

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. TROY JACKSON
CHAIR

REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



131ST 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
March 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the March 23, 2023 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 2:41 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 (arrived after start of meeting), Representative Terry (arrived after start of meeting), Representative Cloutier, Representative Faulkingham and Representative Arata

Legislative Officers: Michelle Dunphy, Assistant 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

President Jackson convened the meeting at 2:41 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for February 16, 2023, be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Senator Daughtry. **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Speaker Talbot Ross absent).**

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.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee

With permission of the chair of the Personnel Committee, President Jackson, Ms. Gresser provided the following oral summary for the Legislative Council:

The Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 to consider the following matters:

1. The committee received an update from Ms. Gresser and Ms. Goldsmith on the status of the 2022-23 Harassment Prevention Training for staff, supervisors, legislators and lobbyists.
2. The committee reviewed a proposal to restructure the Legislative Information Technology Office to respond to the Legislature's increased needs for Information Technology resources and support. The committee requested additional detail from the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, and the Executive Director, and deferred action on the proposal pending receipt of the additional information. This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.
3. The committee evaluated the performances of:
 - Danielle Fox, Director of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis;
 - Christopher Nolan, Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review;
 - Edward Charbonneau, Revisor of Statutes; and
 - Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director.

The Personnel Committee voted unanimously to approve a step increase for Ms. Fox and Mr. Nolan. Mr. Charbonneau and Ms. Gresser are not eligible for step increases at this time. No Legislative Council action is required.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

LR 2479 An Act to Ensure Access to Newly Born Male Infant Circumcision by Requiring MaineCare Coverage

Submitted by: Representative Kelly Murphy
 Date: February 17, 2023
 Vote: 8-0-0-2 Passed (with Representative Terry and Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

LR 2484 An Act to Provide Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to Restore Benefits Being Reduced by the Federal Government

Submitted by: Representative Holly Stover
 Date: March 7, 2023
 Vote: 7-0-0-3 Passed (with Senator Daughtry, Senator Stewart, and Representative Arata recorded as absent)

NEW BUSINESS

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

The Legislative Council proceeded to consider and vote on sixteen (16) after deadline bill requests and eight (8) request to introduce Joint Resolutions. Of the after deadline bill requests, the Legislative Council accepted twelve (12) requests, rejected three (3) requests, and tabled one request. The Legislative Council rejected eight (8) Joint Resolutions. The Legislative Council's action on the requests is attached to this meeting summary.

Item #2: Adoption of the Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies for the 131st Legislature

Ms. Gresser reviewed the Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies for the 131st Legislature and explained that this policy is required under the Joint Rules.

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies for the 131st Legislature. Motion by Senator Vitelli. Second by Representative Terry. **Motion passed (7-0-0-3**, with President Jackson, Senator Stewart and Representative Arata absent).

Item #3: Request from the State YMCA to hold the Youth and Government Program at the State House

Ms. Gresser explained that the Director of the Maine YMCA Youth and Government Program has requested permission from the Legislative Council to hold the annual Youth and Government Program the State House Complex from Friday, November 10, 2023 through Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Motion: That, the Legislative Council approve the Maine YMCA Youth in Government Program's request to hold the 2023 Youth in Government Program in legislative space in the State House Complex from November 10, 2023 to November 12, 2023. Motion by Senator Keim. Second by Representative Terry.
Motion passed (7-0-0-3, with President Jackson, Senator Stewart and Representative Arata absent).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.