

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU
CHAIR

REP. MARK W. EVES
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRANT T. PENNOYER



127TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. GARRETT P. MASON
SEN. ANDRE E. CUSHING
SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
SEN. DAWN HILL
REP. JEFFREY M. MCCABE
REP. SARA GIDEON
REP. KENNETH W. FREDETTE
REP. ELEANOR M. ESPLING

**127th Legislature
Legislative Council**

**AUGUST 4, 2016
11:30 AM**

REVISED AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 28, 2016 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	Information – Approved by Ballot
	REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Director's Report (Mr. Pennoyer)	Information
❖ 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fiscal Report (Mr. Nolan)	Information
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Studies Report (Ms. Hylan Barr)	Information
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Personnel CommitteeState House Facilities Committee (No report)	
	OLD BUSINESS	
21	Item #1: Council Actions Taken By Ballot (No Action Required)	Information

NEW BUSINESS

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|--|-----------------|
| 22 | Item #1: | Proposal to Replace the MELD Drafting System (Mr. Pennoyer) | Decision |
| 24 | Item #2: | Review of Proposed Schedule for the Policy Leaders Academy and Bus Tour for the 128 th Legislature (Maine Development Foundation) | Decision |
| ❖ 26 | Item #3: | Request to hold offsite meeting by the Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry | Decision |

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
April 28, 2016
Approved by Ballot June 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President Thibodeau called the April 28, 2016 meeting of the Legislative Council to order at 1:53 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Thibodeau, Senator Mason, Senator Alfond and Senator Hill

Absent: Senator Cushing

Representatives: Speaker Eves, Representative McCabe, Representative Gideon, Representative Fredette and Representative Espling

Legislative Officers: Heather Priest, Secretary of the Senate
Robert Hunt, Clerk of the House
Jennifer McGowan, Assistant Clerk of the House
Grant T. Pennoyer, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Dawna Lopatosky, Legislative Finance Director
Jackie Little, Human Resource Director
Marion Hylan Barr, Director, OPLA
Suzanne Gresser, Revisor of Statutes
John Barden, Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library
Kevin Dieterich, Director, Legislative Information Technology

President Thibodeau convened the meeting at 1:53 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF March 24, 2016 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for March 24, 2016 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Alfond. Second by Representative Fredette. **Motion passed unanimous (9-0-0-1, with Senator Cushing absent).**

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

Executive Director's Report

Grant Pennoyer, Executive Director, reported on:

1. Status of Major Construction Projects for this Interim

- State House Roof - Work to replace the EPDM (rubber) roof on the north wing of the State House has begun and will continue through the end of June. The project will then shift to the south wing in July.
- House Chamber - Repairs of water damage and other improvements in the House Chamber will begin toward the end of June and are expected to end in late September or early October.
- State Street Sidewalk – The replacement of the State Street sidewalk will begin shortly after the selection of the contractor or contractors for this project. Bids are currently under review.

2. Heating and Cooling System Repairs

The State House has experienced a number of leaks in the heating and cooling system towards the tail end of the heating system. Most of the areas affected are in the West Wing and include: the Legislative Council Chamber, the Governor's Office, staff offices in the Governor's Office, the House Republican Office, the Welcome Center, the kitchenette of the Clerk's Office and the Document Room. Repairs are currently in process for many of these areas. Work in the Legislative Council Chamber will begin Saturday, which will make the Council Chamber unavailable for much of May.

3. Original Copper from the State House Dome

We made a final marketing effort by email to Legislators and Legislative Staff recently as we are reaching the end of the lease of the secure storage facility. The State House Facilities Committee discussed options for the remaining copper in the storage facility.

4. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Capitol Planning Commission recently voted to approve signage for the placement of the electric vehicle charging stations in the Parking Garage. This was the last hurdle in a very long effort led by the Greater Portland Council of Governments to get some charging station located at the Capitol complex. Two parking spots against the inside wall immediately inside the Chamberlain Street entrance will have charging units installed and be reserved for electric vehicles.

Fiscal Report

Grant Pennoyer, Executive Director, on behalf of OFPR Director Christopher Nolan, reported on:

General Fund Revenue Update

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2016 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
March	\$224.2	\$208.7	(\$15.5)	-6.9%	\$200.5	4.1%
FYTD	\$2,338.0	\$2,348.9	\$10.9	0.5%	\$2,131.0	10.2%

General Fund revenue was under budget by \$15.5 million (6.9%) for the month of March but over budget by \$10.9 million (0.5%) for the fiscal year through March. These variances now reflect the March revenue forecast, which increased budgeted revenue for FY 16 by \$67.3 million.

Individual income tax revenue was \$4.3 million under budget for both the month of March and the fiscal year through March. Most of the negative variance was from withholding payments. Withholding payments will slow through the remainder of the fiscal year due to the tax cut enacted in the biennial budget. Refunds were also under budget for the month (more refunds paid out than budgeted). Sales and use tax revenue was over budget by \$4.5 million for the month and over budget by \$7.2 million for the fiscal year to date. February taxable sales (March revenue) increased by 11% over last year. Corporate income tax revenue was under budget by \$2.5 million for March but over budget by \$1.6 million for the fiscal year to date due mainly to refunds.

Highway Fund Revenue Update**Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2016 (\$'s in Millions)**

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
March	\$23.7	\$25.0	\$1.3	5.6%	\$24.7	1.3%
FYTD	\$244.9	\$247.8	\$2.9	1.2%	\$221.6	11.8%

Highway Fund revenue was over budget by \$1.3 million (5.6%) for the month of March and over budget by \$2.9 million (1.2%) for the fiscal year through March. These positive variances now reflect the March revenue forecast, which increased budgeted revenue for FY 16 by \$2.5 million. Fuel taxes were under budget for the month of March by \$0.2 million but over budget for the fiscal year to date by \$0.4 million. Motor vehicle registration and fees were over budget by \$1.7 million for the month of March and over budget by \$2.1 million for the fiscal year to date.

Cash Balances Update

The average balance in the cash pool in March dropped to \$734.3 million from \$840.6 million in February. March is usually the low point for cash balances in the fiscal year, before the usual recovery in late April from income tax payments. March's total cash balances were still well above both last year's balances for March and the ten-year average for March. General Fund internal borrowing from other funds was \$29.8 million in March. This was only the third time this fiscal year such borrowing was necessary and the amount was well below historical levels for March. The average Highway Fund balance of \$46.6 million in March increased slightly from February's average of \$40.0 million but was below last year's balance for March of \$56.2 million.

Tobacco Settlement Payments

On April 18th, the State received its first 2015 tobacco settlement payment totaling \$51.8 million that accrues to the Fund for a Healthy Maine (FHM) - \$49.4 million was budgeted. It is not known if additional payments will be received.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Personnel Committee

Speaker Eves reported that the Personnel Committee held a meeting earlier today to consider the following matters:

1. Reclassification of a Position in the Revisor of Statutes office

Mr. Pennoyer reviewed with the committee a request for a position reclassification in the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. The committee voted unanimously to recommend this request to the Legislative Council for approval.

Motion: That upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve the Executive Director's proposed reclassification of one position in the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. Motion by Speaker Eves. Second by Senator Mason. **Motion passed unanimous (9-0-0-1, with Senator Cushing absent).**

2. Request for Temporary Disability Benefits for Nonpartisan Employee

The committee considered a request by the legislative employee for temporary disability income benefits. The request was consistent with the provisions for temporary disability income benefits under the Legislative Council's personnel policies and guidelines. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, the committee voted unanimously to approve the request. No Legislative Council action is required.

3. Discussion about Committee Clerk Hiring Process

The committee reviewed the current Committee Clerk hiring process. No action required by the Legislative Council at this time.

2. State House Facilities Committee

Senator Mason reported the State House Facilities Committee met earlier today to consider the following items.

1. Video and audio recordings of Legislative Proceedings

As directed at the last Council meeting, the committee reviewed the contract with Sliq Media Technology that provides video and audio recording and archiving of Legislative proceedings and found that it provided sufficient control of the recordings to the Legislature and was a good value assuming the Legislature planned to use all of the services in the contract.

The committee decided that it had no issues with the recording and archiving of House and Senate proceedings and making these recording available upon request. This issue will be discussed further under Old Business.

The committee once again continued its discussion of whether or not to continue recording committee meetings. Some committee members still had concerns about recording of committee meetings. The committee discussed copyrighting and having a disclaimer for the use of the recordings and that there needs to be better notification of the public about the

broadcasting and recording of committee meetings. Ultimately, the committee decided to table this discussion regarding recording and archiving of committee meetings for a future meeting.

2. Tartan Stone Proposal for the State of Maine

The committee approved a request by a California sculptor for some pieces of copper from the State House dome and for a small piece of scrap granite cut from the end of a step in the old Capitol Park entrance that will be returned to the State as a gift of a Tartan Stone for Maine. The artist has been doing this for several states as is currently working on most of the New England states.

Motion: That upon the recommendation of the State House Facilities Committee, the Legislative Council authorizes the Executive Director to gift a piece of granite and some rough copper to stone artist, Frank Maurer, for the creation of the Maine Tartan Stone, the location of the finished stone to be determined. Motion by Senator Mason. Second by Representative McCabe. **Motion passed unanimous (9-0-0-1, with Senator Cushing absent).**

3. Options for Remaining Copper

The committee discussed options for the use of the remaining copper currently stored in the storage facility, the lease for which is ending in June. After recovering a little more than half the costs associated with foregoing the original salvage savings, the committee believes that the remaining copper should be salvaged.

Motion: That upon the recommendation of the State House Facilities Committee, the Legislative Council authorizes the Executive Director to salvage any rough copper remaining at the end of the lease for the storage unit. Motion by Senator Mason. Second by Senator Alfond. **Motion passed unanimous (9-0-0-1, with Senator Cushing absent).**

4. Updates from the Executive Director

Mr. Pennoyer presented updates of the status for the various facilities projects planned for this interim. The highlights of these updates were included in the Executive Director's Report presented earlier.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Consideration of Bill Requests Tabled from October 22 and November 19

The Legislative Council took no action on all previously tabled pre-cloture bill requests, so all remain tabled. The Legislative Council's actions on the requests are included on the attached list.

Item #2: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Requests for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 2640 An Act to Protect Maine's Wood Products Industry

Submitted by: Representative Sara Gideon

Approved: April 1, 2016

Vote: 7-3 in favor (with Sen. Mason, Rep. Fredette and Rep. Espling opposed)

Item #3: Council Actions on Legislative Studies Taken By Ballot

		Action:
HP 1167	Working Group to Study Child Care Background Checks	PASSED
LD 1097	"Implementation Committee" to determine feasible options for Preventing TANF program benefits, through electronic benefits transfer cards, from being used to purchase prohibited projects or services	PASSED
LD 1311	Commission to Study Maine's Medical Malpractice Screening Panel System	FAILED
LD 1528	York County Court House Site Selection Commission	PASSED
LD 1615	Commission to Continue the Study of Difficult-to-place Patients	FAILED
LD 1629	Commission to Study the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund	PASSED
LD 1644	Commission to Study Ways to Support and Strengthen the Direct Care Workforce across the Long-term Care Continuum	FAILED
LD 1675	Task Force on Public-private Partnerships to Support Public Education	PASSED with amendment
LD 1693	Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry	PASSED
LD 997	VLA Committee Study to Streamline the Laws Governing the Licensing and Conduct of Beano and Games of Chance	FAILED
LD 1110	TRA Committee Study of Transportation Funding Reform	FAILED
LD 633	Review of calculation and transfer of savings as a result of expansion of MaineCare eligibility	FAILED

Item #4: Webcasts and Archived Files

Senator Mason continued the discussion of recording and archiving of Legislative Proceedings. He noted that the State House Facilities Committee recommend the use of video and audio recordings and video streaming of House and Senate sessions. Senator Mason also stated that the

committee feels that more discussion is needed with the full Legislative Council on how to proceed with recordings of legislative committee meetings beginning with the 128th Legislature. Senator Hill suggested that the committee should invite the members of the Right To Know Advisory Committee to its meetings for their input on this subject. Representative Fredette asked after copyrighting the material recorded and also suggested that it would be a good idea to check on whether the immunity from prosecution/suit would still stand with recorded material.

Motion: That, upon the recommendation of the State House Facilities Committee, the Legislative Council approves the continued use of video and audio recordings of the House and Senate Legislative Proceedings available by request; further, the Legislative Council authorizes the video streaming of the House and Senate Legislative Proceedings and that the streaming is available on the legislative website; and further, the Legislative Council directs the Executive Director to explore the means to copyright the recorded and archived video files. Motion by Senator Mason. Second by Speaker Eves. **Motion passed unanimous (8-0-0-2, with Senator Cushing and Representative Fredette absent).**

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests

The Legislative Council considered and voted on the bill requests in accordance with the established protocol. Of the 3 new bill requests and joint resolution, the council authorized 2 requests for introduction in the 2nd Regular Session of the 127th Legislature and 1 was tabled. The Legislative Council took no action on any previously tabled bill requests or joint resolutions, thus they remain tabled. The Legislative Council's actions on the requests are included on the attached list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

127th Legislature - Second Regular Session
Legislative Council Action Taken April 28, 2016 on
Pre-Cloture Bill Requests Tabled
October 22 and November 19, 2015

Action

Representative Campbell of Orrington

LR 2330	An Act To Encourage the Development of Commercial Transportation Opportunities in Bucksport	TABLED 11/19/15
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LR 2331	An Act To Encourage the Development of Electrical and Natural Gas Infrastructure in Bucksport	TABLED 11/19/15
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Representative Fowle of Vassalboro

LR 2209	An Act To Amend the Public Safety Laws	TABLED 10/22/15
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Representative Fredette of Newport

LR 2343	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Marine Transportation and Port Infrastructure at Mack Point to Meet the Needs of the Marine Construction and Shipping Business Sector and to Create Jobs	TABLED 10/22/15
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Representative Gattine of Westbrook

LR 2432	An Act To Promote the Success and Accountability of Welfare Reform Initiatives in Maine	TABLED 10/22/15
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LR 2456	Resolve, To Improve Access to and the Quality of Services for Persons with Mental Illness	TABLED 11/19/15
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Representative Gideon of Freeport

LR 2479	An Act To Make Maine Energy-independent	TABLED 11/19/15
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Representative Herbig of Belfast

LR 2401	An Act to Provide Job Opportunities to Families Participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program	TABLED 10/22/15
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Senator Hill of York

LR 2408	An Act To Provide Accountability in State Government Partnerships	TABLED 11/19/15
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Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

LR 2321 An Act To Amend the Maine Criminal Code to Clarify the TABLED 10/22/15
Prohibition on the Exercise of Improper Influence

LR 2322 An Act To Ensure the Proper Functioning of State Government by TABLED 11/19/15
Ensuring Execution of Executive Branch Duties

Representative Rotundo of Lewiston

LR 2399 An Act To Fund and Implement Wage Adjustments for All State TABLED 11/19/15
Correctional Employees Who Perform Direct Care or Supervision
of Prisoners

Senator Thibodeau of Winterport

LR 2417 An Act To Ensure Accountability in Maine's Welfare System TABLED 10/22/15

Representative Wadsworth of Hiram

LR 2489 An Act To Ensure a Timely Reduction in Energy Costs for Maine TABLED 11/19/15
Consumers

**127th Maine State Legislature
Legislative Council
Requests to Introduce Legislation
Second Regular Session
April 28, 2016**

AFTER DEADLINE BILL REQUESTS

SPONSOR: Rep. Phyllis A. Ginzler

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2798	An Act To Allow Conveyance of Land Previously Conveyed by the State to the Town of Bridgton	TABLED

SPONSOR: Sen. David Woodsome

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2828	An Act To Make Technical Changes to Public Law 2015, Chapter 483	PASSED

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

SPONSOR: Sen. Justin L. Alfond

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2821	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION FOR STRONG ENFORCEMENT OF OUR NATION'S TRADE LAWS	PASSED

TABLED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

AFTER DEADLINE BILL REQUESTS

SPONSOR: Sen. Justin L. Alfond

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2594	An Act To Facilitate the Timely Processing of Applications for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits	Tabled 12/17/15
2595	An Act To Prohibit the Expenditure of Any Cash-based Benefits from the State on Lottery Tickets	Tabled 12/17/15
2687	An Act To Provide an Exemption from State Tax Liability for Employers Who Pay the Student Loan Debt of Their Employees	Tabled 02/25/16

SPONSOR: Rep. Henry E. Beck

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2638	An Act To Tax Electronic Cigarettes	Tabled 01/28/16

SPONSOR: Sen. James F. Dill

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2558	An Act To Provide Assistance to Laid-off Workers	Tabled 12/17/15

SPONSOR: Rep. Michelle Ann Dunphy

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2561	An Act To Adjust the Property Tax Valuation of Old Town Following the Closure of the Old Town Expera Pulp Mill	Tabled 12/17/15

SPONSOR: Rep. Kenneth W. Fredette

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2592	An Act To Create the Maine Energy Office	Tabled 12/17/15

SPONSOR: Sen. Christopher K. Johnson

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2789	An Act To Create a Veteran-friendly Business Designation	Tabled 03/24/16

SPONSOR: Sen. Roger J. Katz

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2630	An Act To Increase Access to Health Coverage for Drug Addiction Services and Qualify Maine for Federal Funding for Such Services	Tabled 01/28/16

SPONSOR: Sen. Brian D. Langley

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2714	An Act To Increase Education Funding	Tabled 02/25/16

SPONSOR: Rep. Richard S. Malaby

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2739	An Act To Develop Plans for the Expansion of Infrastructure for State Forensic and Civil Mental Health Treatment	Tabled 03/24/16

SPONSOR: Rep. Jeff M. McCabe

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2569	An Act To Establish a Commission on the Blind and Visually Impaired	Tabled 12/17/15

2782	An Act To Prevent the Separation of the Hydropower Assets at the Madison Paper Company for 2 Years	Tabled 03/24/16
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2783 Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Work with the University of Maine System To Study the Future of the Forest Products Industry Tabled 03/24/16

2784 An Act To Address Job Losses and the Loss of Municipal Valuation in Mill Towns Tabled 03/24/16

SPONSOR: **Sen. David R. Miramant**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2659	An Act To Expedite Health Care Programs for Maine Veterans	Tabled 02/25/16

SPONSOR: **Rep. Diane M. Russell**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2697	An Act To Authorize the Treatment of Opioid Addiction through Medicinal Cannabis	Tabled 02/25/16

SPONSOR: **Rep. Arthur C. Verow**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2625	An Act Concerning Visitation Rights for Adult Children of Adults under Guardianship	Tabled 01/28/16

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

SPONSOR: **Rep. Henry John Bear**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2163	JOINT RESOLUTION TO ALLEVIATE TRIBAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND FUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS WITHIN THE HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS BY URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE MALISEET LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMPENSATION FOR THE OCCUPATION AND LOSS OF NEARLY 5,000,000 ACRES OF MALISEET TRIBAL HOMELAND IN THE AROOSTOOK COUNTY REGION	Tabled 12/17/15

SPONSOR: **Rep. Jeff M. McCabe**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2785	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ADDRESS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS ON MANUFACTURING IN MAINE	Tabled 03/24/16

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Legislative Council
Executive Director's Report
August 4, 2016

1. Status of Major Construction Projects for this Interim

- **State House Roof** - Work on the north wing is complete with the exception of the new wall panels for the mechanical penthouse, which should be completed by the end of next week. South wing roof work is going well and should conclude by the end of September.
- **House Chamber** – Plaster and molding repairs from water damage, primarily on the upper north and east walls of the House Chamber have begun. With the old carpet removed, we are removing outdated and unused network wiring, upgrading some existing cables, replacing the microphones on the desks and installing new video cameras.
- **State Street Sidewalk** – The replacement of the State Street sidewalk in front of the State House will begin the last week of August and continue through mid-September.
- **Security Screening Changes** – Beginning Saturday, August 13th, we will be removing the central kiosk at the State House main entrance and adding an additional screening lane to better handle peak crowds. I will be working with Capitol Police to set up temporary screening while the repairs and rewiring are in process.

2. Heating and Cooling System Repairs

We have repaired many of the leaks in the State House heating and cooling system that occurred towards the tail end of the heating system. However, some additional leaks were recently discovered and we will be scheduling repairs to the newly discovered leaks in the West Wing.

3. Original Copper from the State House Dome

As noted in my written summary at the end of June, the proceeds from the various copper reuse efforts offset roughly two-thirds of the savings that was foregone by not immediately salvaging the copper. We still have some mementos for sale and have a small amount of rough copper still available. The final phase of the copper reuse project is the selection of an artist to use the roughly 1,000 square feet reserved for the art work. The Artist Selection Committee is holding its first meeting on September 21st to review possible locations for the art work and establish some guidelines for the artists that will submit proposals.

4. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Final installation of the two electric vehicle charging stations in the Parking Garage have been delayed pending the resolution of some payment and accounting issues.

Fiscal Briefing

August 4, 2016

Prepared by the Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2016 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
June	\$369.4	\$369.6	\$0.2	0.0%	\$545.9	-32.3%
FYTD	\$3,356.4	\$3,366.2	\$9.8	0.3%	\$3,329.3	1.1%

General Fund revenue was over budget by \$0.2 million (0.0%) for the month of June and over budget by \$9.8 million (0.3%) for the fiscal year. Individual income tax revenues were over budget for the month by \$8.4 million but under budget for the fiscal year by \$3.6 million. Income tax withholding and estimated payments were the primary factors for the June variance. Estate taxes were \$1.1 million over budget for the month and \$0.6 million over budget for the fiscal year. Sales and use taxes were under budget by \$3.6 million for the month and over budget for the fiscal year by \$14.0 million. Partially offsetting the positive variances was the service provider tax, which was \$7.4 million under budget for the month and \$10.2 million under budget for the fiscal year to date. This variance is likely the result of over accruals in July 2015 (reversed in June 2016) and potentially under estimating the amount of sales tax revenue attributable to the service provider tax revenue category.

2. Highway Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2016 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Growth
June	\$25.4	\$25.7	\$0.2	0.9%	\$47.6	-46.1%
FYTD	\$322.7	\$327.4	\$4.7	1.5%	\$323.5	1.2%

Highway Fund revenue was over budget by \$0.2 million (0.9%) for the month of June and over budget by \$4.7 million (1.5%) for the fiscal year. Strong performances in the motor vehicle registrations and fees and the motor vehicle inspection fees categories were the primary reasons for the positive year-end results. Motor vehicle registrations and fees were over budget by \$3.8 million for the fiscal year, with motor vehicle registration and long-term trailer registration fees accounting for the majority of the overage. Motor vehicle inspection fees were over budget by \$0.5 million for the fiscal year.

3. Cash Balances Update

The average balance in the cash pool in June of \$847.9 million was below the May average of \$858.5 million. June's total cash balances were well above both last year's balances for June and the ten-year averages for the month. General Fund internal borrowing from other funds was once again not needed in June and was only needed in four months of this fiscal year. The average Highway Fund balance of \$47.9 million in June decreased from Mays's average of \$51.8 million.

4. FY 2016 Year-End Cascade Transfers

The FY 2016 closing General Fund balance totaled \$93.0 million, \$22.1 million of which was unbudgeted. The \$22.1 million not budgeted included \$9.8 million in General Fund revenue surplus, \$7.5 million in unbudgeted lapsed program balances and \$4.8 million in other accounting adjustments. Under the current distribution rules for the year-end "cascade" of funds from the

unappropriated surplus of the General Fund (5 MRSA §1507, §1511, §1519 and §1536), after all fixed dollar transfers were distributed; 80% (\$707,300) was distributed to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and 20% (\$176,825) was distributed to the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents. The table below summarizes the sources and uses of FY 2016 uncommitted funds.

FY 2016 General Fund Year-End Summary

Sources of General Fund Year-end Surplus:	
General Fund Revenue Variance	\$9,829,734
Unbudgeted Lapsed Balances	\$7,511,276
Other Accounting Adjustments Increasing (Decreasing) Balance	\$4,791,115
Total Increase in Uncommitted Unappropriated Surplus	<u>\$22,132,125</u>
Uses of General Fund Year-end Surplus:	
Fixed Dollar Transfers	
Replenish Contingent Account up to \$350,000 (5 MRSA §1507)	(\$348,000)
Transfer to Loan Insurance Reserve up to \$1,000,000 (5 MRSA §1511)	(\$1,000,000)
Transfer to General Fund Operating Capital (5 MRSA §1536)	(\$2,500,000)
Transfer to Retiree Health Insurance UAL (5 MRSA §1519)	(\$4,000,000)
Transfer to PUC Cost Recovery Fund (PL 2015, c 483)	(\$13,400,000)
Percentage Transfers of Remaining Surplus after Fixed Dollar Transfers	
Maine Budget Stabilization Fund	80.0% (\$707,300)
Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents	20.0% (\$176,825)
Total Closing Transfers	<u>(\$22,132,125)</u>

The Highway Fund also has a statutory year-end transfer provision that transfers all but \$100,000 of the increase in the unallocated surplus above the budgeted amount to the Department of Transportation for highway and bridge improvement projects in the next fiscal year. The amounts that transferred and are available in FY 2017 are \$11.6 million. In addition to a \$4.7 million revenue surplus, unexpended Highway Fund allocations that lapsed back to the unallocated surplus totaled \$5.1 million and other net accounting adjustments equaled \$1.9 million.

FY 2016 Highway Fund Year-End Summary

Sources of Highway Fund Year-end Surplus:	
Highway Fund Revenue Variance	\$4,709,320
Unbudgeted Lapsed Balances	\$5,090,423
Other Accounting Adjustments Increasing (Decreasing) Balance	\$1,855,131
Total Increase in Uncommitted Unallocated Surplus	<u>\$11,654,874</u>
Uses of Highway Fund Year-end Surplus:	
Required Increase to Budgeted Balance	\$100,000
Net Unallocated Transferred to Transportation	<u>\$11,554,874</u>

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 (FY 2016)

Updated 7/19/16

June 2016 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2016 Budgeted Totals
	June '16 Budget	June '16 Actual	June '16 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Sales and Use Tax	119,058,577	115,431,376	(3,627,201)	1,260,137,966	1,274,144,957	14,006,991	1.1%	6.6%	1,260,137,966
Service Provider Tax	7,545,639	154,282	(7,391,357)	55,073,214	44,916,959	(10,156,255)	-18.4%	-7.5%	55,073,214
Individual Income Tax	134,023,659	142,414,395	8,390,736	1,546,329,595	1,542,687,615	(3,641,980)	-0.2%	1.4%	1,546,329,595
Corporate Income Tax	34,779,483	34,836,018	56,535	138,354,603	137,492,442	(862,161)	-0.6%	-18.6%	138,354,603
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	11,267,078	10,922,234	(344,844)	136,641,000	141,464,095	4,823,095	3.5%	3.3%	136,641,000
Insurance Companies Tax	26,367,642	28,002,957	1,635,315	82,700,000	81,250,784	(1,449,216)	-1.8%	-0.3%	82,700,000
Estate Tax	2,649,900	3,778,176	1,128,276	26,598,740	27,198,153	599,413	2.3%	-12.8%	26,598,740
Other Taxes and Fees *	14,965,204	15,370,078	404,874	140,329,152	143,422,744	3,093,592	2.2%	2.9%	140,329,152
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	2,069,104	1,920,060	(149,044)	22,411,725	20,610,571	(1,801,154)	-8.0%	-8.8%	22,411,725
Income from Investments	223,868	461,781	237,913	1,076,328	1,483,723	407,395	37.9%	146.1%	1,076,328
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,928,981	3,005,099	(1,923,882)	54,900,000	56,972,851	2,072,851	3.8%	5.5%	54,900,000
Transfers to Tax Relief Programs *	1	(300,503)	(300,504)	(64,771,938)	(64,744,050)	27,888	0.0%	-8.8%	(64,771,938)
Transfers for Municipal Revenue Sharing	(8,166,930)	(8,054,938)	111,992	(67,259,423)	(67,355,586)	(96,163)	-0.1%	-5.9%	(67,259,423)
Other Revenue *	19,720,716	21,670,494	1,949,778	23,840,435	26,645,874	2,805,439	11.8%	-48.7%	23,840,435
Totals	369,432,922	369,611,508	178,586	3,356,361,397	3,366,191,131	9,829,734	0.3%	1.1%	3,356,361,397

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

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 (FY 2016)

Updated 7/19/16

June 2016 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2016 Budgeted Totals
	June '16 Budget	June '16 Actual	June '16 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Detail of Other Taxes and Fees:									
- Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	3,018,795	1,571,680	(1,447,115)	14,225,984	12,778,868	(1,447,116)	-10.2%	2.6%	14,225,984
- Real Estate Transfer Tax	1,320,122	278,537	(1,041,585)	15,697,389	15,394,715	(302,674)	-1.9%	11.3%	15,697,389
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	2,161,399	2,186,849	25,450	21,214,918	22,352,169	1,137,251	5.4%	0.6%	21,214,918
- Corporation Fees and Licenses	1,808,478	2,440,648	632,170	9,088,649	10,052,935	964,286	10.6%	2.7%	9,088,649
- Telecommunication Excise Tax	0	(137,691)	(137,691)	7,500,000	6,403,740	(1,096,260)	-14.6%	-15.6%	7,500,000
- Finance Industry Fees	2,196,090	3,377,900	1,181,810	26,851,990	29,463,631	2,611,641	9.7%	2.2%	26,851,990
- Milk Handling Fee	497,136	758,502	261,366	5,357,705	5,132,699	(225,006)	-4.2%	132.6%	5,357,705
- Racino Revenue	711,578	794,311	82,733	8,761,475	8,753,125	(8,350)	-0.1%	1.3%	8,761,475
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	835,909	842,072	6,163	4,523,561	4,291,061	(232,500)	-5.1%	-6.1%	4,523,561
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	1,847,115	2,457,986	610,871	15,850,342	16,432,790	582,448	3.7%	-0.4%	15,850,342
- Other Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees	568,582	799,285	230,703	11,257,139	12,367,010	1,109,871	9.9%	-3.5%	11,257,139
Subtotal - Other Taxes and Fees	14,965,204	15,370,078	404,874	140,329,152	143,422,744	3,093,592	2.2%	2.9%	140,329,152
Detail of Other Revenue:									
- Liquor Sales and Operations	9,641,288	9,646,830	5,542	9,667,500	9,682,240	14,740	0.2%	-28.5%	9,667,500
- Targeted Case Management (DHHS)	216,915	145,563	(71,352)	2,640,000	2,246,910	(393,090)	-14.9%	-11.3%	2,640,000
- State Cost Allocation Program	1,741,009	1,415,912	(325,097)	18,296,832	18,161,858	(134,974)	-0.7%	-19.2%	18,296,832
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	7,000,000	9,660,866	2,660,866	7,000,000	9,660,866	2,660,866	38.0%	0.5%	7,000,000
- Tourism Transfer	0	0	0	(12,854,128)	(13,112,062)	(257,934)	-2.0%	-12.8%	(12,854,128)
- Transfer to Maine Milk Pool	(1,243,919)	(2,132,074)	(888,155)	(15,709,907)	(17,025,855)	(1,315,948)	-8.4%	-333.0%	(15,709,907)
- Transfer to STAR Transportation Fund	0	0	0	(6,800,000)	(7,308,989)	(508,989)	-7.5%	-3.4%	(6,800,000)
- Other Miscellaneous Revenue	2,365,423	2,933,397	567,974	21,600,138	24,340,906	2,740,768	12.7%	-7.6%	21,600,138
Subtotal - Other Revenue	19,720,716	21,670,494	1,949,778	23,840,435	26,645,874	2,805,439	11.8%	-48.7%	23,840,435
Detail of Transfers to Tax Relief Programs:									
- Me. Resident Prop. Tax Program (Circuitbreal	0	73,128	73,128	0	82,425	82,425	N/A	450.8%	0
- BETR - Business Equipment Tax Reimb.	1	(1,654)	(1,655)	(34,000,000)	(35,078,530)	(1,078,530)	-3.2%	-5.1%	(34,000,000)
- BETE - Municipal Bus. Equip. Tax Reimb.	0	(371,977)	(371,977)	(30,771,938)	(29,747,945)	1,023,993	3.3%	-13.7%	(30,771,938)
Subtotal - Tax Relief Transfers	1	(300,503)	(300,504)	(64,771,938)	(64,744,050)	27,888	0.0%	-8.8%	(64,771,938)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue - Total	2,765,473	3,383,696	618,223	21,467,907	21,685,246	217,339	1.0%	-2.0%	21,467,907

Highway Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 (FY 2016)

Updated 7/19/16

June 2016 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	June '16 Budget	June '16 Actual	June '16 Variance	Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2016 Budgeted Totals
				Budget	Actual	Variance	% Variance	% Change from Prior Year	
Fuel Taxes:									
- Gasoline Tax	16,837,931	17,078,165	240,234	197,254,300	198,030,576	776,276	0.4%	0.8%	197,254,300
- Special Fuel and Road Use Taxes	3,449,255	3,577,408	128,153	46,393,600	46,070,971	(322,629)	-0.7%	-1.2%	46,393,600
- Transcap Transfers - Fuel Taxes	(1,489,962)	(1,517,137)	(27,175)	(17,903,637)	(17,967,176)	(63,539)	-0.4%	-0.5%	(17,903,637)
- Other Fund Gasoline Tax Distributions	(421,068)	(427,074)	(6,006)	(4,932,738)	(4,961,004)	(28,266)	-0.6%	-1.0%	(4,932,738)
Subtotal - Fuel Taxes	18,376,156	18,711,362	335,206	220,811,525	221,173,367	361,842	0.2%	0.4%	220,811,525
Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees:									
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	7,736,811	7,274,411	(462,400)	66,732,742	68,540,478	1,807,736	2.7%	1.4%	66,732,742
- License Plate Fees	264,748	293,259	28,511	3,458,710	3,674,537	215,827	6.2%	1.7%	3,458,710
- Long-term Trailer Registration Fees	424,804	560,329	135,525	10,684,523	11,571,388	886,865	8.3%	-0.2%	10,684,523
- Title Fees	1,225,049	1,326,670	101,621	13,366,264	13,964,505	598,241	4.5%	6.1%	13,366,264
- Motor Vehicle Operator License Fees	670,123	809,603	139,480	8,023,217	8,703,579	680,362	8.5%	17.3%	8,023,217
- Transcap Transfers - Motor Vehicle Fees	(4,444,385)	(4,600,490)	(156,105)	(15,570,414)	(15,956,815)	(386,401)	-2.5%	-1.9%	(15,570,414)
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Reg. & Fees	5,877,150	5,663,781	(213,369)	86,695,042	90,497,672	3,802,630	4.4%	3.2%	86,695,042
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	510,630	328,317	(182,314)	2,982,500	3,515,288	532,788	17.9%	6.7%	2,982,500
Other Highway Fund Taxes and Fees	141,765	151,314	9,549	1,293,729	1,660,665	366,936	28.4%	26.3%	1,293,729
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	32,982	66,860	33,878	739,039	791,496	52,457	7.1%	-7.4%	739,039
Interest Earnings	19,439	56,187	36,748	244,945	255,421	10,476	4.3%	60.5%	244,945
Other Highway Fund Revenue	477,100	690,580	213,480	9,971,600	9,553,791	(417,809)	-4.2%	-4.0%	9,971,600
Totals	25,435,222	25,668,402	233,180	322,738,380	327,447,700	4,709,320	1.5%	1.2%	322,738,380

2016 Interim Legislative Studies and Committee Meetings

Updated July 29, 2016

<u>Study/Committee</u>	<u>Citation</u>	<u>2016 Meetings Authorized</u>	<u>2016 Meetings Held</u>	<u>Scheduled Next Meeting Date(s)</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Chair(s)</u>	<u>Status/Notes</u>
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NEW STUDIES

Working Group to Study Child Care Background Checks	H.P. 1167	4		8/31/2016 (tentative)	11/2/2016	Sen. Roger Katz Rep. Aaron Frey	Appointments completed (5/5)
(Feasibility Study)/Implementation Committee to Determine Feasible Options for Preventing TANF Program Benefits, through EBT Cards, from Being Used to Purchase Prohibited Products or Services	PL 2015 c. 484	4			12/15/2016	Not specified	Appointments not completed (0/8); new study to be convened and staffed by DHHS
York County Court House Site Selection Committee	PL 2015 c. 468	4			1/1/2017	Member of Supreme Judicial Court (appointed by Chief Justice)	Appointments not completed (4/19; legislative appointments are completed); new study to be convened and staffed by State Court Administrator
Commission to Reform Public Education Funding and Improve Student Performance in the State	PL 2015 c. 389	6 per year (12 total)	4/25/2016		1/10/2017	Representative of the DOE (appointed by Governor)	Appointments completed (15/15); new study convened and staffed by DOE
Task Force on Public-private Partnerships to Support Public Education	Resolve 2015 c. 89	4			1/15/2017	Rep. Teresa Pierce	Appointments not completed (5/12)
Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry	Resolve 2015 c. 85	4		8/2/2016 8/16/2016 8/30/2016	12/6/2016	Sen. Thomas Saviello Rep. Jeff McCabe	Appointments completed (13/13)
Maine Health Exchange Advisory Committee	S.P. 533 as amended by H-501	2			11/5/2016	Rep. Linda Sanborn	Appointments not completed (8/19); this study is a JSO, (joint study order) so may begin as soon as appointments are completed

ON-GOING LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force	20-A MRSA Sec. 12901	no more than 4 times per year			11/1 annually	Sen. Brian Langley Rep. Richard Farnsworth	Appointments not completed (11/15; legislative appointments are completed)
Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine	20-A MRSA Sec. 6663	at least 2 and no more than 4 per year	6/2/2016	9/13/2016	1/10 annually	Sen. Justin Alfond Rep. Victoria Kornfield	Appointments completed (17/17); staffed by DOE; work ongoing
Right to Know Advisory Committee	1 MRSA Sec. 411	not fewer than 4 times per year	6/22/2016 7/20/2016	8/17/2016 9/14/2016	1/15 annually	Sen. David Burns	Appointments not completed (15/17); work ongoing
Citizen Trade Policy Commission	10 MRSA Sec. 11	at least 2 times per year	6/21/2016		annually	Sen. Amy Volk Rep. Robert Saucier	Appointments not completed (18/22); work ongoing
Judicial Compensation Commission	4 MRSA Sec. 1701	n/a funded by court system			12/15 of each even numbered year		Appointments not completed

2016 Interim Legislative Studies and Committee Meetings

Updated July 29, 2016

<u>Study/Committee</u>	<u>Citation</u>	<u>2016 Meetings Authorized</u>	<u>2016 Meetings Held</u>	<u>Scheduled Next Meeting Date(s)</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Chair(s)</u>	<u>Status/Notes</u>
AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE MEETINGS							
TRA Committee (study of transportation funding reform per letter from President and Speaker)		4					
TAX Committee (tax expenditure review per PL 2015, c. 344)		3	7/19/2016				
AFA Committee							

**Legislative Council Actions
Taken by Ballot Since the
April 28, 2016 Council Meeting**

Requests for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 2830 An Act to Fund Agreements with Bargaining Units for Certain Executive Branch Employees.

Submitted by: Senator Andre Cushing

Approved: April 28, 2016

Vote: 6-0-0-4 in favor (with Sen. Hill, Rep. Gideon, Rep. Fredette and Rep. Espling absent)

Decision by Legislative Council Ballot:

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the Meeting Summary for April 28, 2016 and place it on file.

Motion by: President Thibodeau Second by: Speaker Eves

Approved: June 14, 2016

Vote: 9-0-0-1 in favor (with Rep. Fredette absent)

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the funds contributed to fund the Task Force on Public-Private Partnerships to Support Public Education and further to authorize the study to convene.

Motion by: President Thibodeau Second by: Speaker Eves

Approved: June 15, 2016

Vote: 8-0-1-1 in favor (with Rep. Espling abstaining and Rep. Fredette absent)

Motion: That, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve the Executive Director's proposed reclassification of one position in the Office of the Executive Director.

Motion by: President Thibodeau Second by: Speaker Eves

Approved: July 15, 2016

Vote: 9-0-0-1 in favor (with Sen. Mason absent)

SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU
CHAIR

REP. MARK W. EVES
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRANT T. PENNOYER



127TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. GARRETT P. MASON
SEN. ANDRE E. CUSHING
SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
SEN. DAWN HILL
REP. JEFFREY M. MCCABE
REP. SARA GIDEON
REP. KENNETH W. FREDETTE
REP. ELEANOR M. ESPLING

MEMO

To: President Michael Thibodeau, Chair
Speaker Mark Eves, Vice-Chair
Members, Legislative Council

From: Grant T. Pennoyer, Executive Director

Date: August 1, 2016

Re: Proposal to Replace the MELD Drafting System

I am seeking your approval to enter into a contract with Tallan, Inc., to both develop requirements for a new legislative bill drafting system and to implement the new drafting system based on those requirements. This would be a divergence from the normal bidding process where an agency would develop a requirements document and seek bids for the new system based on meeting those requirements. However, the drafting system project is an unusual project. We have been exploring options to replace our inefficient, aging MELD drafting system for a number of years, but haven't found any good options until now.

Earlier this year, we were fortunate to invite a software developer that had significant experience in document sharing applications that we thought might form the basis of a new drafting system for the Maine Legislature. While that vendor's initial presentation about some work they had done for Massachusetts wasn't directly relevant, they suggested a follow-up presentation for some work that was in process in Delaware. At that second presentation, key staff in the production offices and LIT staff all agreed that the drafting application that was in development for Delaware had excellent potential to be adapted for Maine given the similarities of the legislative processes of the two states. We were also very impressed with Tallan staff's knowledge of legislative processes and understood the subtle differences between Maine and Delaware.

Conversations with Delaware legislative staff at several stages of the Legislative process-wide system implementation project, of which the drafting component is only roughly one third of their \$6.5 million project, have confirmed that the project has been going very well. They have also spoken very highly of Tallan's project team and the system project, which is roughly 70% complete.

Tallan was asked to provide Maine with a rough estimate of the cost to the plan and implement a new drafting system to replace MELD. Their initial estimate was based on the hours and programming required for the drafting component of the Delaware project. That estimate was roughly \$2.2 million based on the time spent on that component of the Delaware project. This estimate includes the cost of the requirements-building phase.

Tallan also offered to develop a requirements document for the Maine project and we feel that given Delaware's experience and their presentations to us they would do an excellent job. However, if we use

Tallan to develop the requirements document, it would either preclude a competitive bid process or exclude the most likely successful candidate, Tallan. Therefore, based on what we have determined through years of research and based on the strength of Tallan's presentations and references from Delaware, we are requesting that the Council approve the use Tallan for both the requirements stage of the project and the implementation of the new drafting system.

We also believe that Tallan's approach is the most cost effective method of building a drafting system that will be well integrated with the other existing legislative system with which the drafting system must share data, primarily the legislature's bill tracking and bill status system. Another known vendor that has developed other information systems for Legislatures uses a Linux-based, open-source solution that uses a different programming language than what our current systems use and our IT staff knows. This would limit our independent ability to better integrate other existing legislative applications.

We have been reserving sufficient funds for a MELD replacement system for several years within the Legislature's balance forward. We are now asking for the Legislative Council to approve the use of the balance forward to enter into an initial contract of \$105,000 for Phase I of this project to begin as soon as this fall or more likely in July of 2017 following the 1st Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. We are still trying to determine whether the resources are available to begin this fall. Ultimately, we are hoping that we can work with Tallan to develop a system that could be tested alongside the MELD system to draft bills for the 128th Legislature's Second Regular Session.

I am asking for the Council's approval now so that we can work with Tallan to reserve some of their key staff for this project, particularly for the peak system development period during the interim after the 128th Legislature's First Regular Session.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Memo

August 1, 2016

To: Maine Legislature / Legislative Council

From: Yellow Breen, President & CEO
Michael Higgins, Program Manager

Re: Policy Leaders Academy 2016-2017

The Policy Leaders Academy is non-partisan economic education program overseen and sponsored by the Maine Development Foundation for Maine Legislators. MDF is a non-partisan, private non-profit created by the Legislature in 1977 to work with the for-profit, not-for-profit, education, and government sectors on long-term strategies to advance the Maine economy through research, planning, education, leadership development, and development of needed programs.

The Academy has delivered high quality, objective, and not-partisan experiential training to legislators since its founding in 1985. Financial support is provided by MDF from contributions of our business, education and nonprofit members, as well as by Maine-based foundations. All Legislators are invited to participate in the Academy.

MDF collaborates with several organizational partners to ensure the successful delivery of the Policy Leaders Academy: the University of Maine System, the Maine Community Foundation, the Maine Health Access Foundation, and the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. Each of the partners provides financial, staff, and intellectual support to the Academy, and helps connect MDF to their own networks of expertise.

Proposed Programming

For the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature, MDF proposes the following program activities:

Legislative Policy Forum at Governor Hill Mansion as part of the Pre-Legislative Conference for all members. Proposed date December 8, 2016 from 9am to 1:30pm. Attendance has varied in prior years; on average 60 to 70 legislators have participated.

Three-day Legislative Bus Tour, tentatively scheduled for January 11 through January 13, 2017. Two buses will be available to transport legislators and MDF staff to locations around the State. On average between 55 to 65 legislators have participated.

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Full-day Legislative Summit at the Augusta Civic Center. The Summit will focus on the current status of the Maine economy, major trends, Maine's *Measures of Growth*, challenges and opportunities. In addition to Legislators, leaders from the business and education community will also be invited. Tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2017.

Several Policy Forums on topics of interest to legislators will be scheduled throughout the Legislative Session. Forum topics will be developed in consultation with Legislative Leadership, Committee Chairs and Nonpartisan Offices.

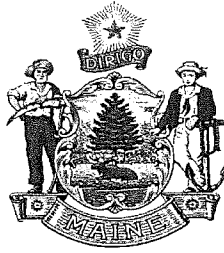
Request

MDF is requesting feedback and guidance from the Legislative Council on these proposals, and permission to begin detailed planning with Council Executive Director Grant Pennoyer. In particular, any suggestions on the dates and content of proposed programming would be welcome. The Legislative Council's support in promoting and encouraging attendance at these events, as well as its best efforts in minimizing conflicts once the schedule is complete, would be extremely helpful.

The Maine Development Foundation is proud to offer the Policy Leaders Academy to the Maine Legislature with our partners, and we hope it is of value to you in your important work.

Sen. Thomas B. Saviello, Chair
 Rep. Jeff M. McCabe, Chair
 Sen. James F. Dill
 Rep. Norman E. Higgins
 Rep. Deane Rykerson
 Thomas Abello
 Jason Brochu

John Bryant
 Robert Cleaves
 Steve Hanington
 Robert Linkletter
 Ryan McAvoy
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STATE OF MAINE

**Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and
 Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry**

TO: Senator Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate, Chair
 Representative Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Vice-Chair
 Legislative Council
 c/o Grant Pennoyer, Executive Director, Legislative Council

FROM: Senator Thomas B. Saviello, Senate Chair TS
 Representative Jeff M. McCabe, House Chair JM

DATE: August 3, 2016

RE: Offsite meeting of the Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and
 Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry

The Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry would like permission to meet offsite for its August 30, 2016 meeting. During the morning session, the commission plans to meet at the University of Maine at Farmington to hold discussions relating to its duties established in Resolve 2015, chapter 85.

The afternoon session would consist of visits to a logging operation, Stratton Lumber, the ReEnergy biomass facility and to the Linkletter combined heat and power facility in Athens. The commission considers this a valuable opportunity because it will show the interconnectedness of the value chain from the logging and trucking contractors, to the mills to the biomass facilities. Having a holistic viewpoint of how things work and the challenges and opportunities that exist will assist the commission in making well-informed recommendations in its report. All aspects of this meeting will be open to the public.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please contact us if you have any questions.