

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. RYAN M. FECTEAU  
CHAIR

SEN. TROY D. JACKSON  
VICE- CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



130<sup>TH</sup> MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
September 22, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Speaker Fecteau called the September 22, 2022 meeting of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislative Council to order at 1:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Senators:	President Jackson, Senator Daughtry, Senator Pouliot, Senator Vitelli
Representatives:	Speaker Fecteau, Representative Dunphy, Representative Dillingham (arrived following commencement of meeting), and Representative Talbot Ross
Absent:	Senator Timberlake and Representative Stetkis
Legislative Officers:	Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director Christopher Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Dawna Lopatosky, Legislative Finance Director

Speaker Fecteau convened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

Speaker Fecteau expressed his intention to take items on the agenda out of order, without objection. The Speaker moved to **Old Business, Item #2.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Item #2: Funding of annual dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) for State fiscal years 2022 and 2023**

The Legislative Council heard from Tim Storey and Stacy Householder from the National Conference of State Legislatures, and David Biette and Heather Shaffer from the Council of State Governments, who described the organizations’ methodologies for establishing dues for the different states.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council authorizes the transfer of \$112,276 from unspent balances in legislative accounts to allow payment in full of dues requested by the Council of State Governments and by the National Conference of State Legislatures for fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. Motion by Representative Dunphy. Second by Senator Vitelli.

**Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-3,** with Senator Timberlake, Representative Dillingham and Representative Stetkis absent).

## **REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES**

### **Fiscal Report**

Christopher Nolan, Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, presented the fiscal report found in the agenda packet.

### **Studies Report**

Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, presented the studies report found in the agenda packet.

## **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee met on May 16, 2022 and again on September 19, 2022.

At its May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Personnel Committee considered the following matters:

#### **1. OPEGA Director Recruitment**

The committee conducted an interview of a candidate for OPEGA Director, and voted unanimously to recommend to the Legislative Council that it approve the appointment of Peter Schleck to the position of Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability. The committee felt that Mr. Schleck exhibits the appropriate combination of skills and experience to successfully lead OPEGA, and was confident that Mr. Schleck will be an effective director in leading OPEGA with skill and insight. The appointment of Mr. Schleck was approved by Legislative Council ballot.

#### **2. Performance Evaluation and Step Increase**

The committee voted to approve a step increase for Nicholas Rende, Director, Office of Legislative Information Technology.

#### **3. Request for Temporary Disability from a Partisan Staff Member**

The committee voted to approve the employee's request for temporary disability in accordance with the Personnel Policies and Guidelines.

4. Compensation

The committee discussed a matter related to compensation and voted to accept NCSL's recommendation related to the Director position in the Law and Legislative Reference Library.

5. Law and Legislative Reference Library Director Recruitment

The committee approved the plan for recruitment of a Director for the Law and Legislative Reference Library.

6. Harassment Prevention Training for Upcoming Legislative Session

The committee reviewed options for harassment prevention training for the upcoming legislative session. The committee requested that NCSL provide the harassment and sexual harassment portions of the training, and that Amy Sneirson, Executive Director of the Maine Human Rights Commission provide the racial harassment portion of the training. The committee approved that the "in-person" training include electronic participation methods like Zoom.

7. Planned Remote Work Policy for Nonpartisan Staff

Ms. Gresser shared the Planned Remote Work Policy for Nonpartisan Staff with the committee. The committee supported the prioritization of legislative operations contained in the policy, and expressed appreciation for the hard work that went into development of the policy.

At its September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Personnel Committee considered the following matters:

1. Law and Legislative Reference Library Director Recruitment

The committee conducted an interview of a candidate for Law Library Director, and voted unanimously to recommend to the Legislative Council that it approve the appointment of Jessica Lundgren to the position of Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library. The committee felt that Ms. Lundgren exhibits the appropriate combination of skills and experience to successfully lead the Law and Legislative Reference Library, and is confident that Ms. Lundgren will be an effective director in leading the Law Library with skill and insight.

**Motion:** That, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve the appointment of Jessica Lundgren to the position of Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library, effective October 3, 2022, at Step 4 in Salary Range 13. Motion by Speaker Fecteau. Second by Senator Daughtry. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2,** with Senator Timberlake and Representative Stetkis absent).

2. Personnel Policies for Legislative Staff

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the Personnel Policies and Guidelines for legislative employees to expand the amount of paid parental leave available to employees, eliminate the requirement of Legislative Council review and approval for requests for temporary disability income benefits on account of an employee's pregnancy and childbirth, and clarify that the leave provided under the paid parental leave provision and the temporary disability provision runs concurrently with any leave that may be available under the Family Medical Leave Act.

**Motion:** That, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve the proposed changes to the appropriate *Personnel Policy and Guidelines* handbooks to:

- (1) Expand from 14 calendar days to 20 work days the amount of paid parental leave available to employees;
- (2) Eliminate the requirement of Legislative Council review and approval for requests for up to 6 weeks of temporary disability income benefits on account of an employee's pregnancy and childbirth, and instead require review and approval by the employee's office director or leader; and
- (3) Clarify that the leave provided under the paid parental leave provision and the temporary disability provision runs concurrently with any leave that may be available under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Motion by Speaker Fecteau. Second by Representative Dillingham. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2**, with Senator Timberlake and Representative Stetkis absent).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item #1: Request from the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole**

Speaker Fecteau reviewed the request from the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole in the State of Maine, noted that the commission has thus far held only one meeting of the four for which they been approved, and wondered whether the request for additional meetings might be better assessed after the commission holds more of its additional meetings.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council table the request from the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole. Motion by Representative Dunphy. Second by Senator Daughtry. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2**, with Senator Timberlake and Representative Stetkis absent).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS**

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.