

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. RYAN FECTEAU
CHAIR

SEN. TROY JACKSON
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



SEN. ELOISE A. VITELLI
SEN. MATTHEA DAUGHTRY
SEN. JEFFREY L. TIMBERLAKE
SEN. MATTHEW POULIOT
REP. MICHELLE DUNPHY
REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
REP. KATHLEEN R.J. DILLINGHAM
REP. JOEL STETKIS

130TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
October 7, 2021
Approved October 25, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Fecteau called the October 7, 2021 meeting of the 130th Legislative Council to order at 12:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Jackson, Senator Daughtry, Senator Timberlake and Senator Pouliot

Representatives: Speaker Fecteau, Representative Dunphy, Representative Talbot Ross, Representative Dillingham and Representative Stetkis

Absent: Senator Vitelli

Legislative Officers: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Nik Rende, Director, Office of Legislative Information Technology
Dawna Lopatosky, Legislative Finance Director
Jackie Little, Human Resources Director

Speaker Fecteau convened the meeting at 12:04 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF September 23, 2021 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for September 23, 2021 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Representative Dillingham. Second by Senator Pouliot. **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Vitelli absent).**

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

No reports.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Review of recent federal regulations affecting lobster industry

Speaker Fecteau invited the Commissioner of Marine Resources, Patrick Keliher, to provide an overview of the general details and status update of the federal regulations affecting the lobster industry. Commissioner Keliher proceeded to provide a status update of the federal regulations, summarized the work that the Department of Marine Resources has done over the past few years in developing its proposal to the federal government, mentioned the pending court cases regarding the protection of North Atlantic right whales, and described the potential impact of the federal regulations on the lobster industry in the State. In response to questions from Legislative Council members, Commissioner Keliher discussed, among other things, “ropeless” gear, the Department of Marine Resources’ duty to manage the lobster fishery as a sustainable resource, the role of Department of Marine Resources in the pending court cases, and the timetable for briefings and conclusion of the pending court cases.

Motion: That, in accordance with 1 MRSA § 405, sub§ 6, the Legislative Council enter into an executive session for the purpose of discussing pending or contemplated litigation. Motion by Speaker Fecteau. Second by Rep. Talbot Ross.
Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Vitelli absent).

The Legislative Council entered into an executive session at 12:30 p.m. At the conclusion of its executive session, the Legislative Council voted unanimously to end its executive session at 1:41 p.m. and reconvene its regular meeting during which the following motion was made.

Motion: That, in accordance with the discussion in executive session, the Executive Director seek to engage the services of independent legal counsel to file on behalf of the Legislative Council an amicus brief in the lawsuit, *IAMAW Maine Lobstering Union-Local 207 v. Raimondo*, filed in federal district court; if the Executive Director is unable in a timely fashion to engage the services of independent counsel, the Executive Director is authorized to explore engaging the services of counsel for the plaintiffs for purposes of filing the amicus brief. Motion by Representative Dillingham. Second by Rep. Talbot Ross.
Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Vitelli and Senator Pouliot absent).

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.