

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

126th Legislature
Legislative Council

December 12, 2012
3:30 P.M.

REVISED AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
	SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2012 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (Will be available at the next Legislative Council meeting)	
	OLD BUSINESS	
1	Item #1: Establishment of Initial Salaries for Constitutional Officers and State Auditor (Tabled December 6, 2012)	Decision
3	Item #2: Establishment of Initial Salaries for Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate (Tabled December 6, 2012)	Decision
	NEW BUSINESS	
5	Item #1: Proposal by Maine Public Broadcasting Network for Television Channel Covering Maine Legislature	Decision
	Item #2: Establish Subcommittees of the Legislative Council	Decision
	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS	
	ADJOURNMENT	



126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEMO

To: Members of the Legislative Council
126th Maine Legislature

From: *D.B.*
David E. Boulter, Executive Director
Legislative Council

Date: December 6, 2012

Re: Assignment of initial salaries for Constitutional Officers and State Auditor

One of the initial decisions required of the Legislative Council once a new Legislature is convened is the assignment of the initial salary for newly elected Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor. State law prescribes the salary grade and the initial salary step for each official. Following the initial appointment of the Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor, the Legislative Council is authorized to adjust the salary of each official by one step for each year of continuous service. See below.

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the salaries of the following state officials shall be at the salary ranges indicated in this section. At the time of initial appointment, the salary of the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State shall be set at the Step C of the official's respective range. At the time of initial appointment, the salaries of the Attorney General and the State Auditor shall be set at Step E of their salary ranges. The Legislative Council may adjust the salary of each official by one step for each year of continuous service after the initial appointment to office.

The salary ranges shall be as provided by law for confidential employees who take the salary increase option instead of state payment of retirement contribution. No other state salary may be paid. These officials are not eligible for state payment of employee retirement contributions." 3 MRS §162-B.

The Secretary of State was newly elected at the convening of the 126th Legislature, and as such, the Legislative Council must establish the initial salary for the Secretary of State upon him or her taking office. Pursuant to law, at the time of initial appointment, the salary of the Secretary of State must be set at Step C (Step 3) within Salary Grade 88. Effective January 1, 2011, the salary for Grade 88 Step 3 is \$69,264.00.

The State Treasurer was newly elected at the convening of the 126th Legislature, and as such, the Legislative Council must establish the initial salary for the State Treasurer upon him or her taking office. Pursuant to law, at the time of initial appointment, the salary of the State Treasurer must also be set at Step C (Step 3) within Salary Grade 88. Effective January 1, 2011, the salary for Grade 88 Step 3 is \$69,264.00.

The Attorney General was newly elected at the convening of the 126th Legislature, and as such, the Legislative Council must establish the initial salary for the Attorney General upon him or her taking office. Pursuant to law, at the time of initial appointment, the salary of the Attorney General must be set at Step E (Step 5) within Salary Grade 91. Effective January 1, 2011, the salary for Grade 91, Step 5 is \$92,248.00.

The State Auditor was newly elected at the convening of the 126th Legislature, and as such, the Legislative Council must establish the initial salary for the State Auditor upon him or her taking office. Pursuant to law, at the time of initial appointment, the salary of the State Auditor must be set at Step E (Step 5) within Salary Grade 89. Effective January 1, 2011, the salary for Grade 89, Step 5 is \$81,556.80.

Note that the Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor are considered "confidential employees" of State Government but are not entitled to State payment of retirement contributions of 6.5%. They may, however, participate in the State retirement system, and they are paid a 5% salary premium over the above stated grade and step.



126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEMO

To: Members of the Legislative Council
126th Maine Legislature

From: *D. B.*
David E. Boulter, Executive Director
Legislative Council

Date: December 6, 2012

Re: Assignment of initial salaries for Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives

Another initial decision required of the Legislative Council once a new Legislature is convened is the establishment of the initial salary for a newly elected Secretary of the Senate and a newly elected Clerk of the House. State law prescribes the salary grade and the initial salary options for each of those Legislative officials. Following the initial appointment of the legislative officials, the Legislative Council is authorized to adjust the salary of each official by one step for each year of continuous service. 3 MRSA §162-A:

“Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the salaries of the following legislative officials are at the salary ranges indicated in this section. Except as provided below, at the time of initial appointment the salary of each of these officials may be set at Step A[Step 1] or Step B[Step 2], but no higher than Step B, of their respective ranges, except that any employees of the office of the Secretary of the Senate or the office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives at the time of initial appointment must have their salary set at a step within their respective salary range so that no loss of gross pay is experienced by those employees. The Legislative Council may adjust the salary of each official by one step for each year of continuous service after the initial appointment to office.

The salary ranges shall be those established by the Legislative Council for Legislative staff. No other state salary may be paid to these officials.

1. Range 14. The salaries of the following state officials and employees shall be within salary range 14:

*Secretary of the Senate; and
Clerk of the House of Representatives.*

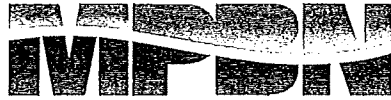
Memo to Legislative Council
Re: Assignment of Initial Salaries
December 6, 2012
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Both the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House were newly elected at the convening of the 126th Legislature on December 5, 2012, and as such, the Legislative Council must establish the initial salaries.

Pursuant to law, the initial salary for both the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House must be either of the following within salary grade 14:

Step 1: \$76,627.20 (annual); or
Step 2: \$83,532.80 (annual).

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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

MPBN's State House Channel Overview

December 2012

What it is:

A free over-the-air television channel devoted to covering the Maine State Legislature in Augusta. With a working title of the "MPBN State House Channel", the expectation is that the service will launch in February 2013 as part of a six month pilot program to test the merits and efficacy of the concept. State House Channel coverage will include daily sessions of the House of Representatives and the Maine Senate as well as select committee hearings and press conferences.

The need detailed:

While C-SPAN offers citizens a view into the US Congress, and local school boards and town council meetings are on cable access channels, there is no equivalent way to view Maine's State government in action. The State House Channel will, for the first time, provide open access to public policy debate and the decision-making process of our state government, allowing citizens across the diversity of Maine to engage and participate in the democratic process. And as fiscal pressures on government continue, there will be broad interest in the work of the legislative bodies in Augusta. Given that other media across the state have cut back on state government coverage, an opportunity and a need exist.

Why MPBN:

As the only state-wide public television service, MPBN believes that the time is right to deliver a dedicated channel for legislative coverage across Maine. MPBN's longstanding tradition of delivering news and information to Mainers aligns with a commitment to the non-partisan and quality coverage that the initiative requires.

What it will look like:

MPBN anticipates that the channel would offer live and digital delayed coverage of the full legislative session for four to five hours a day, with an evening rebroadcast of the same content in subsequent timeslots. Viewers will see the same video and audio that currently is fed closed-circuit from both Senate and House chambers, and MPBN State House Channel will place cameras and staff in select committee rooms each day. Core programming will include the entire daily work sessions of the Maine State Senate and the Maine House of Representatives in addition to important committee hearings and selected press conferences where possible during the session. MPBN has identified newsman Mal Leary to serve as the Managing Editor and Director of the project. Mr. Leary is a recognized and trusted journalist in Augusta who has a deep understanding of state government and broadcast journalism.

The broadcast platform:

MPBN will dedicate a digital television channel (10-4) to the initiative during the pilot on every one of MPBN's five state-wide transmitters. The State House Channel will be offered as a free over-the-air service to all, and it is MPBN's expectation that the channel will be picked up by all cable content providers (Time Warner, FairPoint, etc) across Maine if possible.

Pilot program costs:

MPBN estimates the budget for the pilot program will be \$250,000 to \$300,000 to successfully deliver the State House Channel to the state. This cost covers the infrastructure (technology, delivery systems, promotion) and staffing that the initiative requires. The costs will come from MPBN's 2013 operating budget, as approved by the MPBN Board of Trustees. It is important to note that the project will not be subsidized on any level by the annual support appropriated to MPBN by statute from the State of Maine.

Benchmarks for success:

MPBN can uniquely track the level of interest for the initiative across Maine. Initial pilot program benchmarks for success include viewership levels, survey data results, MPBN member and viewer feedback, and the level of active engagement from viewers and underwriters across the state. The Legislature itself will be able to gauge the effects of the coverage through feedback and engagement with its members' constituents.

Project status as of December:

MPBN has identified the infrastructure, technical issues, and personnel required to launch the MPBN State House Channel pilot project.

Next steps begin with introducing the pilot program to state leaders and securing initial approval for the project from the Legislative Council. Included in this approval will be permission to access existing video and audio closed-circuit feeds in both the House and the Senate and allow for cameras and crews in committee rooms and at press conferences.

Once approval is obtained from leadership in Augusta, MPBN's Board of Trustees will review the budget and proposed project in early December 2012. Ideally by January 15, final approvals will be confirmed and MPBN will start testing the systems, with implementation and launch in early February 2013.

For additional information/Press Contact:

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