

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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
May 25, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the May 25, 2023 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 3:18 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

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

Representatives: Speaker Talbot Ross (arrived after start of meeting), Representative Terry, Representative Cloutier, Representative Faulkingham and Representative Arata

Absent: Senator Daughtry

Legislative Officers: Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Rob 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

President Jackson convened the meeting at 3:18 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF MARCH 23, 2023 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for March 23, 2023, be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Representative Terry. **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Daughtry 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

None

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That the Legislative Council accepts the baseline legislative budget set forth in Part A of the Governor's proposed 2024-2025 biennial budget with the following changes:

Establish one legislative position count for one Legislative Aide position as authorized by the Legislative Council at its January 5, 2023 meeting.

Reduce funding for the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability for consultant services by \$85,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 only, in accordance with the recommendation of the Government Oversight Committee.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross

Date: March 29, 2023

Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Senator Trey Stewart recorded as absent)

Requests for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 2523 An Act Concerning Automotive Right to Repair

Submitted by: Representative Bruce White

Date: April 14, 2023

Vote: 8-0-0-2 Passed (with Senator Matthea Daughtry and Senator Trey Stewart recorded as absent)

LR 2517 An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District

Submitted by: Representative David Woodsome

Date: April 20, 2023

Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross recorded as absent)

LR 2548 An Act to Provide Critical Matching Funds for Day Care Services on the Northern Maine Community College Campus

Submitted by: Senator Trey Stewart
 Date: April 24, 2023
 Vote: 8-0-0-2 Passed (with Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross and Senator Matthea Daughtry recorded as absent)

LR 2543 An Act to Amend the Definition of “Educational Institution” to Include “Single-Sex Educational Institutions”

Submitted by: Representative Matt Moonen
 Date: April 24, 2023
 Vote: 6-0-0-4 Passed (with Sen. Trey Stewart, Sen. Lisa Keim, Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham, and Rep. Amy Arata recorded as absent)

LR 2549 An Act to Remove the Confidentiality of the Transportation of Hazardous Materials

Submitted by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross
 Date: April 25, 2023
 Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Senator Lisa Keim recorded as absent)

LR 2541 Act to Provide the Mi’kmaq Revenue for Sales Occurring on Mi’kmaq Nation Land

Submitted by: Representative J. Perry
 Date: April 25, 2023
 Vote: 7-0-0-3 Passed (with Sen. Trey Stewart, Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, and Rep. Amy Arata recorded as absent)

LR 2537 Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Provide a New General Issue of License Plates

Submitted by: Representative Williams
 Date: May 5, 2023
 Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross recorded as absent)

LR 2518 Act to Protect Access to Maine’s Intertidal Zone

Submitted by: President Jackson
 Date: May 5, 2023
 Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Representative Amy Arata recorded as absent)

LR 2553 Act to Address the Recent Mill Closure in the Town of Jay

Submitted by: Representative Lyman

Date: May 9, 2023

Vote: 8-0-0-2 Passed (with Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross and Sen. Matthea Daughtry recorded as absent)

LR 2545 Act to Extend the Loring Job Increment Financing Fund

Submitted by: President Jackson

Date: May 9, 2023

Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham recorded as absent)

LR: 2570 An Act Regarding Surplus Lines Insurance Tax

Submitted by: Representative J. Perry

Date: May 12, 2023

Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Senator Matthea Daughtry recorded as absent)

LR 2565 An Act to Stabilize School-based Behavioral Health

Submitted by: Speaker Talbot Ross

Date: May 12, 2023

Vote: 6-0-0-4 Passed (with Senator Matthea Daughtry, Senator Trey Stewart, Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham, and Representative Amy Arata recorded as absent)

LR 2571 Act to Allow the Adjutant General to Sell the Calais Armory

Submitted by: Senator Moore

Date: May 16, 2023

Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Sen. Matthea Daughtry 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 eight (8) after deadline bill requests; the Legislative Council accepted three (3) requests, rejected five (5) requests, and tabled one request. The Legislative Council's action on the requests follows this meeting summary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

**131st First Special Session
Maine State Legislature
Legislative Council Actions Taken
On Requests to Introduce
Legislation and Joint Resolutions
at Legislative Council Meeting Held on May 25, 2023**

AFTER DEADLINE BILL REQUESTS

SPONSOR: Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2567	An Act Authorizing the Granting of a Limited Provisional License to a Medical School Graduate	No action taken

SPONSOR: Sen. Richard A. Bennett

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2487	An Act to Require Greater Disclosure by Railroad Companies of Hazardous Material Being Transported in Maine	Moved out

SPONSOR: Sen. Russell Black

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2499	An Act to Allow the Use of Unmanned Aircraft to Aid in the Recovery of Wounded and Deceased Wildlife	No action taken

SPONSOR: Sen. Stacy Fielding Brenner

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2528	An Act to Remove the Prohibition Against Live Plants in State Office Buildings	Passed

SPONSOR: Rep. Margaret M. Craven

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2536	An Act to Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B	Failed

SPONSOR: Rep. Ann Fredericks

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2525	An Act to Eliminate the Aircraft Excise Tax	Passed

SPONSOR: Pres. Troy Dale Jackson

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2544	An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center	No action taken

SPONSOR: Sen. Lisa Keim

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2534	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Adjustments for Sudden and Severe Disruption of Municipal Valuation	Passed

2552	An Act to Ensure That All Persons Responsible for a Minor Are Involved in the Decision of Allowing Contact with a Sex Offender	Failed
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SPONSOR: Sen. Mark W. Lawrence

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2535	An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program to Reimburse Volunteers for Gasoline Expenses	No action taken

SPONSOR: Rep. Ann Matlack

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2574	An Act Regarding Municipal Taxes	Failed

SPONSOR: Rep. Anne C. Perry

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2538	An Act to Prohibit a Property and Casualty Insurance Company Licensed in the State from Refusing to Insure a Residence in the State Because of a Loss Sustained to a Residence in Another State	Tabled

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy Lynn Quint

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2555	An Act to Protect Lives by Including Compounds, Mixtures or Substances of Methamphetamines to the Crimes of Aggravated Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs	No action taken

SPONSOR: Rep. Erin R. Sheehan

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2560	An Act to Establish the Animal Law Response Team	No action taken

SPONSOR: Sen. Trey Stewart

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2583	An Act to Prohibit Abandonment of Children in Hospital Emergency Rooms	Passed

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

SPONSOR: **Rep. Morgan Rielly**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2531	JOINT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER EVAN GERSHKOVICH AND MEMORIALIZING THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT FOR HIS RELEASE	No action taken

TABLED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

AFTER DEADLINE BILL REQUESTS

SPONSOR: **Sen. Anne Beebe-Center**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2512	An Act to Implement Innovative Systems to Provide Lobster Harvesters and Other Marine Resources Harvesters with Greater Access to Areas Where Fishing Has Been Restricted Due to Federal Right Whale Regulations	Tabled 03/23/23