

Open States is a project of the Sunlight Foundation. Thank you to the Rita Allen Foundation, Minnesota Historical Society and Open Society Foundations for their generous support.

Additionally, collecting this data would not be possible without the support of a community much larger than the team here at Sunlight. A special thanks to all of our volunteer contributors and the authors and maintainers of all of the libraries that we depend upon.



Data

Bill, legislator, committee and event data is collected from official sources, linked at the bottom of each legislator, bill, vote, committee or event page. For more details, visit our methodology page.

All Open States data is available via this website, our API, bulk downloads and the Open States iOS application.

Notable users of Open States data include:

- o National Public Radio's StateImpact
- o The Chicago Tribune
- o MinnPost.com

If you're using our data and want to tell us about it, please contact us.

Code

All told, the website and scrapers together comprise approximately 40,000 lines of Python, all of it open source.

The primary projects behind Open States:

- o billy - powering the backend of Open States from scraping to this very site.
- o openstates - source for all of our scrapers and openstates.org templates.
- o validictory - helping us keep our data in check.
- o scrapelib - easy, powerful, error-resistant HTTP library built on requests.

Third Party Libraries

We'd like to make special mention of a few projects that have made our life that much easier. This is far from a comprehensive list of the more than 40 projects that we rely upon throughout the project.

- o Django - powering this website and API
- o lxml - the workhorse of our scraping backend
- o MongoDB - for all of our data storage

Other Licenses

- o Base HTML template based on the fantastic HTML5 Boilerplate by Paul Irish and Divya Manian.

RESOURCES

Reach Out to Us: [About Open States](#) [Contact Us](#) [@openstates](#) Use Our Data: [Contributor's Guide](#) [Code on GitHub](#)

Contribute: [API](#) [Bulk Downloads](#) [Python Client Library](#) [Issue Tracker](#) [Writing Scrapers](#)

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DAVID E. BOULTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Memo

To: All Incoming Legislators
126th Legislature

From: ^{D.B.} David E. Boulter, Executive Director
Legislative Council

Date: November 15, 2012

Re: Emergency Preparedness Website and Emergency Notification System (LENS)

Over the past several years the Legislative Council has taken numerous steps to improve safety and security in and around the State House and better prepare us for emergency situations. The key to effective emergency preparedness is being familiar with equipment and procedures so there can be a rapid, appropriate response in the event of an emergency. Also key, is having a system to rapidly communicate information to employees and others when emergency situations arise.

In order to provide those key elements of emergency preparedness and help assure prompt and effective response in an emergency, two important components of emergency preparedness are available to you. They are:

Emergency Preparedness Website

An emergency preparedness website is established and linked to the legislative website (<http://legislature.maine.gov/>): This website, accessed by clicking on the link "Emer. Preparedness," provides important information through the Internet about emergency preparedness including: the location of emergency call stations and how to use them; the legislature's emergency evacuation plans for the State House and the second (legislative) floor of the Cross Building; employee and legislator assembly areas; emergency numbers and location of emergency equipment in legislative areas; and links to sites for current weather conditions, forecasts and related information.

Legislative Emergency Notification System (LENS)

A mass notification system provides legislators, legislative employees and the public with notifications of legislative session and committee meeting delays, office closures or other emergency situations. Notifications occur in two ways:

Public notification via the Internet

Key alert messages will appear across the top of the Legislature's homepage (They appear in a black strip immediately above the photographs of the State House). In addition, any member of the public may click on "Legislative Alerts" which is found by clicking on the "Emer. Preparedness" link on the legislature's homepage to view current notices of closure of legislative offices, delayed legislative or committee sessions or other emergency information. Members of the public may still call legislative offices directly for detailed information but they will be able to access information through the Internet 24 hours a day.

Legislator/legislative employee notification

Legislators and legislative employees have access to the "Legislative Alerts" webpage through the Internet in the same manner as the public. In addition, legislators and employees may receive emergency notifications directly through the Legislative Emergency Notification System (*LENS*). *LENS* is an internal mass notification system that will send emergency notifications to legislators and legislative employees via their designated communication devices, such as cell phones, Blackberrys, Smartphones, text pagers, personal email accounts, or landline phones for legislators or legislative employees who do not use a cell phone. Because this is a subscription service, this service is available only to legislators and legislative employees. Also for reasons of cost, you may register a voice phone only if you do not register a cell phone or other devices that can receive text messages.

Legislators who are interested in receiving emergency notifications through *LENS* may register their communication devices using a simple on-line registration process. Changes in designated communication devices can be made on-line as well. Registration is easy and at no charge to the legislator. Once registered, the devices will receive emergency notifications immediately once an alert has been made. *LENS* will provide legislators and employees with up-to-date emergency information directly, although office closures due to adverse weather conditions and similar notices may continue through public service announcements (PSA) on television and radio stations and through established office "phone trees". Because of the nature of this notification system, notifications are limited to those of an emergency nature, and do not include the more routine scheduling changes or facility events. Legislative employees may register for *LENS* on-line, through the following the *LENS* link www.maine.gov/legis/execdir/Eprep/public_lens_link.htm. To access this secured site, you will first need to log-in to the system server using the organization-wide **username:** [REDACTED] and **password:** [REDACTED]. Once you have logged in, you will automatically be directed to a secured webpage where you can subscribe to the *LENS* alert system or make changes to your personal profile. **The user name and password provided in this letter may not be disclosed to others.**

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Executive Director at 287-1615 or stop by room 103 in the State House.

Thank you.

**Maine Legislature
Legislative Emergency Notification System (LENS)**

Availability:

Use by all current Legislators and Legislative Employees.

Services:

Allows instant legislative notifications to be sent en masse to Legislators' and Legislative Employees' (or both) electronic devices of choice (e.g. landline telephone (voicemail), cell phone (text message), smartphone (text message or email) or PC/laptop (email).

Allows automatic posting of alerts to Legislature's website (homepage).

Message Transmission Time:

< 1 minute

Cost to Users:

No cost; requires registration. On-line self-registration allowed.

Cost to Legislature:

\$2,010 annually, includes free Internet and toll-free telephone support to Administrator.

Vendor:

Omnilert, LLC.

Operational Period:

Since July 2008

Number of Registered Users:

219 Legislative Employees
76 Legislators

Attachment (informational memo to Legislators)

Bill Sponsor Notification

You will receive email notifications for bills you have sponsored or co-sponsored. Documents for viewing and printing are available on the Legislature's web page as well as searchable data. Information is provided and can be accessed as follows:

Hearing and work session notification will come to you via email immediately, as soon as a bill has been scheduled. You will also receive email notification if any changes are made to the hearing date, time, place, or if it has been postponed. Please make sure you have provided us with the email address where you would like to receive this information. Hearing notice, work session notice and Weekly Schedule documents are available on the web (<http://www.maine.gov/legis/>) under the "Committee Notifications" link.

A search by sponsor or date is also available on the web page. This can be accessed under "Committees". Here you will be able to search for and print a list of all bills by sponsor that have been scheduled during a range of dates.

Additionally, copies of Weekly Schedules are available by committee in the hearing room.

Public hearing and work session dates are set by the committee chairs. In addition to the information regarding hearings and work sessions available on the website, public hearings are advertised in the weekend additions of the Bangor Daily News, Lewiston Sun Journal and the Portland Sunday Telegram. To avoid confusion and extra expense, please notify the committee chairs **prior** to receiving notice of a scheduled meeting if you have a scheduling conflict.

~~Additionally, the Legislative Information Office offers a subscription to a~~ weekly Sponsor Report. You would receive this either by email or hard copy in your mailbox once a week. This is a current status report of each of the bills you have sponsored or co-sponsored. It is also available on request. A subscription form will be sent to you in January.

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
MEMORANDUM

January 22, 2013

TO: Members of the 125th Legislature
FROM: Teen Ellen Griffin, Manager
Legislative Information Office
RE: Sponsor Report

The Legislative Information Office compiles a weekly Legislative Sponsor Report during the Legislative session. This report includes a list of all the bills you have sponsored and co-sponsored and their current status. A sample of the report is attached. This report is available to you weekly (distributed on Friday) by responding to this form. You may also request this report as needed by contacting the Information Office (Room 121 SH) at 287-1692.

Sponsor Report Request

NAME: _____

Delivered to Seat # _____ OR Emailed to _____

Primary Sponsor Report Primary Sponsor & cosponsor Report

Please return this form to Room 121 State House or email to teen.griffin@legislature.maine.gov

— Example —

126th Maine Legislature
Status of Bills By Sponsor

Pres. Alford of Cumberland
Primary Sponsor

<u>LD</u>	<u>Paper #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Ch.</u>
90	SP0041	An Act To Strengthen Maine's Workforce and Economic Future Referred: 01/24/13 to MWEF Public Hearing: 03/18/13 9:00 AM Cross Building, Room 211 Committee Vote: Reported Out: House: 01/24/13 Referred in Concurrence MWEF Final Disposition:	Alford of Cumberland Work Session: 03/22/13 9:00 AM Cross Building, Room 211 Report Accepted: Senate: 01/24/13 Referred to Committee MWEF Governor:	
273	SP0106	An Act Authorizing a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund the Dredging of Casco Bay and the Expansion of the Portland Fish Exchange Referred: 02/07/13 to AFA Public Hearing: Committee Vote: Reported Out: House: 02/07/13 Referred in Concurrence AFA Final Disposition:	Alford of Cumberland Work Session: Report Accepted: Senate: 02/07/13 Referred to Committee AFA Governor:	
435	SP0167	Resolve, To Require the State Tax Assessor To Develop Agreements with Online Retailers for the Collection of Sales and Use Tax Referred: 02/14/13 to TAX Public Hearing: 03/18/13 10:00 AM State House, Room 127 Committee Vote: Reported Out: House: 02/14/13 Referred in Concurrence TAX Final Disposition:	Alford of Cumberland Work Session: 03/25/13 2:30 PM State House, Room 127 Report Accepted: Senate: 02/14/13 Referred to Committee TAX Governor:	
509	SP0199	An Act To Exempt Certain Supervised Medical Assistants from Licensing under the Medical Radiation Health and Safety Laws Referred: 02/19/13 to LCED Public Hearing: 03/13/13 10:00 AM Cross Building, Room 208 Committee Vote: 03/13/13 ONTP Reported Out: 03/14/13 House: 03/20/13 Pursuant to Joint Rule 310 ONTP Final Disposition: 03/20/13 PURSUANT TO JOINT RULE 310	Alford of Cumberland Work Session: Report Accepted: Senate: 03/20/13 Pursuant to Joint Rule 310 ONTP Governor:	
745	SP0283	An Act To Promote Sustainable Food Policies Referred: 02/28/13 to ACF Public Hearing: 04/02/13 1:00 PM Cross Building, Room 214 Committee Vote: Reported Out: House: 02/28/13 Referred in Concurrence ACF Final Disposition:	Alford of Cumberland Work Session: Report Accepted: Senate: 02/28/13 Referred to Committee ACF Governor:	
939	SP0316	An Act To Restore Maine's Groundfishing Industry	Alford of Cumberland	

P 58

MAR
25
MONDAY

8:00 a
Information Session
Maine Educational Opportunity Association Informat

Hall of Flags

8:00 a - 1:00 p

9:00 a
Public Hearing
Marine Resources
Cross Building, Room 206

9:00 a - 12:00 p

9:00 a
Work Session
Marine Resources
Cross Building, Room 206

9:00 a - 12:00 p

9:00 a
Work Session
State and Local Government
Cross Building, Room 214

9:00 a - 12:00 p

10:00 a
Public Hearing
Criminal Justice and Public Safety
State House, Room 436

10:00 a - 12:00 p

10:00 a
Public Hearing
Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development
Cross Building, Room 208

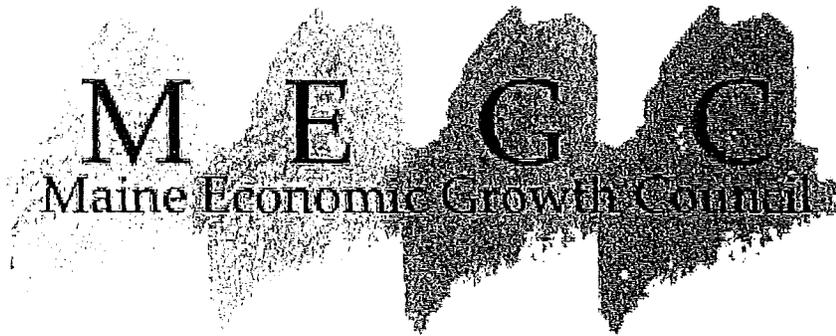
10:00 a - 12:00 p

10:00 a
Public Hearing
Taxation
State House, Room 127

10:00 a - 12:00 p

Legislative website

MEASURES OF GROWTH IN FOCUS



2013

*Performance Measures and Benchmarks
to Achieve a Vibrant and Sustainable
Economy for Maine*

NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE MAINE ECONOMIC GROWTH COUNCIL

PREPARED BY THE
MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION