

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. MARK W. EVES
CHAIR

SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
VICE-CHAIR

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

126th Legislature
Legislative Council

September 30, 2014
1:30 PM

REVISED AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE JULY 24, 2014 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	Acceptance
	REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
❖ 8	• Executive Director's Report (Ms. Gresser)	Information
9	• Fiscal Report (Mr. Pennoyer)	Information
❖ 13	• Interim Studies Report (Ms. Hylan Barr)	Information
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
	• Personnel Committee	
	○ Appointment of Executive Director	Decision
	• State House Facilities Committee	Decision
	OLD BUSINESS	
15	Item #1: Council Actions Taken By Ballot (No Action Required)	Information
	NEW BUSINESS	
	Item #1: Request to display Tree of Honor in the Hall of Flags (Boy Scouts)	Decision
❖ 16	Item #2: Request to Convene the Commission on Independent Living and Disability	Decision

- ❖ 17 Item #3: Request from the Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion to hold two additional meetings prior to its December 2014 reporting deadline. **Decision**

- ❖ 18 Item #4: Request from the Commission to study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species that are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast to hold two additional meetings prior to its December 2014 reporting deadline. **Decision**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
July 24, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Legislative Council Chair Mark Eves called the July 24, 2014 Legislative Council meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	Senator Jackson, Senator Haskell
Absent:	President Alfond, Senator Thibodeau and Senator Katz
Representatives:	Speaker Eves, Representative Berry, Representative Fredette and Representative Willette
Absent:	Representative McCabe
Legislative Officers:	Millicent MacFarland, Clerk of the House Robert Hunt, Assistant Clerk of the House Suzanne Gresser, Acting Executive Director Dawna Lopatosky, Legislative Finance Director Jackie Little, Human Resources Director Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Marion Hylan Barr, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Ed Charbonneau, Acting Revisor of Statutes John Barden, Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library Beth Ashcroft, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability

Speaker Eves convened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Acceptance of Funds to Support the Task Force to End Student Hunger in Maine

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the funds contributed to support the Task Force to End Student Hunger. Motion by Senator Jackson. Second by Representative Fredette. **Motion passed unanimous (6-0-0-4, with President Alfond, Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz and Representative McCabe absent).**

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Acceptance of Funds to Support the Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species that are commercially Harvested and Grown along the Coast of Maine

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the funds contributed to support the Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species that are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Coast of Maine, and further to authorize the study to convene. Motion by Senator Haskell. Second by Representative Fredette. **Motion passed unanimous (6-0-0-4, with President Alfond, Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz and Representative McCabe absent).**

Item #2: Acceptance of an In-kind Contribution to Support the Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species that are commercially Harvested and Grown along the Coast of Maine

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the in-kind contribution from the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center, Walpole, to pay for facility and meal costs for the first meeting of the Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species that are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Coast of Maine. Motion by Representative Berry. Second by Senator Jackson. **Motion passed unanimous (6-0-0-4, with President Alfond, Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz and Representative McCabe absent).**

Item #3: Request for Funding through a Fee-for-Service Contract for Continued Operation of the *Maine Capitol Connection*

Speaker Eves reviewed the request from Maine Public Broadcasting Network for funding for the *Maine Capitol Connection*. The expenditures that are being requested from the Legislature total approximately \$450K in FY15 and \$465K in FY16. Speaker Eves then invited Mark Vogelzang, President and CEO of MPBN, to speak on the proposal. Mr. Vogelzang reviewed MPBN's position on its continuing the funding of the MCC after the first two seasons and the request from MPBN that the Legislature fund MCC for the next two years. After discussion, the Legislative Council recommended that this matter be followed up by the State House Broadcasting Subcommittee for its review and recommendation.

Item #4: FY15 Membership Dues to National Conference of State Legislatures and Council of State Governments

Ms. Gresser reported that the membership dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments have been paid up to the baseline amounts that were budgeted for, however there is a difference between what was budgeted and the actual amounts. The difference for NCSL is \$170 and for CSG is \$4,452.

Motion: That the Legislative Council approve the additional payments to the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments to cover the difference in membership dues fees for FY15. Motion by Representative Fredette. Second by Representative Berry. **Motion passed unanimous (6-0-0-4,** with President Alford, Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz and Representative McCabe absent).

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

SUMMARY OF JUNE 23, 2014 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for June 23, 2014 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Representative Willette. Second by Senator Haskell. **Motion passed unanimous (6-0-0-4,** with President Alford, Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz and Representative McCabe absent).

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

Executive Director's Report

Suzanne Gresser, Acting Executive Director, reported on the following:

1. Copper Dome Replacement

Progress on the copper dome replacement project is progressing on schedule. At this point, the top third of the dome has been completed. The project should be completed by November 2014.

2. Staff Retirements

Two long-term members of the nonpartisan staff are retiring.

Judy Paquette, a Paralegal in the Revisor's Office, is retiring after more than 28 years with the State, including 26 years with the Legislature. She is retiring effective August 1st.

Donna Sullivan, a Library Assistant in the Law & Legislative Reference Library, is retiring after more than 30 years of State service, including 14 years with the Legislature. During her tenure, she worked in the Office of Fiscal & Program Review as well as in the Executive Director's office. She is retiring effective August 1st.

3. Legislative Publications

The Office of Policy & Legal Analysis and the Office of Fiscal & Program Review have completed this session's compilation of enacted laws and bill summaries. A copy is posted on the Legislature's website for ready access by legislators and the public.

The Revisor's Office has completed the *Laws of Maine* for the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature. The hard copies are being distributed this week and a copy is also posted on the Legislature's website.

Senator Haskell expressed her thanks to the departments involved for their hard work in creating these publications.

Fiscal Report

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

Revenue Update

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2014 (\$'s in Millions)						
	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
June	\$488.0	\$508.4	\$20.5	4.2%	\$495.8	2.6%
FYTD	\$3,074.4	\$3,113.5	\$39.1	1.3%	\$3,094.4	0.6%

General Fund revenue was over budget by \$20.5 million (4.2%) in June and ended FY 2014 with a positive variance of \$39.1 million based on preliminary data. The performance of the income taxes, both Individual Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax, was the primary factor in this revenue surplus with a combined positive variance of \$38.7 million for FY 2014. An overestimation of the cost of the Property Tax Fairness Credit was the primary generator of the positive variance within the Individual Income Tax category and an unexplained \$5.4 million positive variance from June's estimated payments was the primary generator of the positive variance within the Corporate Income Tax category.

Highway Fund Revenue Update

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2014 (\$'s in Millions)						
	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
June	\$43.9	\$45.8	\$1.9	4.3%	\$45.6	0.5%
FYTD	\$310.3	\$317.1	\$6.8	2.2%	\$318.8	-0.5%

Highway Fund revenue was over budget by \$1.9 million (4.3%) in June and ended FY 2014 with a \$6.8 million positive variance based on preliminary data. Highway Fund revenue declined by 0.5% from FY 2013, which was much less than the 2.7% budgeted decline. A \$5.7 million positive variance in the Fuel Taxes category was the primary contributing factor in FY 2014. All but \$100,000 of the increase in the Highway Fund unallocated surplus from the revenue variance, lapsed balances and other accounting adjustments will be transferred to the Department of Transportation for highway and bridge improvement projects.

MaineCare Update

Supplemental funding and other legislative actions this past session were sufficient to meet MaineCare's FY 2014 funding requirements. Based on preliminary data, the MaineCare program appears to have an ending General Fund balance of roughly \$9 million that will carry forward for FY 2015 funding needs.

General Fund Year-end Cascade Transfers

Based on the revenue surplus alone, the increase in the General Fund unappropriated surplus will be sufficient to provide full funding to all of the fixed dollar statutory transfers at the close FY 2014 and also provide funding for the various reserves that receive a percentage of the remaining uncommitted year-end unappropriated surplus. The summary on the next page represents the distribution based on only the revenue surplus. Unbudgeted lapsed balances and other unbudgeted accounting adjustments usually add to the surplus. However, the usual additions from these other contributing factors may be limited this year due to a \$3 million plus shortfall in a budgeted General Fund transfer from the Department of Education's Oxford Casino revenue.

Legislative Council Chair Eves asked if there was any objection to taking an item out of order. There was no objection. The Chair then moved to **Reports from Council Committees, Personnel Committee.**

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Personnel Committee

Legislative Council Chair Eves reported that the Personnel Committee held a meeting on July 24, 2014 to consider the following matters:

1. Nonpartisan Employee's Request for Position Reclassification.

The Personnel Committee tabled the request for position reclassification.

2. Recruitment of Director, Legislative Information Technology

The committee received an update on the recruitment of the Director, Legislative Information Technology position. The committee selected an interview panel.

3. Recruitment of Executive Director

The committee received and approved the recommendations from the sub-committee with respect to the job description, the recruitment plan and schedule for the Executive Director position.

4. Proposed Reorganization of Legislative Information Office

The committee discussed the proposed reorganization and revised position descriptions for the Legislative Information Office. The Personnel Committee approved the plan as proposed.

Motion: That upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council adopt the Human Resource Director's proposed reorganization of the Legislative Information Office to improve operations, increase efficiencies and improve delivery of services, including reclassifying two positions and revising position descriptions; further that the increase in personnel services expenditure will be met in FY15 within existing resources, and future expenses be incorporated through the budget process; and further that the HR Director work with the Acting Executive Director to implement the reorganization plan. Motion by Speaker Eves. Second by Representative Berry. **Motion passed unanimous**

(6-0-0-4, with President Alfond, Senator Thibodeau, Senator Katz and Representative McCabe absent).

5. Acting Revisor of Statutes Position

Acting Executive Director Gresser reported that Ed Charbonneau has been selected to serve as Acting Revisor of Statutes.

6. Acting Director, Legislative Information Technology Position

Acting Executive Director Gresser reported that Nik Rende has been selected to serve as Acting Director for the Office of Legislative Information Technology.

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

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

Interim Legislative Studies Report

Marion Hylan Barr, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, reported as to the current status of the interim legislative studies and commissions. (Refer to status report in the agenda materials.) Ms. Hylan Barr reported that the College Affordability Study will be meeting on August 5th and the Health Exchange Advisory Committee has a meeting scheduled for August 26th. She also brought Members attentions to the memo from the LCRED committee (page 11 in the agenda packet) that the Maine Workers' Compensation Board will be continuing with the working group regarding protections and insurance for injured workers, thus the chairs believe there is no need to move forward with the Commission established in SP759. Three additional committees have requested and received permission to meet during the interim: ENR, HHS, and LCRED.

Representative Berry announced that the State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force will be meeting on August 11th. Not all of the appointments have been made but due to time constraints we will be moving forward.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

2. State House Facilities Committee

State House Facilities Committee Chair Representative Berry reported that the State House Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, July 22nd to further consider the potential reuse of the copper that will be removed when the State House dome is repaired this summer.

Julie Richard, Executive Director of the Maine Arts Commission, reviewed their report and recommendations (page 12 in the agenda packet). The recommendations included five options: Recycle, Commemorative Artifact, Jeweler/Artisan, Sculpture, and Public Art Commission. The committee discussed each of these recommendations and thanked the Commission for its work.

The committee requested additional information from Ms. Gresser to include: information on the Bangor Library project, tentative budget projections in regards to the Maine Arts Commission's recommendations, and to determine a plan for the "unveiling" of the new dome upon completion

along with a photographic display of the work done throughout the process. Ms. Gresser reported that the Maine State Library Archives has expressed interest in setting up just such a display.

Representative Berry announced and invited interested parties to Ms. Gresser's office after the meeting is adjourned to see some pieces of the copper that have been removed from the dome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

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Legislative Council

Executive Director's Report September 30, 2014

1. Copper Dome Replacement

Progress on the copper dome replacement and associated projects is proceeding on schedule. Work on the bottom third of the actual dome will be completed today. At this point, the contractors are doing the remaining roof work on the surface near the balusters; the top deck of the scaffolding will be lowered and outfitted to accommodate the painting of the white copper surfaces, including the columns and windows that lay below the dome. It is anticipated that the entire project will be completed in November 2014.

2. Legislator Orientation preparations

Legislative offices are preparing materials for the New Member Orientation and the Pre-Legislative conference for the 127th Legislature. Once the agendas have been tentatively developed, a draft will be distributed to Legislative Council members for their review. New Member Orientation will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 and the Pre-legislative Conference will be held December 1- 4, 2014.

Fiscal Briefing

Legislative Council Meeting - September 30, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2015 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
August	\$84.0	\$80.5	(\$3.5)	-4.1%	\$85.0	-5.2%
FYTD	\$328.7	\$333.2	\$4.5	1.4%	\$303.2	9.9%

General Fund revenue was under budget by \$3.5 million (4.1%) for August, but remained over budget for the first two months of the fiscal year by \$4.5 million (1.4%). As a reminder, August revenue was reduced by \$187.5 million to offset amounts that were accrued and recorded as revenue in June of FY 2014. This is the last fiscal year that the year-end accrual will distort monthly revenue so significantly. Beginning in FY 2016, the reduction to the accrual will be offset in June at the same time as the accruals for the next fiscal year.

August's negative variance was the result of an \$11.9 million shortfall in income tax withholding receipts. Some of this may be related to the accrual offset and some may be a timing issue. September withholding receipts will help in determining the cause of August's withholding shortfall. Total Individual Income Tax collections remained over budget for the fiscal year despite this shortfall. Sales and Use Tax collections also fell short of projections in August. With the exception of June taxable sales, which were enhanced by a bump up from deferred spring expenditures, taxable sales growth in calendar year 2014 has been below projections.

2. Highway Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2015 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
August	\$8.6	\$8.2	(\$0.5)	-5.3%	\$8.4	-2.4%
FYTD	\$36.7	\$38.4	\$1.6	4.4%	\$36.9	4.1%

Highway Fund revenue was under budget by \$0.5 million (5.3%) in August, but remain over budget for the fiscal year by \$1.6 million. The Fuel Taxes category was under budget by just under \$1.0 million largely because of special fuel tax collections. Monthly volatility is common for special fuel collections as they are due at the very end of the month. For the fiscal year, the Fuel Taxes category maintained a sizeable positive variance. Long-term Trailer Registration Fees revenue was over budget again in August. July's and August's positive variances were the result of a major expansion of the fleet of one of the companies participating in Maine's long-term trailer registration program.

3. Fund for a Healthy Maine Update

The Fund for a Healthy Maine closed FY 2014 with an actual ending balance of \$7.3 million. This \$7.1 million increase above the final budgeted balance of \$0.2 million was generated by a \$4.6 million revenue surplus, \$1.7 million of lapsed balances and \$0.7 million of prior period recoveries and other accounting adjustments. Although the budgeted ending balance for FY 2015 currently reflects \$14.5 million as "available," that amount includes \$5.6 million that was received in FY 2014 from the release of 2003 disputed funds. The next revenue forecast later this fall will need to adjust for this and lower the budgeted ending balance accordingly.

4. Cash Balances Update

Total average balance in the cash pool for August was substantially higher than the last two fiscal years, but General Fund internal borrowing was only slightly below August of 2012, a year that also involved the repayment of budget balancing borrowing.

**General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 (FY 2015)**

August 2014 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2015 Budgeted Totals
	August '14 Budget	August '14 Actual	August '14 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Sales and Use Tax	8,714,427	7,904,415	(810,012)	121,584,075	120,961,475	(622,600)	-0.5%	15.6%	1,187,737,653
Service Provider Tax	(557,576)	(348,503)	209,073	3,651,829	4,567,760	915,931	25.1%	27.1%	50,303,776
Individual Income Tax	55,110,000	51,874,902	(3,235,098)	154,485,000	155,614,214	1,129,214	0.7%	1.3%	1,455,836,200
Corporate Income Tax	1,150,000	326,664	(823,336)	7,200,000	7,438,044	238,044	3.3%	13.1%	177,651,225
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	11,003,763	11,175,011	171,248	23,957,989	25,274,222	1,316,233	5.5%	-0.1%	133,590,000
Insurance Companies Tax	69,905	40,136	(29,769)	1,060,588	540,741	(519,847)	-49.0%	-29.3%	80,715,000
Estate Tax	(2,150,000)	(2,412,080)	(262,080)	0	243,170	243,170	N/A	111.1%	26,957,040
Other Taxes and Fees *	8,361,179	8,569,728	208,549	17,429,319	19,013,750	1,584,431	9.1%	5.2%	132,978,084
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	2,092,896	1,967,619	(125,277)	4,288,211	3,904,127	(384,084)	-9.0%	5.5%	23,421,666
Income from Investments	27,818	29,191	1,373	27,818	29,197	1,379	5.0%	4.0%	93,858
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,442,343	4,686,639	244,296	8,884,686	8,749,485	(135,201)	-1.5%	-8.9%	57,350,462
Transfers to Tax Relief Programs *	(3,682,970)	(2,219,857)	1,463,113	(3,717,035)	(2,219,698)	1,497,337	40.3%	60.0%	(58,183,362)
Transfers for Municipal Revenue Sharing	(5,162,180)	(5,478,179)	(315,999)	(7,611,071)	(8,708,151)	(1,097,080)	-14.4%	34.9%	(61,066,238)
Other Revenue *	4,587,422	4,430,737	(156,685)	(2,556,904)	(2,179,889)	377,015	14.7%	-38.5%	39,939,411
Totals	84,007,027	80,546,423	(3,460,604)	328,684,505	333,228,446	4,543,941	1.4%	9.9%	3,247,324,775

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

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 (FY 2015)

August 2014 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	August '14 Budget	August '14 Actual	August '14 Variance	Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2015 Budgeted Totals
				Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Detail of Other Taxes and Fees:									
- Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	13,949,984
- Real Estate Transfer Tax	493,673	260,004	(233,669)	1,731,929	1,466,287	(265,642)	-15.3%	-16.9%	13,042,455
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	1,751,304	2,013,163	261,859	3,502,608	4,310,878	808,270	23.1%	1.1%	21,015,690
- Corporation Fees and Licenses	242,975	272,201	29,226	669,725	796,258	126,533	18.9%	14.3%	8,313,649
- Telecommunication Excise Tax	0	0	0	0	17,442	17,442	N/A	101.4%	9,200,000
- Finance Industry Fees	1,987,667	2,266,350	278,683	3,975,334	4,437,350	462,016	11.6%	1.1%	24,351,990
- Milk Handling Fee	92,164	99,650	7,486	184,328	182,148	(2,180)	-1.2%	-4.9%	1,105,968
- Racino Revenue	959,506	783,140	(176,366)	1,812,734	1,641,167	(171,567)	-9.5%	-13.2%	9,256,406
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	366,851	334,093	(32,758)	910,760	930,809	20,049	2.2%	4.3%	4,523,561
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	1,900,105	2,032,827	132,722	3,589,977	4,127,336	537,359	15.0%	5.5%	16,038,274
- Other Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees	566,934	508,300	(58,634)	1,051,924	1,104,075	52,151	5.0%	-13.8%	12,180,107
Subtotal - Other Taxes and Fees	8,361,179	8,569,728	208,549	17,429,319	19,013,750	1,584,431	9.1%	5.2%	132,978,084
Detail of Other Revenue:									
- Liquor Sales and Operations	811,945	233,988	(577,957)	1,623,890	494,619	(1,129,271)	-69.5%	3970.9%	9,743,384
- Targeted Case Management (DHHS)	240,593	190,379	(50,214)	454,857	586,200	131,343	28.9%	66.9%	2,103,916
- State Cost Allocation Program	1,241,511	1,986,805	745,294	2,588,069	3,799,934	1,211,865	46.8%	21.8%	15,000,000
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	6,015,000
- Tourism Transfer	0	0	0	(7,026,017)	(7,026,017)	0	0.0%	-8.6%	(11,659,067)
- Transfer to Maine Milk Pool	(88,120)	0	88,120	(183,735)	0	183,735	100.0%	N/A	(563,777)
- Transfer to STAR Transportation Fund	0	0	0	(4,521,173)	(4,521,173)	0	0.0%	-12.6%	(6,187,481)
- Other Miscellaneous Revenue	2,381,493	2,019,565	(361,928)	4,507,205	4,486,547	(20,658)	-0.5%	-17.3%	25,487,436
Subtotal - Other Revenue	4,587,422	4,430,737	(156,685)	(2,556,904)	(2,179,889)	377,015	14.7%	-38.5%	39,939,411
Detail of Transfers to Tax Relief Programs:									
- Me. Resident Prop. Tax Program (Circuitbreaker)	0	1,475	1,475	0	1,548	1,548	N/A	100.2%	0
- BETR - Business Equipment Tax Reimb.	(3,682,970)	(2,221,332)	1,461,638	(3,682,970)	(2,221,246)	1,461,724	39.7%	53.6%	(31,080,000)
- BETE - Municipal Bus. Equip. Tax Reimb.	0	0	0	(34,065)	0	34,065	100.0%	100.0%	(27,103,362)
Subtotal - Tax Relief Transfers	(3,682,970)	(2,219,857)	1,463,113	(3,717,035)	(2,219,698)	1,497,337	40.3%	60.0%	(58,183,362)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue - Total	2,345,473	2,452,897	107,424	4,651,457	5,210,082	558,625	12.0%	4.9%	21,470,489

Fiscal Review - Page 3 of 4

Highway Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 (FY 2015)
August 2014 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2015 Budgeted Totals
	August '14 Budget	August '14 Actual	August '14 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	% Variance	% Change from Prior Year	
Fuel Taxes:									
- Gasoline Tax	2,128,292	1,997,109	(131,183)	18,607,772	18,953,438	345,666	1.9%	-0.1%	189,910,000
- Special Fuel and Road Use Taxes	(690,089)	(1,618,237)	(928,148)	3,063,718	3,495,900	432,182	14.1%	21.8%	42,610,000
- Transcap Transfers - Fuel Taxes	(1,666,021)	(1,586,817)	79,204	(3,152,610)	(3,210,300)	(57,690)	-1.8%	-1.0%	(17,082,820)
- Other Fund Gasoline Tax Distributions	(474,590)	(471,310)	3,280	(886,693)	(895,337)	(8,644)	-1.0%	0.6%	(4,749,079)
Subtotal - Fuel Taxes	(702,408)	(1,679,255)	(976,847)	17,632,187	18,343,701	711,514	4.0%	3.2%	210,688,101
Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees:									
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	5,774,844	5,787,982	13,138	12,223,607	12,176,295	(47,312)	-0.4%	0.1%	65,659,536
- License Plate Fees	363,886	417,200	53,314	714,697	794,244	79,547	11.1%	2.5%	3,351,681
- Long-term Trailer Registration Fees	382,675	695,214	312,539	526,877	1,415,996	889,119	168.8%	153.1%	9,384,523
- Title Fees	1,127,625	1,166,930	39,305	2,275,475	2,307,276	31,801	1.4%	-2.9%	13,129,254
- Motor Vehicle Operator License Fees	671,835	636,694	(35,142)	1,271,065	1,340,418	69,353	5.5%	-10.3%	7,425,882
- Transcap Transfers - Motor Vehicle Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	(15,483,404)
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Reg. & Fees	8,320,865	8,704,019	383,154	17,011,721	18,034,228	1,022,507	6.0%	3.8%	83,467,472
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	293,451	334,940	41,489	586,902	474,191	(112,711)	-19.2%	12.2%	2,982,500
Other Highway Fund Taxes and Fees	121,352	107,296	(14,056)	234,037	241,654	7,617	3.3%	9.2%	1,285,229
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	93,412	63,315	(30,097)	185,706	220,178	34,472	18.6%	25.3%	1,007,998
Interest Earnings	9,419	7,256	(2,163)	18,838	7,256	(11,582)	-61.5%	-17.7%	113,022
Other Highway Fund Revenue	512,349	651,066	138,717	1,070,640	1,046,721	(23,919)	-2.2%	16.6%	9,032,418
Totals	8,648,440	8,188,637	(459,803)	36,740,031	38,367,930	1,627,899	4.4%	4.1%	308,576,740

2014 Interim Legislative Studies and Committee Meetings

Updated September 26, 2014

Study/Committee	Citation	2014 Meetings Authorized	2014 Meetings Held	Scheduled Next Meeting Date(s)	Report Date	Chair(s)	Status Notes
NEW STUDIES							
Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine	Resolve 107	5	7/7/14 8/11/14 9/9/14	10/6/14 12/8/14	12/9/2014	Pres. Alford Rep. Kornfield	Appointments complete; conducting work
Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion	Resolve 109	4	8/5/14 8/26/14 9/18/14	10/8/14 10/22/14 (pending approval)	12/9/2014	Sen. Millett Rep. Daughtry	Appointments complete; conducting work; contract staff; OPLA to provide drafting assistance; request for additional meetings pending
Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula	Resolve 114	6	7/25/14	10/20/14 11/6/14 11/14/14 11/20/14	12/9/2014	Sen. Millett Rep. Hubbell	Appointments complete; DOE and Ed. Rsch. Inst. staff; OPLA to provide drafting assistance
Commission to Continue the Study of Long-term Care Facilities	PL 594	4	9/2/14 9/23/14	10/14/14 10/28/14	10/15/2014 extended to 11/14/2014	Sen. Craven Rep. Stuckey	Appointments complete; conducting work; subcommittees also meeting
Commission on Independent Living and Disability	HP 1361	4		TBD	11/5/2014	Sen. Craven Rep. Peterson	Appointments not complete; request to begin meeting without all members
Commission To Improve Protections for Injured Workers Whose Employers Have Wrongfully Not Secured Workers' Compensation Insurance	SP 759	4			11/5/2014		Appointments not complete; per LCRED chairs, do not plan to meet, as work is being conducted by Workers' Comp. Bd.
Commission To Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast	Resolve 110	at least 4	8/1/14 9/4/14 9/18/14	10/10/14 10/21/14 11/12/14 (last 2 pending approval)	12/5/2014	Sen. Johnson Rep. Devin	Appointments complete; conducting work; subcommittees also meeting; request for additional meetings pending
Maine Health Exchange Advisory Committee	HP 1136	at least 4	6/3/14 8/26/14 9/22/14	10/16/14	12/4/2013 (prelim.) 11/5/2014 (final)	Sen. Craven Rep. Treat	Appointments complete; conducting work

ON-GOING LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force	PL 593	may hold 4 per year	8/11/14	9/29/14 10/20/14	11/1 annually	Sen. Patrick Rep. Berry	Appointments not complete; conducting work
Legislative Youth Advisory Council	3 MRSA 168-B	may hold 2 per year			2nd Friday in February in even numbered years		Appointments not complete
Right to Know Advisory Committee	1 MRSA 411	at least 4 per year	8/19/14 9/17/14	11/06/14 11/17/14	1/15 annually	Sen. Valentino	Appointments complete; conducting work
Citizen Trade Policy Commission	10 MRSA 11	at least 2 per year	6/26/14	10/7/14	annually	Sen. Jackson Rep. Treat	Conducting work; contract staff
Judicial Compensation Commission	4 MRSA 1701	N/A; funded from court system			12/15 biennially (due this year)		Appointments not complete

2014 Interim Legislative Studies and Committee Meetings

Updated September 26, 2014

Study/Committee	Citation	2014 Meetings Authorized	2014 Meetings Held	Scheduled Next Meeting Date(s)	Report Date	Chair(s)	Status Notes
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AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE MEETINGS (other than AFA)

JUD Committee Study of Social Media Privacy in School and in the Workplace	Resolve 112	4			11/5/2014	Sen. Valentino Rep. Priest	Outside funding was not received; requests for interim committee meetings for this purpose were not approved
VLA meetings to consider casino market analysis of contractor	Resolve 111	up to 4	9/10/14		12/3/2014	Sen. Tuttle Rep. Luchini	Contract awarded for analysis of potential market for casinos; report to VLA anticipated by 9/1/14
ENR meeting for DEP and Maine Water Environment briefings		1	8/28/14		N/A	Sen. Boyle Rep. Welsh	Meeting approved 7/17/14
HHS meeting for DHHS updates/briefings		1		10/15/14	N/A	Sen. Craven Rep. Farnsworth	Meeting approved 6/25/14
LCRED meeting for Workers' Comp. Board briefing		1			N/A	Sen. Patrick Rep. Herbig	Meeting approved 6/25/14; meeting date TBD
ACF meeting regarding outcome-based forestry (off-site); meeting for CTPC presentation		2	9/3/14 9/24/14		N/A	Sen. Vitelli Rep. Dill	Meetings approved
CJPS meeting for presentations from DPS and DOC			9/23/14				Meeting approved

MEMORANDUM

2014 SEP 25 P 12:59



Commission on Independent Living and Disability

TO: Senator Justin L. Alford, President of the Senate, Chair
Representative Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council
c/o Suzanne Gresser, Acting Executive Director, Legislative Council

FROM: Margaret M. Craven, Senate Chair *Mac*
Matthew J. Peterson, House Chair *MJP*
Commission on Independent Living and Disability

DATE: September 19, 2014

RE: **Request for permission to meet prior to completion of all appointments**

Pursuant to the Commission's authorizing legislation, Joint Order H.P. 1361, we are requesting authority to convene our first meeting prior to the completion of all appointments. At this time, the Commission now has a majority of its members appointed and would like to begin meeting, as the Commission's reporting deadline is November 5th.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

cc: Members, Commission on Independent Living and Disability
Marion Hylan Barr, OPLA Director

2014 SEP 26 A 10:01

Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion

TO: The Honorable Mark W. Eves, Chair
The Honorable Justin L. Alfond, Vice-Chair
Members, Legislative Council, 126th Legislature

FROM: Senator Rebecca J. Millett, Senate Chair *RJM/mhb*
Representative Matthea Daughtry, House Chair *MD/mhb*
Commission to Study College Affordability and College
Completion

DATE: September 25, 2014

RE: Request for additional meetings

The Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion was established pursuant to Resolve 2013, Chapter 109. The Legislative Council approved a budget to cover the cost of four meetings for the commission; however, given the complexity of its duties, the commission requests to hold two additional meetings in order to effectively complete its work by its December 2014 reporting deadline.

Pursuant to the resolve, the commission was also authorized to seek outside funding for staffing purposes. The commission did contract with outside staff, and the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy are paying for those expenses. Legislative funds have been expended only to reimburse costs for legislative members. With the expectation that reimbursement for members' expenses will remain the same and all other commission meetings will be held in Augusta, the commission should be able to hold two more meetings within its existing budget.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have questions.

c: Members, Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion
Marion Hylan Barr, OPLA Director

Sen. Christopher K. Johnson, Chair
Sen. Brian D. Langley
Susie Arnold
Mark Green
Jon Lewis
Kathleen Leyden
Larry Mayer
Susanne Miller

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE

2014 SEP 26 A 10: 01



STATE OF MAINE

Rep. Michael G. Devin, Chair
Rep. Wayne R. Parry
Rep. Joan W. Welsh
Bill Mook
Richard Nelson
Joe Payne
Joseph Salisbury
Meredith White

**Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification
and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are
Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House, Chair
Senator Justin L. Alford, President of the Senate, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council
c/o Suzanne Gresser, Acting Executive Director, Legislative Council

FROM: Senator Chris Johnson and Representative Mick Devin, co-chairs *CS ARW for MD*
Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and
Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the
Maine Coast

DATE: 25 September 2014

RE: Request for Approval of Two Additional Meetings

The Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast requests approval for two meetings in addition to the four meetings already approved by the Legislative Council. Public Law 2013, c. 110 requires the commission to meet no fewer than 4 times over the interim and to submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee of Marine Resources by December 5, 2014. The Legislative Council approved and budgeted for four commission meetings, and as of today, we have met three times. Based on these meetings it is clear to us that we cannot properly carry out our duties and draft a report within the four allotted days.

Ocean acidification involves a myriad of complex scientific and policy issues and we have spent our first three meetings trying to understand the state of ocean acidification science and its implications for Maine's commercial species. The commission has worked diligently to meet its duties and has established a number of subcommittees to work on specific issues and report back to the full commission. The subcommittees consist of experts in the subject matter assigned to the subcommittee and while each subcommittee has met on several occasions and have covered a lot of ground they are still working to provide a comprehensive and understandable review of the scientific data and literature.

The Legislative Council authorized the commission to spend a total of \$3,050 (\$1,500 in General Fund money and \$1,550 in outside funding) to support its activities. The commission spent \$604.35 in total for its first two meetings leaving a balance of \$2,445.65. The bulk of those expenditures were related to the commission's first meeting at Darling Marine Center in Walpole. We do not plan to hold another offsite meeting. Many of the commission members have not sought or intend to seek reimbursement for their expenses related to the commission's work. We anticipate that the existing budget will be enough to fund the last authorized meeting and the two additional meetings that we are requesting.

Currently, we will have one remaining meeting to come to an agreement on our findings and recommendations, draft the report and vote to approve the final report. Given our charge and the available funding we feel two additional meetings are necessary to accomplish our duties.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

cc: Members, Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast
Marion Hylan Barr, OPLA Director