

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. TROY JACKSON  
CHAIR

REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS  
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



131<sup>ST</sup> MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. ELOISE A. VITELLI  
SEN. MATTHEA DAUGHTRY  
SEN. HAROLD "TREY" STEWART III  
SEN. LISA KEIM  
REP. MAUREEN F. TERRY  
REP. KRISTEN CLOUTIER  
REP. BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM  
REP. AMY ARATA

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
January 26, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jackson called the January 26, 2023 meeting of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislative Council to order at 1:46 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

**ROLL CALL**

Senators: President Jackson, Senator Vitelli, Senator Daughtry, Senator Stewart and Senator Keim

Representatives: Speaker Talbot Ross, Representative Terry, Representative Cloutier, Representative Faulkingham and Representative Arata

Legislative Officers: Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate  
Robert Hunt, Clerk of the House  
Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
Ed Charbonneau, Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Nik Rende, Director, Office of Legislative Information Technology

President Jackson convened the meeting at 1:46 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

President Jackson asked if there was any objection to taking items out of order. There was no objection. The Chair then moved on to Item #1 under **New Business**.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item #1: Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests and Joint Resolutions**

President Jackson suggested that, for the first meeting in which the Legislative

Council considers after-deadline requests for bills, he understands there is support within the Council to move acceptance of the twenty (20) after-deadline bill requests on one motion and vote them all as a block.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council authorize for introduction in the First Regular Session all twenty (20) bills on the list of after-deadline bills included in the agenda packet. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Speaker Talbot Ross. **Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0-0).**

The Legislative Council did not take up introduction of the twelve (12) Joint Resolutions. The Legislative Council's action on the requests is attached.

After the Legislative Council voted to authorize introduction of the after-deadline bills, the President returned to the printed agenda.

## **SUMMARY OF JANUARY 5, 2023 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Ms. Gresser indicated that the Meeting Summary included an error in the title of one of the office directors.

**Motion:** That the Meeting Summary for January 5, 2023, as corrected, be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Senator Daughtry. **Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0-0).**

## **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OFFICE DIRECTORS**

### **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**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot**

#### **Requests for Introduction of Legislation:**

**LR 2401 An Act To Update the Reimbursement for Travel-related Expenses Incurred as a Result of the Performance of Legislative Duties**

Submitted by: President Troy Jackson

Date: January 9, 2023  
 Vote: 10-0-0 Passed

**LR 2409 An Act to Improve the Licensing Procedure for Social Workers**

Submitted by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross  
 Date: January 10, 2023  
 Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Senator Keim recorded as absent)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item #2: Acceptance of the Report of the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State**

The Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Item #3: Acceptance of the Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State**

The Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Item #4: Acceptance of the Report of the Committee To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel**

The Committee To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Item #5: Acceptance of the Report of the Commission to Study the Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine**

The Commission to Study the Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Item #6: Acceptance of the Report of the Task Force to Study the Process for Bringing Criminal Cases in Situations of Violence Against Health Care Workers**

The Task Force to Study the Process for Bringing Criminal Cases in Situations of Violence Against Health Care Workers submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council discussed accepting with one motion vote all of the reports submitted by the commissions, committees, advisory panels and task forces.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council accept and place on file the reports of:

- The Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State;

- The Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State;
- The Committee To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel;
- The Commission to Study the Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine; and
- The Task Force to Study the Process for Bringing Criminal Cases in Situations of Violence Against Health Care Workers.

Motion by Senator Vitelli. Second by Senator Daughtry. **Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0-1).**

President Jackson identified as the only remaining agenda item the Council's consideration of Joint Resolutions under Item 1 of New Business. In response to an inquiry from Senator Stewart, President Jackson confirmed that a member may seek permission to circulate a Legislative Council ballot to authorize introduction of a Joint Resolution. In response to an inquiry from Representative Arata, President Jackson confirmed that requests that are not taken up at today's meeting, and are not balloted prior to the next meeting, remain tabled and will appear on the next Legislative Council meeting agenda. The Legislative Council briefly recessed in order to review the Joint Resolutions on the current agenda. Upon the Council member's return, President Jackson announced that, because many legislators with requests for Joint Resolutions are unavailable to participate in the meeting, the Legislative Council would not consider the requests today, and would take them up at a future meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS**

Senator Stewart informed members that Aroostook Day was set for February 15<sup>th</sup>, and that there would be an off-site evening reception for which they would soon receive invitations and details.

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

**131st Maine State Legislature  
Legislative Council Taken on  
Requests to Introduce Legislation and  
Joint Resolutions  
First Regular Session  
January 26, 2023**

**AFTER DEADLINE BILL REQUESTS**

**Requestor:** Department of Public Safety

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
664	An Act to Require the Probate Court to Report Name Changes to the State Bureau of Identification	PASSED

**SPONSOR:** Sen. Eric Brakey

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2431	An Act to Establish a Maine Commercial Driver's License for Use Within State Borders	PASSED

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Benjamin Thomas Collings

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2389	An Act to Allow for Evidence-based Home Visiting Services	PASSED

2390	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fully Fund Passenger Rail Expansion Between Brunswick and Bangor and Between Portland and Lewiston	PASSED
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2391	Resolve, to Provide for One Month of Free Passenger Rail Service in Maine	PASSED
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**SPONSOR:** Rep. Scott Wynn Cyrway

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2421	An Act Regarding the Regulation of Public and Private Ambulance Services and Fees for Treatment	PASSED

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Jack Ducharme

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2410	An Act to Amend the Membership of the Somerset Woods Trustees	PASSED

**SPONSOR: Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2396	An Act to Enact the Protection of Shared Physical and Digital Property from Warrantless Searches Act	PASSED

2398	An Act to Increase the Deduction from Income for Pension Benefits	PASSED
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**SPONSOR: Rep. Jessica L. Fay**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2408	An Act to Protect Internet Consumers	PASSED

**SPONSOR: Sen. Craig V. Hickman**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2392	An Act to Strengthen Legislative Oversight of Government Agencies and Programs by Providing the Government Oversight Committee Access to Confidential Records	PASSED

**SPONSOR: Pres. Troy Dale Jackson**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2419	An Act to Finish Completion of the Green Energy Materials Building at the University of Maine	PASSED

2427	An Act to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent	PASSED
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**SPONSOR: Rep. Karen Lynn Montell**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2399	An Act to Expand Educational and Vocational Opportunities For Inmates and Incarcerated Individuals to Provide a Pathway to Re-entry	PASSED

**SPONSOR: Sen. Tim Nangle**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
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2397	An Act to Index Workers' Compensation Benefits to the Rate of Inflation	PASSED
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**SPONSOR: Sen. Trey Stewart**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2393	An Act to Bolster Maine's Workforce and Economy	PASSED

2394	An Act to Assist Parents in Finding Stable Employment	PASSED
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2423	An Act to Require the Payment of Child Support by an Intoxicated Driver Who Kills a Parent	PASSED
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2425	An Act to Implement Critical Reforms to the Department of Environmental Protection Outlined in the Nonpartisan Maine COVID-19 Reopening Plan	PASSED
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**SPONSOR: Rep. Holly B. Stover**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2426	Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Bremen the Kitty Breskin Memorial Bridge	PASSED

**SPONSOR: Sen. Eloise A. Vitelli**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2422	An Act to Establish the Disabled Veterans Municipal Shellfish Program	PASSED

#### JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**SPONSOR: Rep. John Andrews**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1266	JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO OPEN UP DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION	No action taken

**SPONSOR: Sen. Donna Bailey**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2400	JOINT RESOLUTION URGING MAINE'S FEDERAL DELEGATION TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO FIX THE DELAYS IN POSTAL DELIVERY IN MAINE	No action taken



**SPONSOR: Sen. Richard A. Bennett**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
885	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT THE REFORM OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS OF THE GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION	No action taken

**SPONSOR: Sen. Stacy Fielding Brenner**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
803	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO LEAD A GLOBAL EFFORT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR	No action taken

**SPONSOR: Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2038	JOINT RESOLUTION TO URGE THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COMMISSIONER TO REINSTATE PETE ROSE AND TO INDUCT HIM INTO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME	No action taken

**SPONSOR: Sen. Craig V. Hickman**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2349	JOINT RESOLUTION, URGING MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUBMIT LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE FOOD SUPPLY FROM PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS	No action taken

**SPONSOR: Pres. Troy Dale Jackson**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
579	JOINT RESOLUTION, URGING CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY TO PROVIDE HEATING ASSISTANCE TO MAINE PEOPLE	No action taken

**SPONSOR: Sen. James D. Libby**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
577	JOINT RESOLUTION, URGING CONGRESS TO LIMIT THE FEDERAL RESERVE MONEY SUPPLY	No action taken

**SPONSOR:**        **Rep. Laurel Libby**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2224	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE REAL ID ACT OF 2005	No action taken

**SPONSOR:**        **Rep. Rick G. Mason**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
960	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEMAND THAT THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES BORDER BE CLOSED TO DRUG CARTELS	No action taken

**SPONSOR:**        **Rep. Charles Axel Skold**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
966	JOINT RESOLUTION, SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.	No action taken