

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. TROY D. 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 E. DAUGHTRY
SEN. HAROLD "TREY" STEWART, III
SEN. LISA M. KEIM
REP. MAUREEN FITZGERALD TERRY
REP. KRISTEN CLOUTIER
REP. BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM
REP. AMY B. ARATA

**December 21, 2023
1:00 P.M.
REVISED AGENDA**

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2023 & NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETINGS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	Decision
	REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
47	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fiscal Report (Director Nolan)	Information
52	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Legislative Studies Report (Director Fox)	Information
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Personnel Committee	
	OLD BUSINESS	
59	Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot (No Action Required)	Information
60	Item #2: Acceptance of the Annual Report of the Loring Development Authority of Maine	Decision
	NEW BUSINESS	
115	Item #1 Funding of annual dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) for State fiscal year 2024	Decision
121	Item #2 Request to authorize transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance to Blaine House Renovation and Repairs Fund	Decision

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|-----|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 122 | Item #3 | Request from the Maine District of the National Speech and Debate Association to hold 2024 Dale Denno Memorial NSDA Qualifying Tournament in the State House | Decision |
| 123 | Item #4 | Request from the YMCA Youth and Government Program to hold the 2024 Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex | Decision |
| 124 | Item #5 | Request to commission portraits of former U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen | Decision |

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
November 9, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the November 9, 2023 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 12:12 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 (via Zoom), Representative Terry (via Zoom), Representative Cloutier, and Representative Arata

Absent: Representative Faulkingham

Legislative Officers: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Rob Hunt, Clerk of the House
Ed Charbonneau, Revisor of Statutes
Christopher Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Nik Rende, Director, Office of Legislative Information Technology

President Jackson convened the meeting at 12:12 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

President Jackson announced his intention to take items out of order, and hearing no objection, moved to New Business, Item 3.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3: Procedures for Deciding Legislative Bill Requests and Consideration of Bill Requests for the Second Regular Session.

Ms. Gresser reviewed the procedures for the review of Legislative Bill Requests and the proposed protocol for deciding those requests.

Motion: That the Legislative Council approves the proposed protocol for deciding Legislative Bill Requests. Motion by Sen. Stewart. Second by Sen. Daughtry **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1**, with Representative Faulkingham absent).

The Legislative Council proceeded to consider and vote on two hundred eighty three (283) bill requests in accordance with the adopted protocol, and using an electronic voting system. The Legislative Council authorized fifty-eight (58) bills for introduction in the Second Regular Session. Nine (9) bill requests were withdrawn by the sponsors prior to the Legislative Council's vote. The Legislative Council's action on the bill requests is attached.

President Jackson then returned to the printed agenda.

SUMMARY OF JUNE 30, 2023 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for June 30, 2023 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Daughtry. Second by Senator Vitelli. **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1**, with Representative Faulkingham absent).

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

Fiscal Report

President Jackson drew the Legislative Council's attention in the Council's meeting materials to the written fiscal report prepared by Christopher Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review.

Studies Report

President Jackson drew the Legislative Council's attention in the Council's meeting materials to the studies report prepared by Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee

President Jackson reported that the Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, July 27, 2023, to consider the following matters:

1. Restructuring of the Legislative Information Technology Office

The committee resumed its review of the Legislative Information Technology Office (LIT) staffing and restructuring proposal developed to address the Legislature's increased needs for information technology resources and support, which was initially presented to the committee at its March 8, 2023 meeting. The Personnel Committee members noted that the Legislature's reliance on information technology resources and support has significantly increased as the Legislature moves to improve the efficiency of internal operations, enhance member and staff access to information, facilitate the production of and access to legislative documents, and enhance public access to,

transparency of, and participation in the legislative process. The committee approved the plan as proposed and voted to recommend approval of the proposal to the full Legislative Council. The Legislative Council has since approved by ballot the LIT staffing and restructuring proposal, so no additional Legislative Council action is required.

2. Planning for the 2024 Harassment Prevention Training

The committee reviewed options for harassment prevention training for the upcoming legislative session. The committee endorsed the plan of holding lengthier, introductory trainings during the First Regular Session; and during the Second Regular Session, holding a large group review of the basic information, paired with optional small trainings for legislators, staff and lobbyists who wished to discuss topics in more depth in small group settings. The committee approved conducting an onsite training for legislators in the House Chamber, ideally on the first day of the Second Regular Session, and asked the Executive Director and the Clerk of the House to work together on details. No Legislative Council action is required.

3. Employee Request to Transfer Sick Leave to Another Employee

The committee reviewed an employee's request to transfer sick leave to a sick employee in the same office. Committee members noted that the Executive Branch has a policy that allows, on a case-by-case basis, for the establishment of a catastrophic leave bank to benefit an employee that suffers a catastrophic accident or illness, and that the Legislature has such a policy in the past. The committee asked the Executive Director to research the circumstances that led to the elimination of the Legislature's policy. The committee supported the employee's request and voted to recommend approval of the request to the full Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council has since approved by ballot this employee's request to transfer sick leave to another employee, so no additional Council action is required.

4. Performance Evaluations

The committee reviewed the performances of:

- Nik Rende, Director of the Office of Legislative Information Technology; and
- Peter Schleck, Director of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability.

The Personnel Committee voted unanimously to approve a step increase for Mr. Rende and Mr. Schleck. No Legislative Council action is required.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: **That the Legislative Council accept the funds contributed for the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in**

Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities, and upon completion of appointments to the commission, authorize the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Convene.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: September 28, 2023
Vote: 10-0-0 Passed

Motion: In accordance with the unanimous recommendations of the Personnel Committee, that the Legislative Council establish legislative position count in the Legislative Information Technology Office for one Information Security Administrator, one Virtual Meeting Administrator, two Senior Program Analysts and one session-only Desktop Support Administrator, and reclassify one Programmer Analyst position to one Chamber System Administrator position. And Further, the Legislative Council directs the Executive Director to establish the positions by financial order, to be self-funded from available balances in FY 24 and FY 25, and to prepare and submit implementing language reflecting the decisions of the Legislative Council for inclusion in the committee amendment to the Governor's next supplemental budget bill.

Motion by: President Troy Jackson
Date: October 13, 2023
Vote: 8-0-2-0 Passed

Motion: That, because a majority of the appointments have been made to the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine, in accordance Resolves 2023, chapter 93, the Legislative Council authorizes the Commission to convene.

Motion by: President Troy Jackson
Date: October 16, 2023
Vote: 8-0-2-0 Passed

Motion: That the Legislative Council approve the request presented to the Personnel Committee on July 27, 2023 from a Legislative staff member to transfer sick leave from that staff member to another employee within that same office, notwithstanding any policy to the contrary.

Motion by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross
Date: October 16, 2023
Vote: 9-0-1-0 Passed

Motion: That, because a majority of the appointments have been made to the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities, in accordance Resolves 2023, chapter 100, the Legislative Council authorizes the Blue Ribbon Commission to convene.

Motion by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross
Date: October 4, 2023
Vote: 9-0-1-0 Passed

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State.

Motion by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross
Date: October 20, 2023
Vote: 9-0-1-0 Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Proposed Document Service Fee Schedule for 131st Legislature, Second Regular Session

Ms. Gresser presented the proposed Document Service fee schedule submitted by Clerk of the House, Robert Hunt, for the Second Regular Session. The fees remain the same as the First Regular Session.

Motion: That the Legislative Council approves proposed Document Service Fee Schedule for the 131st Legislature Second Regular Session. Motion by Senator Vitelli. Second by Senator Daughtry. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2**, with Senator Stewart and Representative Faulkingham absent).

Item #2: Legislative Council meeting schedule for 2023

Ms. Gresser reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the Legislative Council for 2023, and suggested removing the December 2024 date, as it will follow the convening of a new Legislature..

Motion: That the Legislative Council approve the 2023 Legislative Council meeting schedule, with the removal of the entry for December 2024. Motion by Senator Keim. Second by Senator Vitelli. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2**, with Senator Stewart and Representative Faulkingham absent)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Senator Keim asked the chair about the process for considering bill requests filed after the established cloture deadline. President Jackson responded that his general preference is that after-deadline bill requests be taken up at Legislative Council meetings, but that occasionally timing concerns result in requests to the Presiding Officers to authorize the circulation of a ballot.

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

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Legislative Council Action on Legislative Bill Requests
November 9, 2023

		Action
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY		
LR 2651	Representative Matlack of St. George Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier	FAILED
LR 2721	Representative Light Lookner of Portland Resolve, to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess the Feasibility of Making Fort Gorges a State Park	FAILED
LR 2724	Representative Doudera of Camden An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies Rates by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators	FAILED
LR 2781	Representative Paul of Winterport An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport	FAILED
LR 2814	Senator Bailey of York An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Municipal Kennels by Changing the Licensing Body of Municipal Kennel Licenses from the Municipality to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry	FAILED
LR 2837	Representative Hall of Wilton An Act Regarding the Maine Milk Commission's Fees and Pricing	FAILED
LR 2853	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Increase Milk Tier Reimbursements for Organic Dairy Farmers	FAILED
LR 2930	Senator Bennett of Oxford An Act to Improve Maine's Pesticide Use Disclosure Laws	FAILED
LR 2935	Representative Sheehan of Biddeford An Act to Establish the Animal Law Enforcement Response Team	FAILED
LR 2943	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment	FAILED
LR 2951	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Protect Natural Forestry Habitat by Preventing Clear-cutting on Certain Public Lands in Allagash	FAILED

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		Action
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY		
LR 2960	Senator Ingwersen of York An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food	FAILED
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS		
LR 2635	Senator Daughtry of Cumberland An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Infrastructure Improvements at the Loring Development Authority and the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority	FAILED
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY		
LR 2621	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Establish a Civil Rights Unit Within the Office of the Attorney General and Provide for Public Education on Issues Regarding Hate and Bias	PASSED
LR 2670	Representative Milliken of Blue Hill An Act to Provide Tablet Devices for Juveniles at the Long Creek Youth Development Center	FAILED
LR 2729	Representative Campbell of Orrington An Act Regarding the Equitable Reimbursement of Training Costs for Newly Trained Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Who Change Governmental Employers	FAILED
LR 2773	Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin An Act to Reinstate State Police Rural Patrol Services	FAILED
LR 2786	Representative Geiger of Rockland An Act to Implement Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Testing Reform	PASSED
LR 2801	Representative Doudera of Camden An Act Relating to Preventing Suicide by Permitting the Voluntary Waiver of Firearms Rights	PASSED
LR 2831	Senator Carney of Cumberland An Act to Ensure the Safe Disposition of Forfeited Firearms	PASSED
LR 2835	Representative Fay of Raymond An Act to Authorize the Provision of Emergency Medical Treatment for Certain Dogs	PASSED

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		Action
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY		
LR 2838	Representative Malon, II of Biddeford An Act to Require Information on Domestic Terrorism to Be Included in the Department of Public Safety's Annual Report and Add Minimum Training Standards on Domestic Terrorism and Hate Crimes to the Standards Established by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for Law Enforcement Agencies	FAILED
LR 2840	Senator Harrington of York An Act to Fill All Vacant Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board	FAILED
LR 2857	Representative Shaw of Auburn An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code	PASSED
LR 2868	Representative Roeder of Bangor An Act to Support Adequate Staffing in Fire Departments Through Grants	FAILED
LR 2876	Representative Roeder of Bangor An Act to Offset the Cost to Public Agencies and to Municipalities for Training New Emergency Medical Services Personnel	FAILED
LR 2878	Senator Moore of Washington An Act to Provide Funding for Dispatchers at the Washington County Regional Communications Center	FAILED
LR 2883	Senator Moore of Washington An Act to Provide Funding for Positions in the Washington County Sheriff's Office	FAILED
LR 2905	Representative Salisbury of Westbrook An Act Regarding the Authority to Transport Prisoners Confined in Jail and the Use of Physical Force with Respect to Prisoners and Persons Who Have Been Arrested	FAILED
LR 2906	President Jackson of Aroostook Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Professionals	PASSED
LR 2907	Representative Hasenfus of Readfield An Act to Exclude Certain Operating Under the Influence Crimes from the Immunity Provisions That Are Triggered When Law Enforcement Is Called for a Suspected Overdose	PASSED

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		Action
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY		
LR 2908	Senator Carney of Cumberland An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes	FAILED
LR 2920	Representative Stover of Boothbay An Act to Create a Victim Advocate for Victims and Survivors of Operating Under the Influence Crashes	FAILED
LR 2939	Representative O'Connell of Brewer Resolve, to Review Fatalities Occurring While an Operator Was Under the Influence and Subsequent Prosecution of Those Occurrences	PASSED
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS		
LR 2610	Senator Pouliot of Kennebec An Act Regarding the Carrying Forward of School Administrative Unit Fund Balances	FAILED
LR 2616	Representative Underwood of Presque Isle An Act to Require Elementary School Students to Learn Cursive Writing	FAILED
LR 2631	Senator Farrin of Somerset An Act to Require Fentanyl Use Prevention Education and Drug Poisoning Awareness in Grades 6 to 12	PASSED
LR 2683	Senator Bennett of Oxford An Act Regarding Temperature Standards for School Buildings	FAILED
LR 2710	Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc An Act to Help Public Schools Affected by Disasters to Apply for State Construction Funding and to Establish an Emergency School Construction Fund	FAILED
LR 2735	Senator Stewart of Aroostook An Act to Align Background Checks Between the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services	PASSED
LR 2751	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Provide Funding Through the School Funding Formula to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics	PASSED
LR 2791	Representative Millett of Cape Elizabeth	FAILED

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		Action
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS		
	An Act to Establish a Pilot Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	
LR 2799	Representative Paul of Winterport	FAILED
	An Act to Require the Return of School Budget Surplus Funds to Their Respective Municipalities	
LR 2800	Senator Grohoski of Hancock	FAILED
	An Act to Equalize Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy	
LR 2827	Representative Kuhn of Falmouth	FAILED
	An Act to Provide Education and Training to School Personnel to Recognize and Treat Seizures	
LR 2861	Senator Ingwersen of York	FAILED
	An Act to Lower the Minimum Age Requirement for the Maine High School Equivalency Diploma	
LR 2889	Representative Gattine of Westbrook	FAILED
	An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Schools	
LR 2901	Representative Walker of Naples	FAILED
	An Act to Provide Statewide Equity in Public Education	
LR 2918	Representative Bagshaw of Windham	FAILED
	An Act to Remove the Enrollment Cap on Maine's Virtual Charter Schools	
LR 2947	Representative Collamore of Pittsfield	FAILED
	An Act to Allow Equitable Access to College Tuition Funds by Reallocating Funds from the Free Community College Program to the Maine State Grant Program	
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY		
LR 2609	Senator Curry of Waldo	FAILED
	An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	
LR 2637	Representative Cyrway of Albion	FAILED

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		Action
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY		
	An Act Relating to Eminent Domain for Land for Electric Transmission Lines	
LR 2649	Representative Zeigler of Montville	PASSED
	An Act to Increase the Number of Commissioners on the Public Utilities Commission	
LR 2654	Senator Beebe-Center of Knox	FAILED
	An Act to Repeal the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank Act	
LR 2675	Representative Reckitt of South Portland	WITHDRAWN
	An Act to Establish Protections to Prevent Children from Accessing Pornography	
LR 2677	Senator Lawrence of York	FAILED
	An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Public Advocate in Developing and Advocating for Legislation	
LR 2719	Representative Cyrway of Albion	FAILED
	An Act to Consider Alternative Transmission Technology for the Aroostook Renewable Gateway That Improves Socioeconomic Benefit Without Sacrificing Climate Change Initiatives	
LR 2740	Representative Campbell of Orrington	FAILED
	An Act to Prohibit the Use of Caller Identification Spoofing	
LR 2743	Representative Smith of Palermo	FAILED
	Resolve, Requiring a Transparent Public Hearing Regarding the Finalized Route of the Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure	
LR 2755	Representative Runte, Jr. of York	FAILED
	An Act to Enhance Electric Utility Performance-based Ratemaking	
LR 2780	Representative Foster of Dexter	PASSED
	An Act to Continue Arrearage Management Program Availability for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers	
LR 2783	Representative Foster of Dexter	FAILED
	Resolve, to Reconsider Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	
LR 2787	Representative Geiger of Rockland	FAILED

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		Action
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY		
	An Act to Establish Solar-ready New Construction Requirements	
LR 2834	Representative Riseman of Harrison	FAILED
	An Act to Repeal the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank Act	
LR 2844	President Jackson of Aroostook	WITHDRAWN
	An Act to Require Feasibility Studies for Energy Transmission Projects	
LR 2855	President Jackson of Aroostook	PASSED
	An Act to Expand the Availability of Heat Pump Rebates in Certain Areas of the State	
LR 2863	Senator Grohoski of Hancock	FAILED
	An Act Regarding Fair Service for All Electricity Supply Customers	
LR 2864	Representative Arford of Brunswick	FAILED
	An Act to Enhance Transparency and Informed Decision Making for Subscribers of Maine Community Solar Farms	
LR 2865	Senator Grohoski of Hancock	FAILED
	An Act to Ensure That Community Solar Subscriptions Benefit Low-income Customers	
LR 2866	Representative Zeigler of Montville	FAILED
	An Act to Align Maine Law Regarding Energy Portfolios with Those of the New England Independent System Operator	
LR 2873	Representative Strout of Harrington	FAILED
	Resolve, to Protect Maine's Right to Energy Independence by Requiring the State to Bid on Lobster Management Area 1	
LR 2896	Senator Reny of Lincoln	PASSED
	An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District	
LR 2897	Representative Geiger of Rockland	FAILED
	An Act to Enhance Regulatory Decision Making Regarding Energy	
LR 2914	Senator Keim of Oxford	FAILED
	Resolve, to Require Legislative Approval of Increased Costs to Ratepayers of the Transmission Project Approved Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	

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		Action
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY		
LR 2915	Senator Keim of Oxford An Act to Prohibit the Use of Eminent Domain to Take Land Needed for Any Project Approved Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	WITHDRAWN
LR 2924	Representative Foster of Dexter An Act Regarding Energy Infrastructure Development	FAILED
LR 2953	Senator LaFountain of Kennebec An Act to Protect Maine Landowners by Requiring the Examination of Alternative Pathways for Energy Transmission Lines	FAILED
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES		
LR 2634	Representative Craven of Lewiston An Act to Reclassify a Section of the Androscoggin River to Class B	FAILED
LR 2686	Representative Soboleski of Phillips An Act Regarding the Disposal of Wind Turbine Blades	FAILED
LR 2715	Representative Dunphy of Embden An Act to Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to Issue Stop-work Orders	FAILED
LR 2798	Representative Dill of Old Town An Act Regarding Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services	PASSED
LR 2826	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Protect Maine's Supply Chain and Consumers by Requiring Major Substantive Rulemaking for Certain Emissions Standards	FAILED
LR 2839	Representative Hepler of Woolwich An Act Regarding Responsibility for Actions Intended to Increase the Use of Reusable and Refillable Beverage Containers	FAILED
LR 2849	Representative Bell of Yarmouth An Act to Strengthen Storm Water Infrastructure	FAILED
LR 2867	Senator Grohoski of Hancock An Act to Allow the Reuse of Food Containers by More than One Customer	FAILED
LR 2898	Senator Nangle of Cumberland	FAILED

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		Action
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES		
	An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund	
LR 2899	Senator Nangle of Cumberland An Act Regarding Municipal Shoreland Zoning Enforcement	PASSED
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
LR 2611	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Restore Access to the MaineCare Program for Certain Residents	FAILED
LR 2625	Senator Libby of Cumberland An Act to Require the Reporting of Alpha-gal Syndrome	FAILED
LR 2630	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Strengthen Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Standards by Establishing a Family Advocacy Program for Military Families	FAILED
LR 2632	Representative Craven of Lewiston An Act to Create an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Coordinator Position Within the Department of Health and Human Services	FAILED
LR 2633	Representative Craven of Lewiston An Act to Establish a Dementia Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Types of Dementia	PASSED
LR 2656	Representative Fredericks of Sanford Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to Reestablish a One-to-one Syringe Exchange Requirement	FAILED
LR 2671	Representative Milliken of Blue Hill An Act to Provide MaineCare Coverage to All Residents of County Jails and Their Dependents	FAILED
LR 2673	Representative Mathieson of Kittery An Act Regarding Continuance of MaineCare Coverage for up to 12 Months for Juveniles Detained in the Long Creek Youth Development Center	FAILED
LR 2674	Representative Mathieson of Kittery An Act to Create an Independent Child Advocate Ombudsman Service	FAILED
LR 2687	Representative Simmons of Waldoboro	FAILED

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		Action
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
	An Act to Require Drug Testing of Clients of Drug Treatment Facilities	
LR 2711	Representative Graham of North Yarmouth	FAILED
	An Act to Create and Support a Youth Crisis Receiving Center	
LR 2714	Representative Mastraccio of Sanford	FAILED
	An Act to Support Shelters for the Unhoused	
LR 2730	Senator Baldacci of Penobscot	FAILED
	An Act to Provide Dental Managed Care	
LR 2738	Representative Madigan of Waterville	FAILED
	An Act to Equalize MaineCare Members' Health Care Rights Regarding Transportation	
LR 2753	Representative Craven of Lewiston	PASSED
	An Act Regarding the Cost of Copies of Medical Records	
LR 2754	Representative Kuhn of Falmouth	WITHDRAWN
	An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products Through Vending Machines	
LR 2767	Representative Madigan of Waterville	FAILED
	An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	
LR 2782	Representative Cloutier of Lewiston	PASSED
	An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services to Cease Implementation of Electronic Visit Verification for Hospice Providers Unless Mandated by the Federal Government	
LR 2789	Representative Perry of Calais	PASSED
	An Act to Protect Health Care Workers from HIV	
LR 2820	Senator Daughtry of Cumberland	FAILED
	An Act to Strengthen Long-term Care for the People of Maine by Ensuring Adequate Nursing Personnel	
LR 2825	President Jackson of Aroostook	PASSED
	An Act to Ensure Sustainable Reimbursement for Child Care Providers and to Support the Expansion of Child Care Services	
LR 2845	Senator Bennett of Oxford	FAILED

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		Action
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers	
LR 2847	Representative Dhalac of South Portland	FAILED
	An Act to Improve Equity in Health Care Access by Reimbursing Community Health Workers Through MaineCare	
LR 2854	President Jackson of Aroostook	WITHDRAWN
	An Act to Make Background Checks Efficient and Consistent for All Child Care Workers	
LR 2860	Senator Brenner of Cumberland	FAILED
	Resolve, to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State	
LR 2870	Representative Roeder of Bangor	PASSED
	An Act to Increase Oversight by the Department of Health and Human Services over Benefits Owed to Foster Children	
LR 2879	Representative Light Lookner of Portland	FAILED
	An Act to Establish Sanctioned Areas for Emergency Encampments in Certain Municipalities	
LR 2910	Senator Rotundo of Androscoggin	PASSED
	An Act to Protect and Enhance Access to Behavioral Health Services in Androscoggin County and Nearby Communities	
LR 2911	Representative Graham of North Yarmouth	FAILED
	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Welfare System	
LR 2913	Senator Keim of Oxford	FAILED
	Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Alleviate the Crisis in the Offices of Regional Child Protective Services	
LR 2916	Senator LaFountain of Kennebec	FAILED
	An Act to Establish a Mobile Geropsychiatric Team Pilot Project	
LR 2917	Representative Moonen of Portland	PASSED
	An Act to Prohibit Tobacco Sales near Schools	
LR 2927	Senator Bennett of Oxford	FAILED
	An Act to Ensure Compliance by the Department of Health and Human Services with Federal Rules and Regulations	

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		Action
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
LR 2928	Senator Beebe-Center of Knox An Act to Provide That Persons with Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries Are Subject to the Same Eligibility Standards for Certain Medical Programs	FAILED
LR 2932	Representative Light Lookner of Portland An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Enforcing Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	FAILED
LR 2940	Representative Rana of Bangor An Act to Prohibit Clearing of Unhoused Encampments Without Providing Proper Housing Options	FAILED
LR 2941	Representative Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach An Act to Support Clinicians in Adverse Childhood Experience and Resiliency Assessments	FAILED
LR 2967	Representative Rana of Bangor An Act to Prohibit Clearing Encampments of Unhoused Individuals	FAILED
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES		
LR 2612	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Improve Access to Over-the-counter Contraceptives	FAILED
LR 2646	Senator Baldacci of Penobscot An Act Authorizing Granting Limited Provisional Licenses to Medical School Graduates	FAILED
LR 2676	Representative Milliken of Blue Hill An Act to Mitigate Some of the Risk Involved in Long-term House Rentals	FAILED
LR 2722	Representative Cloutier of Lewiston An Act to Add the State of Maine to the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact	PASSED
LR 2756	Representative Arford of Brunswick An Act to Expand Access to Federally Approved Over-the-counter Contraceptives	WITHDRAWN
LR 2771	Senator Baldacci of Penobscot An Act to Create an Affordable Public Health Insurance Option	FAILED

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		Action
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES		
LR 2790	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Improve Patient Access and Savings from Generic and Biosimilar Prescription Drugs	PASSED
LR 2794	Senator Hickman of Kennebec An Act to Protect Residents of the State from Unfair Use of Credit Scores in Insurance Pricing	PASSED
LR 2795	Senator Tipping of Penobscot An Act to Require Hospitals to Engage in Fair Practices When Selling Medical Debt	PASSED
LR 2796	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Protect Patients from Predatory Medical Credit Card Providers	PASSED
LR 2797	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Medication in Underserved Areas	PASSED
LR 2836	Representative Perry of Calais An Act to Prohibit Property and Casualty Insurance Companies Licensed in This State from Denying Policyholders in This State Insurance on Their Residences in This State Because of a Loss Sustained to a 2nd Home Located in Another State	PASSED
LR 2850	Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Payroll Processors	FAILED
LR 2872	Representative Perry of Calais An Act to Exempt Certain Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies from Covering Towing and Storage Charges for Certain Vehicles	FAILED
LR 2874	Representative Crafts of Newcastle An Act to Enact the Interstate Counseling Compact to Address Inequities in Access to Clinical Counseling Services and Increase Maine's Provider Workforce	PASSED
LR 2880	Representative Morris of Turner An Act to Join the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact	FAILED
LR 2881	Representative Morris of Turner An Act to Join the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact	PASSED

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		Action
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES		
LR 2884	Representative Morris of Turner An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Provide Coverage for Towing and Storing Certain Motor Vehicles	FAILED
LR 2904	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Ensure Access to Non-opioid Medication for Pain Relief	FAILED
LR 2948	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by the Federal Shutdown	PASSED
LR 2961	Representative Perry of Bangor An Act Concerning Health Care Cost Fairness Relating to Pharmacy Benefits Managers	FAILED
LR 2965	Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc An Act to Improve Maine Residents' Oral Health by Strengthening the Dental Hygienist Workforce	FAILED
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE		
LR 2619	Senator Black of Franklin An Act to Allow the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Locate Wounded or Deceased Wildlife	FAILED
LR 2623	Representative Boyer, Jr. of Poland An Act to Designate the Landlocked Atlantic Salmon as a State Heritage Fish	FAILED
LR 2647	Senator Lawrence of York An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Reimburse Volunteers of the So-called Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program for Gas Expenses	FAILED
LR 2672	Representative Landry of Farmington An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses	PASSED
LR 2816	Senator Black of Franklin An Act Regarding the Issuance of Permits to Hunt Bear Using Bait on State Land	FAILED
LR 2933	Representative Hasenfus of Readfield	PASSED

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		Action
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE		
	An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Maine Lakes	
INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS		
LR 2636	Senator Stewart of Aroostook An Act to Establish the Maine-Irish Trade Commission and Improve Collaboration with the Country of Ireland	PASSED
LR 2716	Representative Ankeles of Brunswick An Act Regarding the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station and the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund	FAILED
LR 2744	Representative Doudera of Camden An Act to Require Continuing Education for Maine Architects	FAILED
LR 2746	Senator Daughtry of Cumberland An Act to Protect Consumers by Requiring Vendors to Disclose All Fees Related to Purchasing a Concert Ticket	FAILED
LR 2818	Representative Perry of Calais An Act to Update the Maine Self-service Storage Act	FAILED
LR 2858	Senator Curry of Waldo An Act to Provide Additional Funds to Increase the Impact of the Maine Development Foundation	FAILED
LR 2919	President Jackson of Aroostook Resolve, to Provide Additional Options for Plumbing Inspections in the Unorganized Territory	FAILED
LR 2931	Representative Kuhn of Falmouth Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission on Artificial Intelligence	FAILED
LR 2949	Representative Collamore of Pittsfield An Act to Utilize Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce	FAILED
JUDICIARY		
LR 2615	Representative Smith of Palermo An Act to Restrict the Sale or Transfer of Fetal Remains	FAILED

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		Action
JUDICIARY		
LR 2620	Senator Pouliot of Kennebec An Act to Change the Statute of Limitations for a Wrongful Death Action	FAILED
LR 2641	Senator Chipman of Cumberland An Act Regarding the Fees Charged for Keeping Pets	FAILED
LR 2648	Senator Stewart of Aroostook An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction in Juvenile Matters with the United States Department of Defense	FAILED
LR 2650	Representative Light Lookner of Portland An Act to Prevent Homelessness During Repairs for Breach of the Covenant of Habitability	FAILED
LR 2708	Senator Carney of Cumberland An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Attorney-Client E-mail Communications for Residents of Jails and Correctional Facilities	PASSED
LR 2717	Representative Ankeles of Brunswick An Act to Protect Distressed Mortgage Holders from Fraud	FAILED
LR 2731	Representative Hymes of Waldo An Act to Ensure Just Compensation When Eminent Domain Is Declared	FAILED
LR 2747	Representative Cray of Palmyra An Act Regarding the Detention of Juveniles	FAILED
LR 2774	Representative Andrews of Paris An Act to Provide Certainty in Interpretation of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act for Maine Tribes	FAILED
LR 2792	Representative Poirier of Skowhegan An Act to Provide State Recognition for the Kineo Tribe of Malecites	FAILED
LR 2809	Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor An Act to Amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act to Allow Maine Tribes to Benefit from Federal Laws	FAILED
LR 2810	Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor An Act to Remove the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault, Child Molestation and Felony Sex Crimes	FAILED

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		Action
JUDICIARY		
LR 2817	Senator Black of Franklin An Act to Allow Detention of Juveniles for Certain Acts	FAILED
LR 2832	Senator Carney of Cumberland An Act to Support Maine's Public Safety Response to Domestic Violence and Stalking	FAILED
LR 2925	Representative Sayre of Kennebunk An Act to Permit Maine Citizens to Prohibit Data Brokers from Holding or Selling Their Personal Data	FAILED
LR 2936	Representative Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach An Act to Enhance the Effectiveness of Juvenile Diversion Programs	FAILED
LR 2957	Senator Rafferty of York An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Abuse and Violence	PASSED
LR 2958	Senator Chipman of Cumberland An Act to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness	FAILED
LR 2959	Senator Carney of Cumberland An Act to Advance Equality for Wabanaki Nations	FAILED
LR 2964	Representative Collamore of Pittsfield An Act to Ensure Closure in Divorce Proceedings in Certain Cases	FAILED
LABOR AND HOUSING		
LR 2617	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Enact a Farm Worker Bill of Rights	PASSED
LR 2644	Representative Drinkwater of Milford An Act to Pay Agricultural Workers the State Minimum Wage	FAILED
LR 2645	Representative Light Lookner of Portland An Act to Update Child Labor Laws to Allow Individuals Who Appeared in Monetized Online Videos as Minors to Seek Deletion of Content and to Require Trust Accounts to Be Established for Such Minors	FAILED
LR 2752	Senator Daughtry of Cumberland An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	FAILED

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		Action
LABOR AND HOUSING		
LR 2769	Representative Lemelin of Chelsea An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Earned Paid Leave	FAILED
LR 2784	Representative Geiger of Rockland An Act to Change the Minimum Wage to a Living Wage	FAILED
LR 2803	Senator Pouliot of Kennebec An Act to Increase Housing Options in Maine	FAILED
LR 2813	Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor An Act to Encourage Business Growth and Improve Employment Benefits by Implementing a Voluntary Paid Medical Leave Program	FAILED
LR 2823	Representative Malon, II of Biddeford An Act to Ensure That Manufactured Housing May Be Built on Lots Where Single-family Dwellings Are Allowed	FAILED
LR 2851	Senator Grohoski of Hancock An Act to Improve Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters	FAILED
LR 2869	Representative Roeder of Bangor An Act to Strengthen Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Rights	PASSED
LR 2871	Representative Crafts of Newcastle An Act to Create the Central Lincoln County Emergency Medical Services Authority	FAILED
LR 2891	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Include Farm Workers in the Laws Establishing Minimum Wage Rates and Overtime Restrictions	WITHDRAWN
LR 2892	Representative Landry of Farmington An Act to Exclude Seasonal Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Seasonal Volunteer Ski Ambassadors and Hosts at Ski Areas from the Minimum Wage Laws	PASSED
LR 2912	Senator Tipping of Penobscot An Act to Improve Maine's Labor Laws by Changing the Laws Governing Collective Bargaining Elections for Certain Public Employees	PASSED
LR 2921	Senator Chipman of Cumberland An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	FAILED

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		Action
LABOR AND HOUSING		
LR 2937	Representative Greenwood of Wales An Act to Create Equity Between Certain Members of the Judicial Branch and the Executive Branch Regarding Maine State Retirement	FAILED
LR 2938	Representative Golek of Harpswell An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System	FAILED
LR 2946	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Create the Commission of Inquiry on Labor and Land Justice	WITHDRAWN
LR 2956	Senator Carney of Cumberland An Act to Enhance Employer and Employee Harmony on Certain State-assisted Projects	FAILED
LR 2962	Senator Tipping of Penobscot An Act to Assist First-time Home Buyers by Increasing Assistance Available from the Maine State Housing Authority	FAILED
LR 2966	Senator Nangle of Cumberland An Act to Remove Barriers to Heating Assistance for Low-income and Moderate-income Maine Residents	FAILED
MARINE RESOURCES		
LR 2785	Senator Moore of Washington An Act to Authorize Medical Waivers for Menhaden Fishing Licenses	PASSED
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
LR 2640	Representative Hepler of Woolwich An Act to Repeal the Law Relating to Payments from the Town of Georgetown for MacMahan Island	FAILED
LR 2642	Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin An Act to Eliminate State Agency Review of Program Evaluation Reports Prior to Release of Reports to the Government Oversight Committee	FAILED
LR 2643	Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin An Act to Repeal the Law Requiring Initiation of Agency Routine Technical Rule-making Proceedings upon Receipt of a Petition of 150 Voters	FAILED
LR 2655	Senator Beebe-Center of Knox	FAILED

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		Action
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
	An Act to Eliminate Certain Reporting Requirements for Special Districts	
LR 2669	Representative Sachs of Freeport Resolve, to Add Legislators to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission	FAILED
LR 2685	Representative Soboleski of Phillips An Act to Move Patriot's Day to Election Day	FAILED
LR 2727	Senator Daughtry of Cumberland Resolve, to Initiate the Procedures to Request the United States Congress's Joint Committee on the Library to Replace 2 Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection	FAILED
LR 2733	Representative Montell of Gardiner Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to Improve the Health of Persons Working in or Visiting the State House by Increasing the Building's Air Exchange Rate to 20 Percent	FAILED
LR 2734	Representative Montell of Gardiner Resolve, to Protect Legislators, Legislative Workers and the Public from Exposure to Harmful Substances	FAILED
LR 2737	Representative Madigan of Waterville An Act to Require Compensation for Persons with Lived Experience Participating in Legislative and State Studies and Commissions	FAILED
LR 2739	Representative Madigan of Waterville An Act to Require Health Care and Substance Use Disorder Legislation to Be Supported by Relevant Data and Analysis	FAILED
LR 2742	Representative Davis, Jr. of East Machias Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to Conduct an Environmental Assessment of Certain Real Property in Machiasport	FAILED
LR 2745	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland Resolve, to Increase Participation in the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission	WITHDRAWN
LR 2793	Representative Andrews of Paris An Act to Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training	PASSED

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		Action
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
LR 2828	Representative Walker of Naples An Act to Assist Municipalities to Maintain Safe Public Ways	FAILED
LR 2843	Representative Riseman of Harrison An Act to Repeal Reporting Requirements for Special Districts Regarding Outstanding Debt	FAILED
LR 2882	Senator Grohoski of Hancock An Act to Ensure Determinations Made by the State Are Free from Unethical, Unsafe or Illegal Interference by Artificial Intelligence	FAILED
LR 2887	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Improve Public Sector Workers' Rights	FAILED
LR 2890	Representative Gattine of Westbrook An Act to Address Chronic Understaffing of State Positions	FAILED
LR 2942	Representative Rana of Bangor An Act to Standardize Municipal Public Health Policies	FAILED
LR 2955	Representative Greenwood of Wales An Act to Establish the Process for the Selection of Delegates for a Convention Called Under Article V of the United States Constitution	FAILED
TAXATION		
LR 2622	Senator Libby of Cumberland An Act to Eliminate the Excise Tax on Certain Recreational Vehicles	FAILED
LR 2653	Senator Reny of Lincoln An Act to Clarify the Property Tax Exemption for Air Pollution Control Facilities	PASSED
LR 2694	Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin An Act Regarding the Poverty Abatement Timeline	FAILED
LR 2709	Representative Bridgeo of Augusta An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Create Lakefront Protection Improvement Districts	FAILED
LR 2713	Senator LaFountain of Kennebec An Act to Assist Disabled Veterans in Applying for Excise Tax Exemptions	PASSED

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		Action
TAXATION		
LR 2718	Representative Ankeles of Brunswick An Act Regarding the Property Value Reassessment Process	PASSED
LR 2725	Representative Lanigan of Sanford An Act to Eliminate the Lodging Tax for Maine Seniors	FAILED
LR 2726	Representative Lanigan of Sanford An Act to Eliminate the Taxation on Certain Senior Housing	FAILED
LR 2728	Representative Jackson of Oxford An Act to Amend the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit	FAILED
LR 2736	Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc An Act to Support Child Care Workers by Exempting Child Care Worker Subsidies from State Income Tax	FAILED
LR 2750	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Align Maine Tax Exemption Standards for Religious Organizations with Federal Standards	FAILED
LR 2768	Representative Bridgeo of Augusta An Act Regarding Certain Disabled Veterans and the Property Tax Fairness Credit	FAILED
LR 2770	Senator Baldacci of Penobscot An Act to Refund Gasoline Taxes Paid by Nonprofit Transportation Providers	FAILED
LR 2772	Senator Rotundo of Androscoggin An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	PASSED
LR 2779	Senator Black of Franklin An Act to Reestablish the Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens	FAILED
LR 2788	Representative Hepler of Woolwich An Act Regarding Excise Taxes on Antique Automobiles	FAILED
LR 2811	Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Income Tax	FAILED

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		Action
TAXATION		
LR 2821	Senator Keim of Oxford An Act to Allow Disabled Veterans to Receive an Excise Tax Exemption Regardless of Whether They Have Disabled Veterans Registration Plates	FAILED
LR 2833	Representative Malon, II of Biddeford An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Land Value Taxation	FAILED
LR 2842	Representative Russell of Verona Island An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief	FAILED
LR 2846	Senator Brakey of Androscoggin An Act to Address Inflation by Eliminating the Sales Tax on Gold and Silver Coinage and Bullion, Establishing Home Energy Savings Accounts, Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance for Seniors in Residential Care and Nursing Facilities and Requesting an Audit of the Federal Reserve	FAILED
LR 2848	Representative Terry of Gorham An Act to Amend the Recapture Penalty Imposed Under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law	FAILED
LR 2852	Representative Lemelin of Chelsea An Act to Exempt Motor Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Stationed Out-of-state from Excise Tax	FAILED
LR 2856	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Provide Investment Incentives to Keep the Portland Sea Dogs in the State	FAILED
LR 2859	Representative White of Waterville An Act to Provide a Sales Tax Exemption to Incorporated Nonprofit Member Organizations to Promote Career and Technical Education	FAILED
LR 2900	Representative Russell of Verona Island An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Municipal Property Tax Deferral Programs	FAILED
LR 2902	Representative Terry of Gorham An Act to Enhance the State Child Tax Credit by Establishing the Working Families Child Tax Credit Fund	FAILED
LR 2909	Senator Chipman of Cumberland An Act to Establish an Employer Commuter Benefits Law	FAILED

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		Action
TAXATION		
LR 2922	Representative Perry of Bangor An Act to Decrease Property Taxes Through the Property Tax Deferral Program and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement to Municipalities	FAILED
LR 2926	Senator Guerin of Penobscot An Act to Allow Nonprofit Organizations with Multiple Purposes to Receive Maine Tax Benefits	FAILED
LR 2929	Senator Pierce of Cumberland An Act to Support Municipalities by Repealing the Law Limiting the Municipal Property Tax Levy	PASSED
LR 2945	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act to Remove the Exemption from Sales and Use Tax for Automobiles Purchased for Use as Rentals	PASSED
LR 2950	Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Excise Tax on Camper Trailers	FAILED
LR 2963	Senator Tipping of Penobscot An Act to Assist Residents of the State Who Have High Rents	FAILED
TRANSPORTATION		
LR 2614	Representative Strout of Harrington Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs	FAILED
LR 2639	Representative Hepler of Woolwich Resolve, Designating Route 127 in Arrowsic as the Private Merwin A. Delano Memorial Highway	FAILED
LR 2822	Senator Stewart of Aroostook An Act to Require Flame-retardant Seats on School Buses Manufactured After 2024	PASSED
LR 2824	Representative Malon, II of Biddeford Resolve, to Rename the Bridge Connecting Main Street in Biddeford to Main Street in Saco the General Wallace H. Nutting Memorial Bridge	FAILED
LR 2885	Representative Morris of Turner An Act to Enhance Legislative Oversight of Rules Regulating Electric Vehicles	FAILED

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		Action
TRANSPORTATION		
LR 2934	Senator Chipman of Cumberland An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Issue General Issuance License Plates	FAILED
LR 2952	Representative Greenwood of Wales An Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Issue a Gadsden Flag License Plate	FAILED
LR 2954	Representative Carlow of Buxton An Act Authorizing the Secretary of State to Issue Commemorative License Plates in Honor of America's Semiquincentennial	FAILED
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS		
LR 2613	President Jackson of Aroostook An Act to Strengthen Maine Veterans' Homes with Increased and Ongoing Funding	FAILED
LR 2618	Representative Osher of Orono An Act to Prohibit Paramilitary Training Camps	PASSED
LR 2624	Representative Light Lookner of Portland An Act to Ban Paramilitary Training Camps	FAILED
LR 2626	Senator Baldacci of Penobscot An Act to Prohibit Paramilitary Training by Unauthorized Persons	FAILED
LR 2628	Representative Boyer, Jr. of Poland An Act to Remove the Universal Symbol Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products	FAILED
LR 2638	Senator Daughtry of Cumberland An Act to Update the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality	FAILED
LR 2741	Senator Farrin of Somerset An Act to Provide Funding For Maine Veterans' Homes to Support Ongoing Operations	FAILED
LR 2812	Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor An Act to Prohibit Noncitizen Participation in the Cannabis Industry	FAILED

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		Action
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS		
LR 2841	Representative Collings of Portland An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of an Off-track Betting Facility to Receive Funding When the Facility Is Sold or Relocates	PASSED
LR 2862	Representative Andrews of Paris An Act to Combat Racketeering by Foreign Organizations in Maine Cannabis Markets	PASSED
LR 2875	Representative Cloutier of Lewiston An Act to Provide Greater Parity in Campaign Financing by Including Child Care as an Allowable Expense	FAILED
LR 2877	Senator Hickman of Kennebec An Act to Increase Transparency in State Government by Expanding the Definition of "Lobbying" to Include Influencing the Procurement of Goods and Services and to Include Supporting or Opposing the Adoption of a Rule of a Department or Agency of the State	FAILED
LR 2903	Representative Soboleski of Phillips An Act to Provide Investigative Authority to the Maine State Police, Sheriffs and Local Police Regarding Maine's Recreational Cannabis Laws and Ordinances to Ensure Proper Enforcement	FAILED
LR 2944	Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland An Act Regarding Quality of Care for Maine's Veterans	PASSED

Total number of bills accepted: 58
Total number of bills tabled: 0
Total number of bills screened: 283

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
November 16, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the November 16, 2023 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 10:17 a.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 (via Zoom), Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Arata

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

President Jackson convened the meeting at 10:17 a.m. with a quorum of members present.

President Jackson announced his intention to take items out of order, and hearing no objection, moved to New Business, Item 2.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3: Procedures for Deciding Appeals for Bill Requests for the Second Regular Session

Ms. Gresser reviewed the procedures for the review of Legislative Bill Requests and the proposed protocol for deciding those requests.

The Legislative Council proceeded to consider and vote on one hundred five (105) appeals in accordance with the outlined protocol, and using an electronic voting system. The Legislative Council authorized forty-two (42) bills for introduction in the Second Regular Session. Seven (7) bill requests were withdrawn by the sponsors prior to the Legislative Council's vote. The Legislative Council's action on the bill requests is attached.

President Jackson then returned to the printed agenda.

In the interests of time, the Legislative Council deferred acceptance of the summary of the Council meeting held on November 9, 2023, until the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES

Fiscal Report; Studies Report

President Jackson drew the Legislative Council's attention in the Council's meeting materials to the written fiscal report prepared by Christopher Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, and the studies report prepared by Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: November 9, 2023
Vote: 8-0-2-0 Passed

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: November 13, 2023
Vote: 7-0-3-0 Passed

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care Education

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: November 7, 2023
Vote: 7-0-3-0 Passed

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Criminal Records Review Committee.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: November 2, 2023
Vote: 7-0-3-0 Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Acceptance of the Annual Report of the Loring Development Authority of Maine

In the interests of time, the Legislative Council deferred acceptance of the Annual Report of the Loring Development Authority of Maine until the Council's next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

President Jackson reminded members that the annual Legislative Employee Appreciation event, and the Recognition of Service Awards would take place immediately following the Legislative Council meeting, and invited members who were able to attend.

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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	Action
Representative Ankeles of Brunswick	
LR 2716	FAILED
An Act Regarding the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station and the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund	
Representative Bagshaw of Windham	
LR 2918	FAILED
An Act to Remove the Enrollment Cap on Maine's Virtual Charter Schools	
Senator Baldacci of Penobscot	
LR 2730	FAILED
An Act to Provide Dental Managed Care	
Senator Bennett of Oxford	
LR 2845	PASSED
An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers	
LR 2927	FAILED
An Act to Ensure Compliance by the Department of Health and Human Services with Federal Rules and Regulations	
Representative Boyer, Jr. of Poland	
LR 2628	PASSED
An Act to Remove the Universal Symbol Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products	
Senator Brenner of Cumberland	
LR 2860	PASSED
Resolve, to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State	
Representative Carlow of Buxton	
LR 2954	FAILED
An Act Authorizing the Secretary of State to Issue Commemorative License Plates in Honor of America's Semiquincentennial	
Senator Carney of Cumberland	
LR 2832	PASSED

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		Action
Senator Carney of Cumberland		
	An Act to Support Maine's Public Safety Response to Domestic Violence and Stalking	
LR 2908		PASSED
	An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes	
LR 2956		FAILED
	An Act to Enhance Employer and Employee Harmony on Certain State-assisted Projects	
LR 2959		FAILED
	An Act to Advance Equality for Wabanaki Nations	
Senator Chipman of Cumberland		
LR 2921		FAILED
	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	
LR 2958		FAILED
	An Act to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness	
Representative Collamore of Pittsfield		
LR 2947		FAILED
	An Act to Allow Equitable Access to College Tuition Funds by Reallocating Funds from the Free Community College Program to the Maine State Grant Program	
LR 2949		PASSED
	An Act to Utilize Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce	
Representative Craven of Lewiston		
LR 2634		FAILED
	An Act to Reclassify a Section of the Androscoggin River to Class B	
Senator Curry of Waldo		
LR 2609		PASSED
	An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	

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	Action
Senator Curry of Waldo	
LR 2858	FAILED
An Act to Provide Additional Funds to Increase the Impact of the Maine Development Foundation	
Representative Cyrway of Albion	
LR 2637	FAILED
An Act Relating to Eminent Domain for Land for Electric Transmission Lines	
LR 2719	FAILED
An Act to Consider Alternative Transmission Technology for the Aroostook Renewable Gateway That Improves Socioeconomic Benefit Without Sacrificing Climate Change Initiatives	
Senator Daughtry of Cumberland	
LR 2638	PASSED
An Act to Update the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality	
LR 2746	FAILED
An Act to Protect Consumers by Requiring Vendors to Disclose All Fees Related to Purchasing a Concert Ticket	
LR 2752	PASSED
An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	
Representative Doudera of Camden	
LR 2724	FAILED
An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies Rates by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators	
Representative Drinkwater of Milford	
LR 2644	FAILED
An Act to Pay Agricultural Workers the State Minimum Wage	
Representative Dunphy of Embden	
LR 2715	FAILED
An Act to Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to Issue Stop-work Orders	

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		Action
Representative Fredericks of Sanford		
LR 2656		FAILED
	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to Reestablish a One-to-one Syringe Exchange Requirement	
Representative Gattine of Westbrook		
LR 2889		PASSED
	An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Schools	
LR 2890		PASSED
	An Act to Address Chronic Understaffing of State Positions	
Representative Golek of Harpswell		
LR 2938		PASSED
	An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System	
Representative Graham of North Yarmouth		
LR 2711		WITHDRAWN
	An Act to Create and Support a Youth Crisis Receiving Center	
LR 2911		FAILED
	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Welfare System	
Representative Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach		
LR 2936		FAILED
	An Act to Enhance the Effectiveness of Juvenile Diversion Programs	
Representative Greenwood of Wales		
LR 2955		FAILED
	An Act to Establish the Process for the Selection of Delegates for a Convention Called Under Article V of the United States Constitution	
Senator Grohoski of Hancock		
LR 2800		PASSED
	An Act to Equalize Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy	

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		Action
Senator Grohoski of Hancock		
LR 2851	An Act to Improve Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters	FAILED
LR 2863	An Act Regarding Fair Service for All Electricity Supply Customers	PASSED
LR 2865	An Act to Ensure That Community Solar Subscriptions Benefit Low-income Customers	FAILED
LR 2867	An Act to Allow the Reuse of Food Containers by More than One Customer	PASSED
LR 2882	An Act to Ensure Determinations Made by the State Are Free from Unethical, Unsafe or Illegal Interference by Artificial Intelligence	FAILED
Senator Guerin of Penobscot		
LR 2926	An Act to Allow Nonprofit Organizations with Multiple Purposes to Receive Maine Tax Benefits	FAILED
Senator Harrington of York		
LR 2840	An Act to Fill All Vacant Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board	PASSED
Representative Hepler of Woolwich		
LR 2639	Resolve, Designating Route 127 in Arrowsic as the Private Merwin A. Delano Memorial Highway	PASSED
LR 2839	An Act Regarding Responsibility for Actions Intended to Increase the Use of Reusable and Refillable Beverage Containers	PASSED
Representative Hymes of Waldo		
LR 2731	An Act to Ensure Just Compensation When Eminent Domain Is Declared	FAILED

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		Action
Senator Ingwersen of York		
LR 2960	An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food	PASSED
Representative Jackson of Oxford		
LR 2728	An Act to Amend the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit	FAILED
President Jackson of Aroostook		
LR 2612	An Act to Improve Access to Over-the-counter Contraceptives	FAILED
LR 2613	An Act to Strengthen Maine Veterans' Homes with Increased and Ongoing Funding	PASSED
LR 2630	An Act to Strengthen Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Standards by Establishing a Family Advocacy Program for Military Families	PASSED
LR 2856	An Act to Provide Investment Incentives to Keep the Portland Sea Dogs in the State	PASSED
LR 2887	An Act to Improve Public Sector Workers' Rights	WITHDRAWN
LR 2904	An Act to Ensure Access to Non-opioid Medication for Pain Relief	PASSED
LR 2951	An Act to Protect Natural Forestry Habitat by Preventing Clear-cutting on Certain Public Lands in Allagash	FAILED
Senator Keim of Oxford		
LR 2913	Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Alleviate the Crisis in the Offices of Regional Child Protective Services	PASSED
LR 2914		FAILED

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	Action
Senator Keim of Oxford Resolve, to Require Legislative Approval of Increased Costs to Ratepayers of the Transmission Project Approved Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	
Senator LaFountain of Kennebec LR 2916 An Act to Establish a Mobile Geropsychiatric Team Pilot Project	FAILED
Representative Lanigan of Sanford LR 2726 An Act to Eliminate the Taxation on Certain Senior Housing	FAILED
Senator Lawrence of York LR 2647 An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Reimburse Volunteers of the So-called Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program for Gas Expenses	FAILED
LR 2677 An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Public Advocate in Developing and Advocating for Legislation	FAILED
Representative Lemelin of Chelsea LR 2769 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Earned Paid Leave	FAILED
LR 2852 An Act to Exempt Motor Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Stationed Out-of-state from Excise Tax	PASSED
Senator Libby of Cumberland LR 2625 An Act to Require the Reporting of Alpha-gal Syndrome	PASSED
Representative Light Lookner of Portland LR 2932 An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Enforcing Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	PASSED

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	Action
Representative Madigan of Waterville	
LR 2737	FAILED
An Act to Require Compensation for Persons with Lived Experience Participating in Legislative and State Studies and Commissions	
LR 2738	PASSED
An Act to Equalize MaineCare Members' Health Care Rights Regarding Transportation	
LR 2739	FAILED
An Act to Require Health Care and Substance Use Disorder Legislation to Be Supported by Relevant Data and Analysis	
LR 2767	PASSED
An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	
Representative Malon, II of Biddeford	
LR 2823	FAILED
An Act to Ensure That Manufactured Housing May Be Built on Lots Where Single-family Dwellings Are Allowed	
Representative Mastraccio of Sanford	
LR 2714	PASSED
An Act to Support Shelters for the Unhoused	
Representative Mathieson of Kittery	
LR 2674	FAILED
An Act to Create an Independent Child Advocate Ombudsman Service	
Representative Millett of Cape Elizabeth	
LR 2791	PASSED
An Act to Establish a Pilot Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	
Senator Moore of Washington	
LR 2878	FAILED
An Act to Provide Funding for Dispatchers at the Washington County Regional Communications Center	

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	Action
Senator Moore of Washington	
LR 2883	FAILED
An Act to Provide Funding for Positions in the Washington County Sheriff's Office	
Representative Morris of Turner	
LR 2885	FAILED
An Act to Enhance Legislative Oversight of Rules Regulating Electric Vehicles	
Senator Nangle of Cumberland	
LR 2898	FAILED
An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund	
Representative Paul of Winterport	
LR 2781	FAILED
An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport	
LR 2799	FAILED
An Act to Require the Return of School Budget Surplus Funds to Their Respective Municipalities	
Representative Perry of Calais	
LR 2818	FAILED
An Act to Update the Maine Self-service Storage Act	
LR 2872	PASSED
An Act to Exempt Certain Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies from Covering Towing and Storage Charges for Certain Vehicles	
Senator Pouliot of Kennebec	
LR 2803	FAILED
An Act to Increase Housing Options in Maine	
Representative Rana of Bangor	
LR 2942	WITHDRAWN
An Act to Standardize Municipal Public Health Policies	
LR 2967	FAILED

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	Action
Representative Rana of Bangor An Act to Prohibit Clearing Encampments of Unhoused Individuals	
Representative Riseman of Harrison LR 2834 An Act to Repeal the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank Act	WITHDRAWN
LR 2843 An Act to Repeal Reporting Requirements for Special Districts Regarding Outstanding Debt	WITHDRAWN
Representative Runte, Jr. of York LR 2755 An Act to Enhance Electric Utility Performance-based Ratemaking	PASSED
Representative Russell of Verona Island LR 2842 An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief	PASSED
LR 2900 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Municipal Property Tax Deferral Programs	FAILED
Representative Sachs of Freeport LR 2669 Resolve, to Add Legislators to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission	PASSED
Representative Sheehan of Biddeford LR 2935 An Act to Establish the Animal Law Enforcement Response Team	FAILED
Representative Smith of Palermo LR 2743 Resolve, Requiring a Transparent Public Hearing Regarding the Finalized Route of the Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure	FAILED
Representative Soboleski of Phillips LR 2903	FAILED

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	Action
Representative Soboleski of Phillips An Act to Provide Investigative Authority to the Maine State Police, Sheriffs and Local Police Regarding Maine's Recreational Cannabis Laws and Ordinances to Ensure Proper Enforcement	
Senator Stewart of Aroostook LR 2648 An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction in Juvenile Matters with the United States Department of Defense	PASSED
Representative Strout of Harrington LR 2873 Resolve, to Protect Maine's Right to Energy Independence by Requiring the State to Bid on Lobster Management Area 1	FAILED
Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland LR 2611 An Act to Restore Access to the MaineCare Program for Certain Residents	WITHDRAWN
LR 2943 An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment	PASSED
Representative Terry of Gorham LR 2848 An Act to Amend the Recapture Penalty Imposed Under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law	PASSED
Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin LR 2642 An Act to Eliminate State Agency Review of Program Evaluation Reports Prior to Release of Reports to the Government Oversight Committee	WITHDRAWN
LR 2643 An Act to Repeal the Law Requiring Initiation of Agency Routine Technical Rule-making Proceedings upon Receipt of a Petition of 150 Voters	FAILED
LR 2694 An Act Regarding the Poverty Abatement Timeline	PASSED
LR 2773	PASSED

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	Action
Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin An Act to Reinstate State Police Rural Patrol Services	
LR 2850 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Payroll Processors	PASSED
Representative Underwood of Presque Isle LR 2616 An Act to Require Elementary School Students to Learn Cursive Writing	FAILED
Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc LR 2710 An Act to Help Public Schools Affected by Disasters to Apply for State Construction Funding and to Establish an Emergency School Construction Fund	PASSED
Total number of bills accepted: 42	
Total number of bills tabled: 0	
Total number of bills screened: 105	

Fiscal Briefing

December 21, 2023

Prepared by the Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2024 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Change
November	\$384.8	\$407.4	\$22.6	5.9%	\$382.6	6.5%
FYTD	\$2,089.4	\$2,176.7	\$87.3	4.2%	\$2,215.1	-1.7%

General Fund revenue was over budget by \$22.6 million (5.9%) for the month of November and by \$87.3 million (4.2%) for the fiscal year to date. **These positive variances do not reflect the December 2023 revenue forecast, which increased budgeted General Fund revenue by \$139.3 million for FY24.** General Fund revenue for FY24 through November was 1.7% less than FY23 General Fund revenue through November of 2022. Without the newly enacted automotive sales tax transfers totaling \$107.5 million from the General Fund to the Highway Fund, FY24 General Fund revenue through November would be 3.1% greater than FY23 revenue through November of 2022.

Individual income tax revenue was over budget by \$7.5 million (4.1%) for the month and over budget by \$18.3 million (1.9%) for the fiscal year to date. Individual income tax final payments and withholding payments exceeded budget for the month and for the fiscal year to date, while estimated and fiduciary payments were under budget for the month and the fiscal year to date. Corporate income tax revenue was \$12.3 million above budget for November and 19.8 million (18.6%) above budget for the fiscal year to date. Sales and use tax revenue for November (October sales) was 4.6 million (2.6%) above budget for the month and \$52.4 million (5.2%) above budget for the fiscal year to date.

2. Highway Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2024 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Change
November	\$38.7	\$40.0	\$1.3	3.4%	\$35.9	11.3%
FYTD	\$262.1	\$286.6	\$24.4	9.3%	\$157.2	82.3%

Highway Fund revenue was over budget by \$1.3 million (3.4%) for the month of October and \$24.4 million (9.3%) for the fiscal year to date. **These positive variances do not reflect the December 2023 revenue forecast, which increased budgeted Highway Fund revenue by \$0.1 million for FY24.** Highway Fund revenue for FY24 through November was 82.3% greater than FY23 revenue through November of 2022 largely because of the newly enacted sales tax transfers from the General Fund to the Highway Fund totaling \$107.5 million. Without these transfers, Highway Fund revenue through October would be 13.9% greater than FY23 revenue through November of 2022.

Fuel tax revenue was \$0.5 million (2.4%) under budget for the month of November but over budget by \$7.5 million (8.2%) for the fiscal year to date. Motor vehicle registrations and fees were over budget by \$1.2 million (14.7%) for the month and over budget by \$3.3 million (8.2%) for the fiscal year to date. Highway Fund revenue for the fiscal year through November also included a positive variance in the automotive sales tax transfer and in the liquor operations fund transfer.

3. Cash Balances Update

The average balance in the cash pool for November was \$4,076.1 million, a decrease of \$132.4 million from October's average balance. Decreases in General Fund, Highway Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds (retaining interest) and Other State Funds (interest accruing to the GF) balances were partially offset by increases in Other Special Revenue Funds (interest accruing to the GF) and Other State Funds (retaining interest). The average Highway Fund balance for November was \$77.9 million, a decrease of \$4.2 million from October's balance of \$82.1 million.

4. Economic and Revenue Forecast - Meetings

The Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC) met on November 28, 2023 to review and update the revenue forecast to comply with its statutory reporting date of December 1st. The December 2023 RFC revisions to General Fund and Highway Fund revenue estimates through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are summarized below. The full December 2023 report is available at the RFC [website](#). The Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission (CEFC) will next meet at the end of January for its required February 1st report, and the RFC will then meet at the end of February for its required March 1st report.

General Fund revenue estimates were revised upward in the December 2023 forecast by \$139.3 million for FY24 and by \$125.3 million for FY25 for a total increase of \$264.6 million (2.6%) for the 2024-2025 biennium. The resulting forecasted rate of year-over-year change in General Fund revenue for FY24 is now a 2.4% decrease from FY23 final revenue amounts, followed by a 1.2% year-over-year increase for FY25. The December 2023 forecast also revised revenue estimates upward by \$256.5 million (2.4%) for the 2026-2027 biennium, with a forecasted rate of year-over-year growth of 2.1% for FY26 and 3.7% for FY27.

General Fund Summary

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Current Forecast	\$5,579,492,915	\$5,110,176,551	\$5,165,757,650	\$5,502,002,217	\$5,461,454,665
Annual % Growth		-8.2%	1.0%	2.9%	3.4%
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$139,544,567	\$125,270,665	\$116,529,425	\$156,917,510
Revised Forecast	\$5,579,492,915	\$5,249,521,118	\$5,511,056,295	\$5,421,191,659	\$5,619,472,175
Annual % Growth		-2.4%	1.2%	2.1%	3.7%

Highway Fund revenue estimates were revised upward in the December 2023 forecast by \$0.1 million for FY24 and by \$1.2 million for FY25 for a total increase of \$1.3 million (0.1%) for the 2024-2025 biennium. The forecasted rate of year-over-year increase in Highway Fund revenue for FY24 is 40.1% from FY23 final revenue amounts, followed by a 0.9% year-over-year increase for FY25. The residual increase in estimated FY24 Highway Fund revenue from FY23 final amounts is largely the result of the newly enacted automotive sales tax transfer included in the 2024-2025 Highway Fund Budget (PL 2023, c. 189, Part I) that transferred \$107.5 million from the General Fund to the Highway Fund in FY24. The December 2023 forecast also revised 2026-2027 biennium revenue estimates downward by \$3.9 million (0.4%) for the biennium, with a resulting forecasted rate of year-over-year decreases of 0.1% for FY26 and 0.3% for FY27.

Highway Fund Summary

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Current Forecast	\$439,556,401	\$439,716,575	\$435,177,567	\$434,457,914	\$435,917,525
Annual % Growth		40.1%	0.7%	-0.2%	0.5%
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$81,945	\$1,242,576	(\$557,595)	(\$5,549,790)
Revised Forecast	\$439,556,401	\$439,795,518	\$434,419,945	\$435,899,599	\$432,566,065
Annual % Growth		40.1%	0.9%	-0.1%	-0.5%

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 (FY 2024)

Updated 12/14/23

November 2023 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	Fiscal Year-To-Date								FY 2024 Budgeted Totals
	November '23 Budget	November '23 Actual	November '23 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Sales and Use Tax ¹	178,946,981	183,505,820	4,558,839	1,009,978,432	1,062,416,612	52,438,180	5.2%	3.6%	2,190,029,171
Service Provider Tax	4,083,002	3,995,345	(87,657)	21,108,924	21,850,554	741,630	3.5%	-0.5%	49,212,224
Individual Income Tax	186,020,497	193,562,400	7,541,903	985,065,110	1,003,370,275	18,305,165	1.9%	2.3%	2,394,473,715
Corporate Income Tax	(8,456,259)	3,864,967	12,321,226	106,359,430	126,140,319	19,780,889	18.6%	5.4%	355,623,000
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax ²	13,447,688	11,750,418	(1,697,270)	68,579,540	68,113,455	(466,085)	-0.7%	1.9%	156,599,546
Insurance Companies Tax	7,280,871	6,076,536	(1,204,335)	18,050,406	17,468,500	(581,906)	-3.2%	3.3%	114,490,000
Estate Tax	2,109,502	144,656	(1,964,846)	10,631,990	3,544,170	(7,087,820)	-66.7%	-83.2%	25,400,000
Other Taxes and Fees *	11,195,012	10,887,655	(307,357)	62,498,363	66,077,289	3,578,926	5.7%	13.5%	146,908,158
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	737,735	827,658	89,923	5,488,366	4,506,094	(982,272)	-17.9%	59.9%	16,584,271
Income from Investments	2,400,894	5,271,368	2,870,474	8,730,883	19,759,247	11,028,364	126.3%	173.7%	26,939,649
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,905,660	5,635,499	729,839	26,981,132	29,324,553	2,343,421	8.7%	-6.1%	65,000,000
Transfers to Tax Relief Programs *	(990,149)	230,457	1,220,606	(1,219,183)	(3,417,310)	(2,198,127)	-180.3%	-36.8%	(84,490,000)
Transfers for Municipal Revenue Sharing	(19,800,950)	(21,741,447)	(1,940,497)	(111,568,618)	(117,351,877)	(5,783,259)	-5.2%	-0.2%	(252,899,526)
Other Revenue *	2,895,333	3,339,407	444,074	(121,326,015)	(125,148,493)	(3,822,478)	-3.2%	-612.3%	(93,691,677)
Totals	384,775,817	407,350,738	22,574,921	2,089,358,760	2,176,653,386	87,294,626	4.2%	-1.7%	5,110,178,531

* Additional detail by subcategory for these categories is presented on the following page.

1 / Includes revenue from adult-use cannabis sales taxes of \$1.8 million for November and \$10.0 million for the fiscal year to date.

2 / Includes revenue from adult-use cannabis excise taxes of \$1.5 million for November and \$6.6 million for the fiscal year to date.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 (FY 2024)

Updated 12/14/23

November 2023 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	Fiscal Year-To-Date								FY 2024 Budgeted Totals
	November '23 Budget	November '23 Actual	November '23 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Detail of Other Taxes and Fees:									
- Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	0	0	0	12,589,369	13,365,675	776,306	6.2%	7.4%	14,881,051
- Real Estate Transfer Tax	2,706,338	2,396,772	(309,566)	8,858,737	8,200,854	(657,883)	-7.4%	-16.6%	21,713,714
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	2,559,226	2,374,519	(184,707)	10,145,117	9,548,834	(596,283)	-5.9%	64.2%	22,094,397
- Corporation Fees and Licenses	229,057	331,920	102,863	2,796,609	3,702,955	906,346	32.4%	1.0%	11,413,649
- Telecommunication Excise Tax	0	0	0	0	84,984	84,984	N/A	108.1%	6,300,000
- Finance Industry Fees	2,115,582	1,851,250	(264,332)	10,577,906	9,695,760	(882,146)	-8.3%	-5.8%	25,916,990
- Milk Handling Fee	107,807	67,024	(40,783)	534,161	723,224	189,063	35.4%	94.5%	882,965
- Racino Revenue	928,101	796,394	(131,707)	4,640,505	4,982,517	342,012	7.4%	4.7%	11,289,295
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	140,413	77,370	(63,043)	1,468,562	1,246,810	(221,752)	-15.1%	16.8%	4,559,561
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	1,611,495	1,954,664	343,169	7,668,081	10,715,181	3,047,100	39.7%	36.1%	15,995,784
- Other Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees	796,993	1,037,743	240,750	3,219,316	3,810,496	591,180	18.4%	21.2%	11,860,752
Subtotal - Other Taxes and Fees	11,195,012	10,887,655	(307,357)	62,498,363	66,077,289	3,578,926	5.7%	13.5%	146,908,158
Detail of Other Revenue:									
- Liquor Sales and Operations	924	1,356	432	7,006,990	7,034,407	27,417	0.4%	34421.3%	7,028,500
- Targeted Case Management (DHHS)	5,039	0	(5,039)	28,691	25,387	(3,304)	-11.5%	-11.5%	57,221
- State Cost Allocation Program	2,187,610	1,866,563	(321,047)	11,307,948	9,044,115	(2,263,833)	-20.0%	9.4%	26,436,801
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	6,200,000
- Tourism Transfer	0	0	0	(23,893,939)	(23,457,942)	435,997	1.8%	-27.8%	(23,893,939)
- Transfer to Maine Milk Pool	(626,977)	(162,655)	464,322	(5,797,625)	(4,912,934)	884,691	15.3%	N/A	(7,320,857)
- Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund	0	0	0	(15,702,880)	(15,151,926)	550,954	3.5%	18.4%	(15,702,880)
- Highway Fund Sales Tax Transfer	0	0	0	(101,861,600)	(107,527,334)	(5,665,734)	-5.6%	-479.4%	(101,861,600)
- Transfer to Adult-Use Cannabis Fund	(471,025)	(471,025)	(0)	(2,535,436)	(1,996,714)	538,722	21.2%	-118.1%	(5,458,769)
- Other Miscellaneous Revenue	1,799,762	2,105,168	305,406	10,121,836	11,794,448	1,672,612	16.5%	6.9%	20,823,846
Subtotal - Other Revenue	2,895,333	3,339,407	444,074	(121,326,015)	(125,148,493)	(3,822,478)	-3.2%	-612.3%	(93,691,677)
Detail of Transfers to Tax Relief Programs:									
- Me. Resident Prop. Tax Program (Circuitbreak	0	0	0	0	424	424	N/A	-14.7%	0
- BETR - Business Equipment Tax Reimb.	(990,149)	(557,337)	432,812	(1,219,183)	(4,202,307)	(2,983,124)	-244.7%	-67.4%	(17,000,000)
- BETE - Municipal Bus. Equip. Tax Reimb.	0	787,794	787,794	0	784,573	784,573	N/A	6871.5%	(67,490,000)
Subtotal - Tax Relief Transfers	(990,149)	230,457	1,220,606	(1,219,183)	(3,417,310)	(2,198,127)	-180.3%	-36.8%	(84,490,000)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue - Total	1,822,982	2,092,055	269,073	9,505,712	12,300,059	2,794,347	29.4%	32.5%	21,516,223

Highway Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 (FY 2024)

Updated 12/14/23

November 2023 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	November '23 Budget	November '23 Actual	November '23 Variance	Fiscal Year-To-Date				FY 2024 Budgeted Totals	
				Budget	Actual	Variance	% Change from Prior Year		
Fuel Taxes:									
- Gasoline Tax	17,751,169	17,249,589	(501,580)	85,159,466	88,930,797	3,771,331	4.4%	0.0%	203,864,446
- Special Fuel and Road Use Taxes	4,360,000	3,691,452	(668,549)	19,433,474	20,125,438	691,964	3.6%	-6.0%	49,579,729
- Transcap Transfers - Fuel Taxes	(2,194,680)	(1,508,226)	686,454	(11,248,120)	(7,982,426)	3,265,694	29.0%	1.7%	(25,474,293)
- Other Fund Gasoline Tax Distributions	(443,903)	(431,360)	12,543	(2,129,583)	(2,396,577)	(266,994)	-12.5%	-7.4%	(5,098,038)
Subtotal - Fuel Taxes	19,472,586	19,001,454	(471,132)	91,215,237	98,677,232	7,461,995	8.2%	-1.3%	222,871,844
Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees:									
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	4,854,312	5,749,420	895,108	28,673,620	30,181,666	1,508,046	5.3%	-1.2%	69,019,954
- License Plate Fees	315,077	(36,166)	(351,243)	1,667,334	1,827,568	160,234	9.6%	-3.6%	3,662,986
- Long-term Trailer Registration Fees	935,993	1,343,248	407,255	4,638,747	5,467,110	828,363	17.9%	-8.2%	14,134,523
- Title Fees	995,742	1,089,087	93,345	6,240,496	6,285,428	44,932	0.7%	-6.1%	14,233,286
- Motor Vehicle Operator License Fees	767,563	881,078	113,515	4,125,870	4,835,276	709,406	17.2%	-9.1%	9,658,098
- Transcap Transfers - Motor Vehicle Fees	0	(20)	(20)	(4,701,820)	(4,603,040)	98,780	2.1%	4.1%	(16,471,839)
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Reg. & Fees	7,868,687	9,026,647	1,157,960	40,644,247	43,994,008	3,349,761	8.2%	-3.5%	94,237,008
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	265,215	73,942	(191,273)	1,326,075	630,707	(695,369)	-52.4%	-23.0%	3,182,600
Other Highway Fund Taxes and Fees	122,485	74,009	(48,477)	603,731	466,665	(137,066)	-22.7%	-34.7%	1,429,470
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	46,474	63,229	16,755	291,122	426,782	135,660	46.6%	-20.0%	606,512
Interest Earnings	40,173	259,509	219,336	332,070	630,230	298,160	89.8%	328.3%	613,276
Highway Fund Sales Tax Transfer	0	0	0	101,861,600	107,534,228	5,672,628	5.6%	72976.6%	101,861,600
Liquor Operations Fund Transfer	5,000,000	3,872,291	(1,127,709)	18,000,000	25,035,830	7,035,830	39.1%	16913.5%	53,000,000
Other Highway Fund Revenue	5,842,738	7,587,844	1,745,106	7,874,829	9,184,159	1,309,330	16.6%	-2.1%	11,911,265
Totals	38,658,358	39,958,926	1,300,568	262,148,911	286,579,840	24,430,929	9.3%	82.3%	489,713,575

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 2023
December 21, 2023 Legislative Council Meeting

Study Commission/Committee Study	Assigned Staff	Number of authorized meetings held to date	Report Date	Chairs	Status or comment
Interim Studies, Nonpartisan Staff-Assigned					
LD 915 Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services Resolve 2023, c. 98	Anna Broome Luke Lazure Kristin Brawn Tanya Condon	Four meetings authorized <i>Multi-year</i> 1. Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 1:00 pm 2. Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.	11/6/2024	Sen. Duson Rep. Craven	Remaining meetings (6) to be held during interim of 2024. (No report due until 2024)
LD 937 Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine Resolve 2023, c. 93	Eli Murphy Karen Nadeau Kristin Brawn Darlene ShoresLynch Eve Poplawski	Four meetings authorized 1. Wednesday, October 18, 2023 @ 10:00 am 2. Wednesday, November 1, 2023 @ 10:00 am 3. Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 10:00 am 4. Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 1:00 am	1/15/2024	Sen. Bailey Rep. Mathieson	Final report draft in progress
LD 976 Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients Resolve 2023, c. 97	Elena Roig Steve Langlin Kristin Brawn Eve Poplawski	Four meetings authorized 1. Tuesday, December 4, 2023 @ 10:00am 2. Tuesday, December 11, 2023 @ 10:00am	12/6/2023	Sen. Ingwersen Rep Madigan	Initial report draft in progress
LD 1264 Commission to Update Maine’s Public Policy on Higher Education Resolve 2023, c. 102	Karen Nadeau Anne Davison Sophia Paddon Darlene ShoresLynch Arlene Harrison	Four meetings authorized	12/6/2023	Sen. Pierce Rep. Millett	See memo to Legislative Council dated November 14, 2023
LD 1283 Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System Resolve 2023, c. 92	Steve Langlin Hillary Risler Darlene ShoresLynch	Four meetings authorized 1. Wednesday, October 18, 2023 @ 10:00 am 2. Wednesday, November 8, 2023 @ 10:00 am	1/15/2024	Sen. Rafferty Rep. Murphy	Final report draft in progress

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 2023
December 21, 2023 Legislative Council Meeting

010-30A-2660-03	Arlene Harrison	3. Thursday, November 30, 2023 @10:00am 4. Thursday, December 14, 2023 @10:00am			
LD 1597 Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission Resolve 2023, c. 95	Rachel Olson Eli Murphy Kristin Brawn Tanya Condon	Four meetings authorized 1. Wednesday, November 15, 2023 @12:00pm 2. Thursday, November 30, 2023 @12:00pm 3. Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @12:00pm 4. Thursday, December 14, 2023 @12:00pm	<i>12/15/2023 (extension approved)</i>	President Jackson Rep. Russell	Final report draft in progress
LD 1622 Criminal Records Review Committee Resolve 2023, c. 103	Joseph Greene Anna Broome Darlene ShoresLynch Tanya Condon	Four meetings authorized <i>Multi-year</i> 1. Monday, November 13, 2023 @9:00am 2. Wednesday, November 29, 2023 @9:00am 3. Monday, December 11, 2023 @9:00am	<i>Interim 12/15/2023 (extension approved)</i> Final 11/6/2024	Sen. Bailey Speaker Talbot Ross	Initial interim report draft in progress
LD 1701 Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State Resolve 2023, c. 99	Dan Tartakoff Joseph Greene Sophia Paddon Darlene ShoresLynch Eve Poplawski	Six meetings authorized 1. Monday, October 23, 2023 @1:00pm 2. Monday, November 6, 2023 @9:00am 3. Monday, November 13, 2023 @1:00pm 4. Monday, November 27, 2023 @9:00am 5. Monday, December 11, 2023 @1:00pm	<i>12/15/2023 (extension approved)</i>	Sen. Curry Speaker Talbot Ross	Final report draft in progress
LD 1722 Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in	Sam Senft Anne Davison	Four meetings authorized 1. Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @10:00 am	<i>12/15/2023 (extension approved)</i>	Sen. Rotundo Rep. Graham	Initial report draft in progress

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 2023
December 21, 2023 Legislative Council Meeting

<p>Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities Resolve 2023, c. 100</p>	<p>Kristin Brawn Eve Poplawski</p>	<p>2. Monday, November 20, 2023 @10:00am 3. Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @10:00am 4. Monday, December 11, 2023 @10:00am</p>			<p><i>Outside funding received and accepted</i></p>
<p>LD 1795 Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients P.L. 2023, c. 410</p>	<p>Colleen McCarthyReid Darlene ShoresLynch Arlene Harrison</p>	<p>Four meetings authorized 1. Friday, December 1, 2023 @10:00am 2. Thursday, December 7, 2023 @10:00am 3. Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @10:00</p>	<p>12/15/2023 <i>(extension approved)</i></p>	<p>Sen. Bailey Rep. Arford</p>	<p>Initial report draft in progress</p>
<p>LD 1799 Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care Education P.L. 2023, c. 477</p>	<p>Hillary Risler Elena Roig Darlene ShoresLynch Arlene Harrison</p>	<p>Four meetings authorized 1. Wednesday, November 1, 2023 @12:00pm 2. Thursday, November 9, 2023 @12:00pm 3. Tuesday, November 28, 2023 @12:00 4. Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @12:00pm</p>	<p>12/15/2023 <i>(extension approved)</i></p>	<p>Sen. Vitelli Rep. Hasenfus</p>	<p>Final report draft in progress</p>
Ongoing statutory studies					
<p>Right to Know (Advisory Committee) T 1 §411</p>	<p>Lindsay Laxon Janet Stocco Colleen McCarthyReid Anne Davison Darlene ShoresLynch Arlene Harrison</p>	<p>1. Monday, September 18, 2023 @1:00pm 2. Monday, October 2, 2023 @1:00pm 3. Monday, October 23, 2023 @1:00pm 4. Monday, November 6, 2023 @9:00 am, SH Rm 228 (AFA) 5. Monday, December 4, 2023 @1:00pm, SH Rm 228 (AFA) <u>SUBCOMMITTEES</u> 6. Monday, October 23, 2023 (all 3 subcomm)</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Rep. Sheehan</p>	<p>Initial report draft in progress</p>

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 2023
December 21, 2023 Legislative Council Meeting

		7. Monday, November 6, 2023 (public rec process subcomm) 8. Thursday, November 9, 2023 (pub rec ex and process subcomms) 9. Monday, November 13, 2023 (law enf subcomm) 10. Tuesday, November 28, 2023(pub rec ex subcomm) 11. Thursday, December 14, 2023 (pub rec ex and process subcomms)			
Cannabis Advisory Commission T 28-B c. 1 sub c. 9	Lynne Caswell Dan Tartakoff Kristin Brawn Tanya Condon	No meetings	Annually	Sen. Hickman Rep. Supica	Multiple vacancies
State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force T 20-A §12901	TBD	No meetings	Annually Nov 1st	Sen. Rafferty Rep. Gere	15 Members (4 vacancies)

Other Legislative Council-approved studies (staffed by department/agency)

LD 1200 Bureau of Motor Vehicles Working Group Study Potential Solutions Regarding the Cost of and Access to Driver Education for Underserved Populations and Low-income Families Resolve 2023, c. 94	Secretary of State	Four meetings authorized	2/1/2024	Sen. Nangle	Multiple vacancies
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**131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE/FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AUTHORIZED INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Interim meetings of Joint Standing/Select Committees and subcommittees

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry	Karen Nadeau		
Appropriations and Financial Affairs	Maureen Dawson	1. Thursday, October 5, 2023@9:30am, SH Rm 228 2. Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @9:25am SH Rm 228	Authorized to meet monthly by statute
Criminal Justice and Public Safety	Joseph Greene Sophia Paddon	Four authorized meetings	
Education and Cultural Affairs	Hillary Risler Elena Roig	1. Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 208 2. Tuesday, October 3, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 208 3. Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 208	4 authorized
Environment and Natural Resources	Daniel Tartakoff	1. Monday, October 2, 2023 @10:00 am, COB Rm. 216 2. Monday, November 13, 2023 @10:00am COB Rm. 216	4 authorized
Energy, Utilities and Technology	Lindsay Laxon	1. Wednesday, October 25, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 211 2. Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 am, COB Rm 211 3. Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 10:00 am, COB Rm 211	4 authorized
Health and Human Services	Anna Broome Sam Senft	1. Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 209 2. Wednesday, October 4, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 209 3. Wednesday, October 25, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 209 4. Thursday, December 14, 2023 @ 10:00 am, COB Rm 209	4 authorized
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services	Colleen McCarthyReid		
Housing	Danielle Fox Karen Nadeau Steve Langlin	1. Tuesday, September 19, 2023@9:00am, COB Rm 216 2. Tuesday, October 3, 2023@9:00am, MSHA offices 3. Tuesday, October 17, 2023@10:00am, Univ. Maine and Bangor 4. Tuesday, October 31, 2023@9:00am, COB Rm 216 5. Tuesday, November 14, 2023@9:00am, COB Rm 216 6. Tuesday, November 28, 2023@9:00am, COB Rm 216 7. Tuesday, December 5,2023@9:00am, COB Rm 216	7 authorized (including 2 off-site)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Anne Davison		
Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business	Sophia Paddon	Thursday, September 21, 2023@9:00 am, COB Rm 206	1 authorized

**131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE/FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AUTHORIZED INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Judiciary	Janet Stocco (subcommittee assistance from Anna Broome)	1. Monday, September 25, 2023@Noon, SH Rm 438 2. Tuesday, October 17, 2023 @10:00 am, SH Rm 438 3. Wednesday, November 8, 2023@ 10:00 am, SH Rm 438 4. Wednesday, November 29, 2023 @10:00am, Rm 438 SH 5. Monday, December 11, 2023 @10:00am Rm 438 SH <u>Subcommittee Meetings</u> 1. Thursday, October 19, 2023@10:00 am, SH Rm 438 2. Thursday, December 7, 2023@10:00 am, SH Rm 438	6 authorized Plus 3 subcommittee meetings approved
Labor and Housing	Steven Langlin		
Marine Resources	Elena Roig		
State and Local Government	Lynne Caswell	Thursday, November 16, 2023 @9:30 am, CSOB Rm 214	Three authorized meetings
Taxation	Julie Jones	Thursday, November 9, 2023@10:00, SH Rm 127	
Transportation	Julia MacDonald		
Veteran and Legal Affairs	Rachel Olson Lynne Caswell (subcommittee assistance from Anne Davison)	1. Tuesday, September 19, 2023 @ 10:00 am, SH, Rm 437 (VLA) 2. Thursday, October 12, 2023 @ 9:00 am, SH Rm 437 (VLA) Subcommittee Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act 3. Tuesday November 14, 2023 @9:30am SH Rm 437 – Subcommittee 4. Tuesday, November 28, 2023 @10:00am SH Rm 437 – Subcommittee 5. Tuesday, January 2, 2024 @10:00am SH Rm 437 - Subcommittee	6 authorized – including subcommittee



STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

COMMISSION TO UPDATE MAINE'S PUBLIC POLICY ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TO: Senator Troy D. Jackson, President of the Senate, Chair
Representative Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council

FROM: Senator Teresa Pierce, Chair *TP*
Representative Rebecca Millett, Chair *RM KSN*
Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

DATE: November 14, 2023

RE: Study Commission Update

Pursuant to the authorizing legislation for this study (Resolve 2023, chapter 102), the commission is charged with reviewing all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education. In conducting this review, the commission is directed to analyze present and future goals, including but not limited to expanding access to affordable high-quality higher education to help students achieve postsecondary success in the 21st century.

Pursuant to the authorizing legislation, the commission's final report must be submitted no later than December 6, 2023. We considered submitting a report deadline extension request of no later than December 15, 2023, as may be authorized pursuant to Joint Rule 353(7). **However, even if an extension is granted, we, as chairs of the commission, have decided that we do not have sufficient time to adequately conduct this study.**

It will be difficult over a short timeframe of three to four weeks to: schedule four meetings for 17 commission members; complete a comprehensive review of all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education; gather input from stakeholders, including, but not limited to, students, faculty and staff from the State's public institutions of higher education; thoughtfully develop findings and recommendations; and create a useful work product – the commission's final report. Additionally, as of the writing of this memo, two appointments to the commission are pending.

It is our hope that this study could be conducted during the interim next year with the same composition of commission members, to the extent possible. We realize that this will require passage of new authorizing legislation, but we stand ready to work with you on this front. Thank you for your consideration, we hope that you will support continuation of this work in 2024. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

cc: Suzanne M. Gresser, Executive Director, Legislative Council
Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Members, Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

**Legislative Council Actions
Taken by Ballot Since the
November 16, 2023 Council Meeting**

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That, in accordance Public Law 2023, chapter 410, because a majority of the appointments have been made to the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients, in the event there remain pending appointments 30 days after the effective date of the law, the Legislative Council authorizes the Task Force to Convene.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: December 4, 2023
Vote: 7-0-3-0 Passed

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Patients.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: December 6, 2023
Vote: 7-0-3-0 Passed

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 15, 2023, the reporting deadline of the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients.

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: December 14, 2023
Vote: 7-0-3-0 Passed

Requests for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 2973 **An Act to Address Mass Shootings and Gun Violence in Maine**

Submitted by: President Troy Jackson
Date: November 20, 2023
Vote: 6-1-3-0 Passed

LR 2985 **An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health, and Well-being**

Submitted by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross
Date: November 20, 2023
Vote: 6-1-3-0 Passed



LORING COMMERCE CENTRE

October 31, 2023

Ms. Suzanne M. Gresser
Executive Director
State of Maine Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

Dear Ms. Gresser:

Pursuant to “Section 13080-L Annual Report” of the Loring Development Authority of Maine’s (LDA) enabling legislation, please find enclosed a report of the activities of the LDA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The report includes a summary of the LDA’s development activities and audited financial statements for FY23. Subsequent events through October 15, 2023 and proposed activities for FY24 are also reported.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don’t hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,



Carl W. Flora
President & CEO

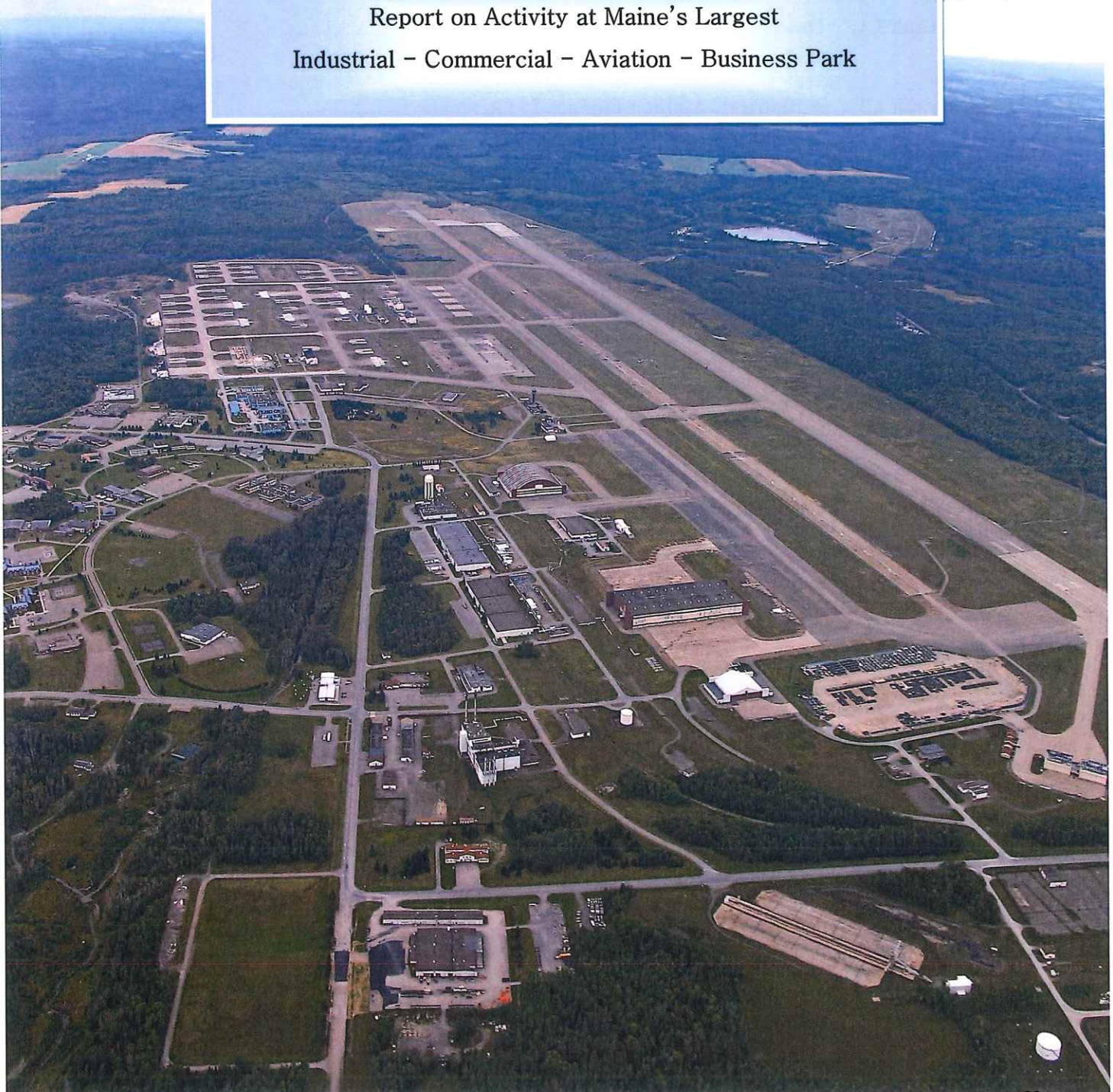
Enclosure

cc: Senator Chip Curry - Chair
Representative Tiffany Roberts - Chair
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Report on Activity at Maine's Largest
Industrial - Commercial - Aviation - Business Park



**Paragraph 13080-L
 Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report
 July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

	Page
Paragraph 1A: Description of the Authority’s Operations	2
Paragraph 1B: Authority’s Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2022	3
Paragraph 1C: Property Transactions	4
Paragraph 1D: An accounting of all activities of any special utility district formed under Section 13080-G (None)	6
Paragraph 1E: A listing of any property acquired by eminent domain under Section 13080-G (None)	6
Paragraph 1F: A listing of any bonds issued (None)	6
Paragraph 1G: Subsequent Events and Proposed Activities.....	7
Paragraph 1H: Further Actions Suitable for Achieving the Purposes of this Article	10
Attachment	11
Loring Commerce Centre Tenants	

PARAGRAPH 1A: DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTHORITY’S OPERATIONS

Loring Development Authority (LDA) is responsible for the redevelopment of the properties of the state’s largest industrial park, Loring Commerce Centre, formerly Loring Air Force Base, in support of new job creation and new economic activity. LDA manages the 3,700-acre business-commercial and industrial park including a 1,600-acre aviation complex; serves as landlord to leasehold businesses and supplies municipal-type services to residents and businesses that collectively employ approximately 750 people and occupy 1 million square feet of space in numerous major buildings. LDA operates a water treatment plant, water distribution system, and a wastewater collection system; maintains and plows 26 miles of roadways; performs grounds maintenance on hundreds of acres of developed and developable property; and through arrangements with the Town of Limestone and others, secures fire, ambulance, and law enforcement services and contracts for wastewater treatment. The LDA works with prospective businesses to develop opportunities to reuse additional facilities and properties, create additional employment and economic activity both at Loring and in the broader region.

Businesses at Loring represent industrial, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, energy, telecommunications, commercial, back-office, education, recreation, conservation and aviation sectors. A profile of the employers at Loring, included at the end of this report, illustrates the significant level and diversity of economic activity generated by the reuse of facilities at Loring Commerce Centre.

Loring Development Authority of Maine
Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

**PARAGRAPH 1B: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

The attached Independent Auditor's Report was approved by the Loring Development Authority Board of Trustees on October 11, 2023.

**PARAGRAPH 1C: PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS DURING
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

LEASES AND SALES

GREEN 4 MAINE TRANSACTION. LDA closed on a sale of property envisioned by a Purchase & Sale Agreement with Green 4 Maine, LLC., in January 2023. This property sale transferred about 390 acres of land and buildings into private ownership. Existing leases were assigned as part of the transaction and Green 4 Maine will assume responsibility for operational costs and maintenance of the buildings. Green 4 Maine anticipates that many of the buildings with existing tenants will continue to be used by the existing tenants to support current activities and associated employment. An aggressive marketing campaign will result in additional tenants to occupy vacant or under-utilized buildings. Green 4 Maine also expects to establish its own business operations utilizing some of the building space.

DG FUELS, LLC.

LDA and DG Fuels entered into a long-term lease for approximately 1,200 acres of land. DG Fuels intends to construct a biofuels refinery producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). This green fuel is in high demand in the aviation industry. Biomass resources from northern Maine and neighboring Canada would be used to produce the SAF. The project would require the reactivation of the rail line serving Loring which has been out of service north of Presque Isle for some years. The project would likely require the placement of a new pipeline in the existing pipeline corridor to bring the finished product to Searsport where it would be transferred onto a tanker for distribution to airport on the east coast. The projected multi-billion dollar investment in the biomass facility is anticipated to create 650 permanent jobs at Loring, with additional jobs and economic spin-off in the regional economy.

SPX AIDS TO NAVIGATION. LDA and SPX Aids to Navigation entered into a short term lease for Buildings 8410 and 8412 together with access to the airfield. SPX is utilizing Loring's facilities for the purpose of developing and testing portable airfield equipment including lighting systems used on remote airfields in connection with military or humanitarian aid operations.

LICENSES

POTATO STORAGE. LDA entered into license agreements with two local farmers who needed additional storage for their extraordinarily large crop of potatoes in the fall of 2021. During the fall of 2022, LDA also provided storage for one farmer who had lost a storage due to weather

related damage, and another farmer with surplus potatoes. In both cases, potatoes were stored temporarily and moved out by January 2023.

APACHE BOATWORKS, K & S TIMING, LLC, CUMBERLAND MOTOR CLUB, INC. The runway at Loring was used by the three Maine organizations in support of their respective events, including land sailing, land speed racing, and motor cross.

**PARAGRAPH 1D: ACTIVITIES OF ANY SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT FORMED UNDER
SECTION 13080-G**

NONE

**PARAGRAPH 1E: LISTING OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY EMINENT DOMAIN UNDER
SECTION 13080-G**

NONE

PARAGRAPH 1F: LISTING OF BONDS ISSUED

NONE

**PARAGRAPH 1G: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS – JULY 1, 2023 TO OCTOBER 15, 2023 AND
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024**

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

A summary of the activities on the Loring Commerce Centre between July 1, 2023 and October 15, 2023 are provided below.

LORING OPEN HOUSE 2023. Green 4 Maine hosted an Open House event on July 1. The event was held on the tarmac near the Arch Hangar, and a number of aircraft were able to attend the associated fly-in. Formal remarks were followed by a ribbon cutting for the BD Solar, one of Loring’s new community solar projects.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN CONTRACT EXECUTED. LDA and the aviation consulting firm Dubois and King signed a contract supported by a grant from the Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, for the preparation of an airport master plan. With the completion of this plan, LDA will seek to gain the FAA’s approval for Loring’s airport to be included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). LDA’s vision for the airport is to use it in a manner that complements other airports in the region and takes advantage of the very large aviation buildings and extensive infrastructure that are unique to Loring’s aviation complex. The focus would be on aviation and aerospace businesses that include large aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), cargo and distribution, testing and development of new aircraft and aircraft systems, including unmanned aircraft systems, urban air mobility and other autonomous air vehicles, and various roles in the emerging space industry including a spaceport. Gaining the NPIAS designation from the FAA would permit the airport to tap significant federal resources available for airport capital improvements. This would also be most helpful in pursuing the State’s vision for a statewide space complex of which Loring would be a significant part.

PROPOSED AND PROJECTED ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

In addition to working to ensuring that our existing tenants remain viable business entities, the LDA intends to carry out the following activities in fiscal year 2024:

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE. Continue to Move forward with recommendations of the Consultants in their Sustainability Task Force Report to the Governor last year.

MARKETING. One recommendation of the Task Force report, a major marketing program, is underway and is generating new prospects with potential for significant new developments at Loring. Steve Levesque of SHL Enterprise Solutions continues to pursue marketing opportunities

and is working to complement marketing efforts underway by Green 4 Maine. SHL's contract extends into the 4th quarter of FY 2024.

GREEN 4 MAINE (G4M). Continue working with the G4M principals, supporting the startup of three new businesses and the sale of several buildings. Moving forward with the G4M proposal is one of the recommendations of the task force report. Ideally, G4M would over time become the master developer of the Loring properties with LDA providing public infrastructure support.

DG FUELS. Continue to work with DG Fuels and various state and federal agencies to create the opportunity for DG Fuels to move forward with its biofuels project.

ACTIVE PROSPECTS. Continue supporting proposed development projects in cooperation with G4M, including manufacturing prospects, fuel pipeline and corridor energy projects, renewable energy generation projects, aviation maintenance, and various aviation and aerospace operations at the Loring International Airport.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES. Continue working with the Town of Limestone to develop sustainable emergency services for the community, including Loring. A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for part of Loring is being pursued by Green 4 Maine. The sale to Green 4 Maine creates a potential future tax base for Limestone that could be helpful in supporting future services at Loring.

PFAS INVESTIGATIONS. Continue supporting the Air Force's PFAS investigations at Loring; results of the PFAS testing at Loring will be available soon. A remedial investigation is underway and some preliminary results were presented to property owners and other stakeholders in March 2023. Much additional information has been collected since then and will eventually be available to the public. PFAS was detected in soils and groundwater at various sites where it was expected to be present. With the conclusion of the remedial investigation, a Remedial Action plan will be proposed and available for public comment.

SPACE INDUSTRY. Continue to work with the newly-established Maine Space Corporation and other partners in developing the space industry in Maine. Maine's location is an advantage for polar launches and infrastructure at the former military installations at Loring and Brunswick could support the space industry.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT. Move forward with roadway repairs and demolition with a \$3.1 million federal grant awarded this year; complete a \$4.6 million sewers improvement project and pursue funding for stormwater infrastructure and facilities improvements.

SOLAR PROJECTS. Continue to support the construction and operation of the SynerGen and BD Solar projects at Loring.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION. LDA has engaged a consultant to prepare and file an application for a Foreign Trade Zone designation. This will be attractive to potential future manufacturers who source some product components from other countries as it will provide relief from duties. The designation will be an attractive component of LDA's on-going marketing campaign.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES. Take advantage of the Opportunity Zone designation. Loring, along with the town of Limestone, has been designated an Opportunity Zone. The new federal Opportunity Zone program is intended to attract new investments, providing tax incentives for investments made in designated areas. LDA is to be included with DECD and Maine & Company's marketing efforts to attract opportunity zone investors.

**PARAGRAPH 1H: FURTHER ACTIONS SUITABLE FOR ACHIEVING PURPOSES
OF THIS ARTICLE**

**The Loring Development Authority recommends that the following actions be considered
by the Governor and Legislature**

Although proceeds of the sale of property have improved LDA's balance sheet significantly, LDA continues to struggle with the costs of providing basic services to support the development project. These include plowing and maintenance of roadways and other public infrastructure, provision of police, fire and ambulance services, and provision of drinking water and wastewater treatment.

In 2016, the 127th Legislature enacted LD 1670 which increased LDA's tax increment funding associated with Loring based jobs from 50% to 100% for one year. It was originally enacted with a 5-year duration with a review requirement, but was later amended so that the increase to 100% was for one year only. Three years ago, a Governor's bill that would have reinstated the 100% increase for 2 years was in the Revisor's office but was not considered because the legislature adjourned early due to the pandemic. State Funding in 2022 provided \$1.3 million in the DECD budget to address a cash shortfall in LDA's budget and to initiate the marketing program cited above.

While the redevelopment of Loring is back on track, additional funding through some mechanism will be required in order to support the existing jobs as well as the expected growth in jobs. LD 1981, carried over from the first regular session, offers and potential solution to the financial issues affecting LDA.

ATTACHMENT

LORING COMMERCE CENTRE TENANTS

APTIM. an environmental engineering firm working for the Air Force Civil Engineering Center, occupies Building #8412.

Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge. The 4,700-acre refuge belongs to the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands set aside specifically for the protection of wildlife and its habitat. Wetland, grassland and northern forest habitats for migratory birds and endangered species are protected on the refuge at Loring. Friends of the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge support its programs through education, fundraising, recreational and volunteer projects.

Bangor Gas. Bangor Gas, a natural gas company and a subsidiary of Penobscot Natural Gas, leases the Loring to Searsport pipeline. The company has reactivated a portion of the pipeline to supply natural gas to customers along the corridor.

Bigelow Aerospace, LLC. Bigelow Aerospace is developing, constructing, launching and testing human-habitable space complexes, revolutionizing the space tourism industry. Bigelow has a radar installation at Loring.

British Cycle Supply Company. British Cycle Supply Company's operations include shipping, receiving, and warehousing classic British motorcycle parts that are acquired and sold worldwide. The company has another location in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Consolidated Communications. Consolidated Communications leases a former communications site on Route 89 in Limestone where it set up a satellite tracking and communications station.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Center. The DFAS center operates out of a first-class, 145,000 square foot facility where its employees have consistently performed with excellence since 1995. The center is responsible for finance and accounting services for military installations across the U.S. and in foreign countries; DFAS Limestone employs 558 people.

Elevate Audio and Visual Company. Multi-faceted arts and audio-visual materials.

Elite Management Services, LLC. This company provides comprehensive property management and maintenance services.

Eternal Mind, Inc. - AI Quantum Computing Company. Data center company utilizing artificial intelligence technologies.

Equine Management, LLC. Equine Management, LLC from Kentucky purchased a 6,800 square foot building with the intent of refurbishing it and then leasing to a related company that would provide medical license training online and eventually on site.

First Cut Hay Co., LLC. A newly formed company, First Cut Hay, stores and processes hay and animal feed products at Loring.

Fork in the Road Food Services. Food truck and catering services.

Frontier Transport, LLC. Frontier Transport stores, processes, and transports agricultural and wood biomass products for local customers. The company with its partner Triple G Sales also offers a farm equipment storage in a leased facility at Loring.

Green 4 Maine. Companies affiliated with Green 4 Maine have leased space in the Loring Applied Technology Center; the companies are Green 4 Maine Homes, LLC, Maine Agricultural Association, LLC New England Structural Engineering Services, and Green 4 Maine Creative Arts and Digital Media Center.

Guerrette Sales, Inc. Distribution and sales of agricultural goods and food packaging.

Henry's Carpentry. Carpentry shop.

Inland Winds Property Management. Inland Wind's residential properties at Loring include three and four bedroom town homes and individual homes available for purchase or lease.

Jason Dionne Trucking. The company occupies building #8264 at Loring, in support of his trucking business.

Lattice Technologies, Inc. Lattice Technologies, a consulting firm performing services in the defense sector, now occupies an office at Loring.

Limestone Country Club. The Limestone Country Club, Loring's nine-hole golf course, is a favorite among many golfers in the area. Operators of the country club also host community and private events.

Limestone Rotary Club. The Limestone Rotary Club holds its weekly meetings at Loring. It is a very active club with dedicated members working together to improve their community.

Limestone Water & Sewer District. The Limestone Water & Sewer District owns and operates the wastewater treatment facility at Loring, providing service to all wastewater customers in Limestone, including Loring Commerce Centre. Four people work for the district at Loring.

Loring Holdings. Loring Holdings (LH), a multi-faceted energy company, is working to advance energy production and transmission in Maine using the Loring to Searsport pipeline corridor.

Loring Job Corps Center (LJCC). The Loring Job Corps Center, part of the Job Corps New England Region and the National Job Corps system, provides academic programs and career vocational training in multiple industries for youth ages 16-24. The Center welcomed its first 380 students in January 1997. Career Systems Development Corp. operates LJCC and employs 110 people.

McDonald Enterprises. McDonald Enterprises is a small custom manufacturer of wood and metal products.

Maine Army National Guard. The Maine Army National Guard leases a 27-acre parcel of land at Loring where it has constructed a facility to warehouse its equipment.

Northern Storage. Seasonal storage of boats and RV's.

Novel Energy Solutions, LLC. Novel Energy Solutions, LLC, a solar energy company, warehouses materials, to be used in the construction of solar arrays in the county, at Loring.

Pineland Farms Natural Meats. Pineland Farms Natural Meats, Inc. operates a beef cattle feedlot in Fort Fairfield and a composting operation at Loring. Pineland's goal is to generate

10,000 cubic yards or more of compost material a year. Pineland sells compost in bulk form to local farmers and in consumer-sized packaging at various retail outlets.

Pioneer Wireless. Pioneer Wireless, a broadband telecommunications company, now leases office space in LDA's office building. The new location will help Pioneer capitalize on the Three Ring binder telecommunications infrastructure, enabling it to offer dark fiber, fiber optic and other advanced services to Loring customers.

Runway Auto and Small Engine Repair Auto, snowmobile and ATV repair shop.

SFE Manufacturing. SFE Manufacturing, operates an equipment fabrication business at Loring, serving commercial, industrial, and government customers. SFE employs approximately 23 people.

Straight-Line Fencing. Straight-Line Fencing, an existing company with fencing sales and installation services, is in the process of establishing manufacturing capacity for a new line of its own products.

SPX Aids to Navigation. SPX designs and builds airport navigation infrastructure and is testing new airport lighting systems at Loring immense airfield.

S.W. Collins Company. S.W. Collins Company, a hardware and building materials supplier, located its commercial line operation in the Loring Applied Technology Center. The line features custom-built products for commercial customers, offering a wide range of highly refined wood products including custom-built cabinetry and cases. S.W. Collins employs five at Loring.

SynerGen Solar, LLC. SynerGen Solar, LLC exercised its lease option this year and began the construction phase of its project. The company now leases approximately 20-acres on the north side of Northcutt Road, where it has installed an electrical power generating solar facility which is now operational.

The Bunker Inn. The Bunker Inn, located in the former visiting officer's quarters, is open to the public with twenty suites available. People traveling for business or pleasure make use of this unique facility, with many repeat guests.

The Loring Air Museum. The Loring Air Museum, formerly Loring Military Heritage Center, is a museum of Loring Air Force Base history. It was created and continues to be operated by a group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. The museum maintains an impressive collection of Loring memorabilia and artifacts and conducts open houses, with historic tours of Loring, that are well attended.

The Power Company. Based in Washington, Maine, the Power Company constructed two solar-voltaic systems at Loring; both have been in operation for several years. The solar arrays are now owned by the Town of Limestone, providing power to the Limestone Water and Sewer District and the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. an environmental engineering firm working for the Air Force Civil Engineering Center, occupies offices in the LDA office building and space in the Arch hangar.

NOTE: Although every effort has been made to present a thorough listing of Loring-based businesses and employers, this list may not reflect all tenants or sub-tenants of third party property owners such as Green 4 Maine.

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LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2023

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LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

The management of the Loring Development Authority of Maine (LDA) is providing the following discussion and analysis of the financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2023. The LDA is a component unit of the State of Maine with a mission to create jobs and positive economic growth by redevelopment of approximately 3,700 acres of the former Loring Air Force Base located in Limestone, Maine.

Report Layout

The management's discussion and analysis is intended to make reports more understandable, easier to read, comprehensible and to explain significant changes and financial positions between the current and prior year.

Financial Highlights

- Total net position decreased by \$7,215,363. Operations decreased net position by \$1,233,213. Revenues were down due to a decrease in state assistance while expenses decreased due to decreases in salaries and benefits, depreciation and utilities.
- Total revenues of \$1,584,837 are comprised of 29% from lease revenue, 50% from state assistance, 1% from federal grants and 18% from water and sewer fees.
- Due to a challenging economic environment net jobs have declined over the past fiscal year.
- The annual Caretaker grant revenue for the maintenance and operation of essential services and facility maintenance ceased in September 2004. The LDA now relies on lease income, state assistance and other operations to support these operations. The LDA's cost for facility maintenance, operations of water distribution and sewer collection systems, maintenance of a network of roads, parking lots, airfield pavements, together with services for wastewater treatment, fire, police and ambulance protection was approximately \$1.9 million in fiscal year 2023.
- The LDA sold a substantial portion of its real property in 2023 resulting in a loss on the disposal of property in the amount of \$6,010,305.

Basic Financial Statements

The LDA's financial reports are prepared using proprietary fund (enterprise fund) accounting which is the same basis as private-sector business enterprises and utilizes the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting records income as it is earned and costs as incurred. The basic financial statements include the following:

Statements of Net Position
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
Statements of Cash Flows

-I-

Chester M. Kearney, Certified Public Accountants

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

The Statements of Net Position exhibits the balance of current and capital assets less current liabilities and a net asset balance. As required by GASB 34, the LDA has included the estimated fair market value of net assets (structures, vehicles and equipment, aviation facilities, roads and accessory facilities, special use structures and land) which were given to the LDA at no cost by the United States Air Force. The carrying value of total capital assets for the current year is \$39,136,462 as compared to a capital asset balance of \$53,077,979 for the prior year ending June 30, 2022.

Table 1 provides condensed data of the Statements of Net Position for the fiscal years ended 2023 and 2022.

Table 1

Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current assets	\$ 950,476	\$ 1,110,868
Net capital assets	39,136,462	53,077,979
Construction in progress	108,850	87,535
Leases receivable	150,623	482,248
Notes receivable, net of current portion	<u>4,500,000</u>	<u>47,271</u>
Total Assets	<u>44,846,411</u>	<u>54,805,901</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>67,486</u>	<u>97,747</u>
Current Liabilities	308,610	2,228,100
Long-term Liabilities	<u>535,116</u>	<u>1,135,940</u>
Total Liabilities	843,726	3,364,040
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>382,342</u>	<u>636,416</u>
Total Net Position	\$ <u>43,687,829</u>	\$ <u>50,903,192</u>

The Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Net Position reports the federal and state assistance and operations revenue, less operating costs in order to reflect the change in net position value for the current year in combination with the prior year's net position value to reflect the net position balance as of June 30, 2023.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal years 2023 and 2022.

Table 2

Changes in Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenues:		
Program Revenues		
State Assistance	\$ 818,728	\$ 1,897,547
General Revenues		
Lease and Other	<u>766,109</u>	<u>698,731</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>1,584,837</u>	<u>2,596,278</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries and Benefits	369,489	430,585
Travel	1,858	2,050
Contracted Services	658,087	599,330
Depreciation	723,896	968,899
Legal and Audit	11,605	6,287
Marketing	15,600	514
Supplies and Expenses	102,820	74,338
Maintenance	198,667	116,263
Utilities	509,277	753,682
Uncollectable Accounts	131,906	151,327
Interest expense	72,384	64,622
Other General and Administrative	<u>22,461</u>	<u>61,258</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,818,050</u>	<u>3,229,155</u>
Loss from Operations	<u>(1,233,213)</u>	<u>(632,877)</u>
Other Revenues & Expenses		
Other	<u>(5,982,150)</u>	<u>85,051</u>
Change in Net Position	\$ <u>(7,215,363)</u>	\$ <u>(547,826)</u>

The Statements of Cash Flows are included, which discloses net cash provided by, or used in operating activities, noncapital financial activities, and from capital and related financing activities. From these statements, the reader can obtain comparative information on the sources and uses of cash for the reported years.

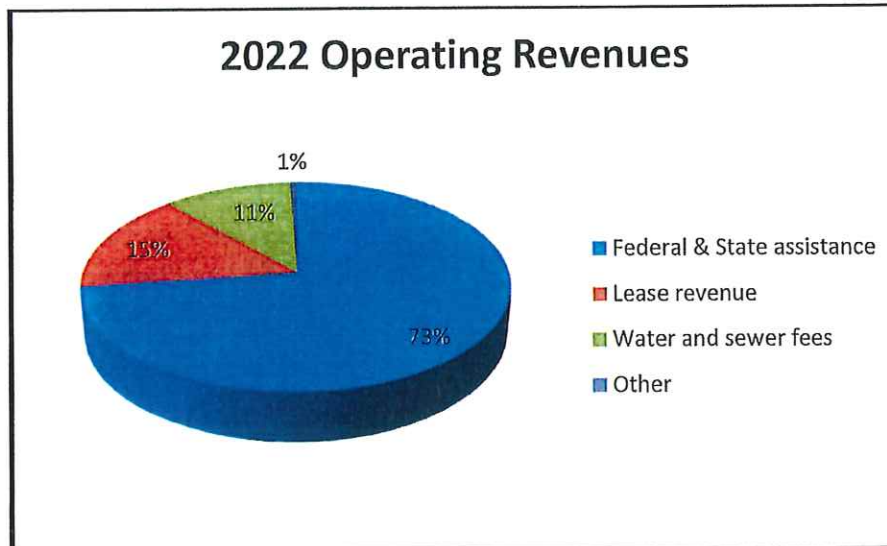
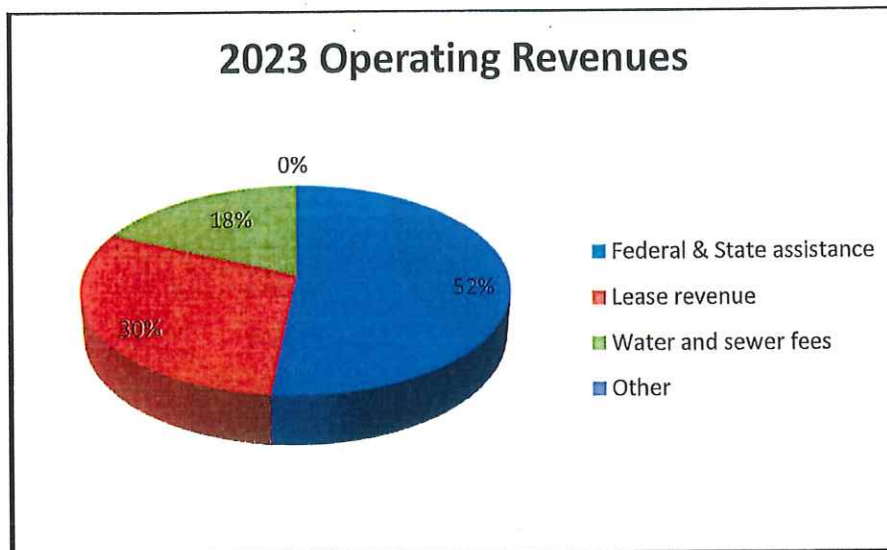
LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

The Loring Development Authority's Funds

The Loring Development Authority's Funds are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting. Total revenues and other sources amounted to \$1,631,301 in 2023 and \$2,701,441 in 2022. Operating revenues for the two years as represented in the tables below totaled \$1,584,837 in 2023 and \$2,596,278 in 2022. Federal and state grants and assistance represents 52% and 73% of the LDA's operating revenues for the last two years.

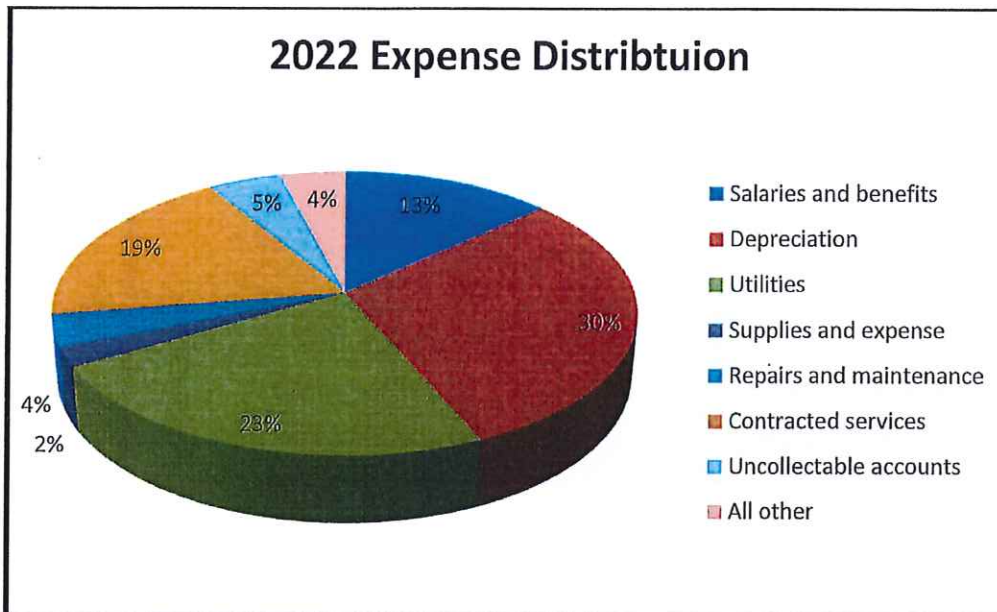
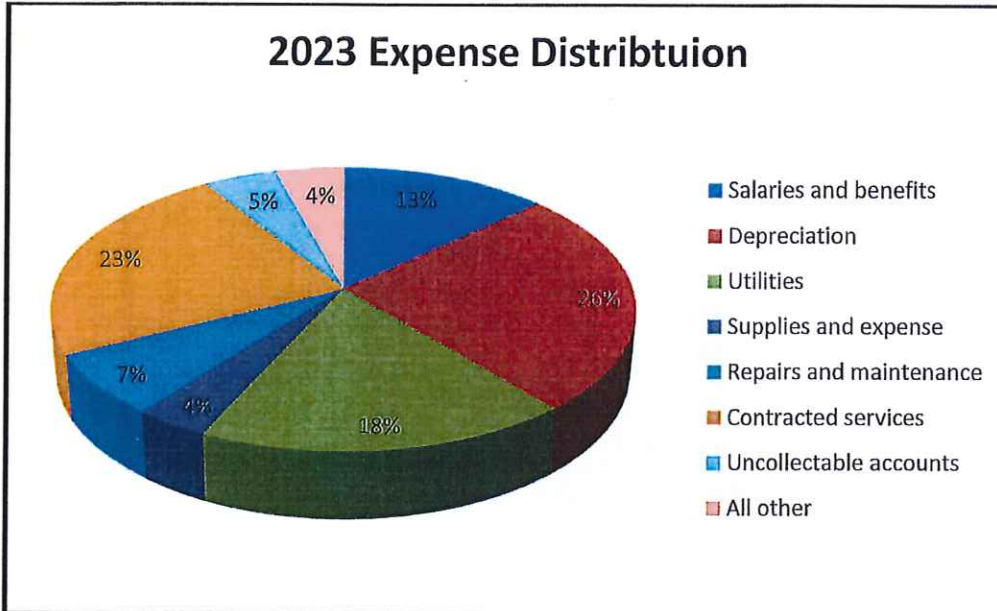


LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

Operating expenses amounted to \$2,818,050 in 2023 and \$3,229,155 in 2022. The following charts reflect the expenditures for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.



LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2023, the Loring Development Authority had land, buildings, improvements, structures and facilities of \$47,267,652. A significant portion of these assets were donated to LDA by the U.S. Air Force or purchased. Net of depreciation, these assets were recorded at \$39,136,462. In 2023 the LDA sold assets with a carrying value of approximately \$13,000,000 to a private developer. Table 3 shows capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.

Table 3

**Capital Assets at June 30
(Net of Depreciation)**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Land	\$ 8,494,599	\$ 10,444,599
Buildings	2,488,306	11,779,978
Equipment and Improvements	4,003,801	5,529,276
Special Use Structures	3,599,419	4,720,885
Aviation Facilities	15,319,407	15,355,143
Roadways and Accessories	3,230,930	3,248,098
Pipeline	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>
Total Net Capital Assets	\$ <u>39,136,462</u>	\$ <u>53,077,979</u>

Budgeting

The LDA provides an annual budget for control and internal purposes only. No legally adopted budget is maintained.

Debt

The LDA took on bonded debt of \$454,720 in 2010 for the purpose of upgrading sewer lines. As of June 30, 2023 the balance on this debt is \$147,784.

The LDA entered into a loan agreement with USDA Rural Development in the year ended June 30, 2010. The balance as of June 30, 2023 is \$270,476.

The LDA used proceeds from the sale of land and buildings to pay off its line of credit and other debt during the year ended June 30, 2023.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

UNAUDITED

On January 2, 2019 the Authority entered into an agreement with the Maine Military Authority (MMA) by which the Authority received equipment valued at \$207,000. Under the terms of the agreement the Authority could not sell or transfer ownership of the assets for a period of ten (10) years. During the ten (10) year period the Authority was obligated to pay 25% of any lease revenue received for the use of the equipment.

The State of Maine released the LDA from the agreement and allowed it to transfer the equipment as part of the real estate sale that occurred in 2023. The LDA recognized the \$207,000 as state assistance on the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in net position.

The LDA sold real estate for \$7,250,000 with \$2,750,000 due at closing and the remaining amount due in a lump sum 10 years from the date of closing with quarterly interest payments being made during the 10-year period.

Future Developments

The LDA has developed collaborations with other economic development groups which have proven effective at identifying development prospects and has begun working with private developers who are interested in purchasing real estate. Meanwhile, as development has continued and vacant buildings have been returned to productive uses, fewer facility-maintenance resources will be needed. As listed in the financial highlights, the LDA has also secured resources from the Air Force to upgrade the water treatment plant and water distribution infrastructure and has consolidated wastewater systems with a local sewer treatment district. Over the longer term, LDA's continued development will create more revenue from real estate operations that will be available to invest in repairing, replacing and upgrading infrastructure as well as further development efforts.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of the
Loring Development Authority of Maine

Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of the Loring Development Authority of Maine, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Summary of Opinions

<u>Opinion Unit</u>	<u>Type of Opinion</u>
Business-Type Activities	Unmodified
Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units	Adverse

Adverse Opinion on Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Unit

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions section of our report, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly the financial position of the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Unit of the Loring Development Authority of Maine, as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, or the changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Unmodified Opinion on Business-type Activities

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Loring Development Authority of Maine, as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Loring Development Authority of Maine, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse and unmodified audit opinions.

Matter Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on Aviation Fund on Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Unit

Management has not included the financial data for the Authority's legally separate component unit, Loring Industries, LLC in the financial statements. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require financial data for those component units to be reported with the financial data of the Authority unless the Authority also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units. The Authority has not issued such reporting entity financial statements. The amount by which this departure would affect the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position, revenues, and expenses of the business-type activities and the omitted major fund has not been determined.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Loring Development Authority of Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Loring Development Authority of Maine's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Loring Development Authority of Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages I through VII and the Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Schedule of Employer's Share of OPEB Contributions on Page 25 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 25, 2023 on our consideration of Loring Development Authority of Maine's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Loring Development Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering Loring Development Authority of Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Chester M. Kearney

Presque Isle, Maine
September 25, 2023

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

ASSETS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 3)	\$ 219,810	\$ 138,767
Due from State of Maine (Note 9)	611,728	539,449
Accounts receivable, net	113,376	405,685
Grants receivable	197	14,974
Current portion of notes receivable	-	2,830
Inventory	<u>5,365</u>	<u>9,163</u>
	<u>950,476</u>	<u>1,110,868</u>
FIXED ASSETS (Note 13)		
Capital assets	47,267,652	70,242,283
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,131,190)</u>	<u>(17,164,304)</u>
	<u>39,136,462</u>	<u>53,077,979</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
Construction in progress	108,850	87,535
Leases receivable (Note 6)	150,623	482,248
Notes receivable (Note 12)	<u>4,500,000</u>	<u>47,271</u>
	<u>4,759,473</u>	<u>617,054</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 44,846,411</u>	<u>\$ 54,805,901</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Prepaid expense	1,400	1,400
Deferred outflows related to OPEB (Note 19)	<u>66,086</u>	<u>96,347</u>
	<u>\$ 67,486</u>	<u>\$ 97,747</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 204,422	\$ 267,768
Accrued expenses	75,382	85,788
Short-term debt (Note 8)	-	64,990
Line of credit (Note 8)	-	1,700,000
Current portion of long-term debt	<u>28,806</u>	<u>109,554</u>
	<u>308,610</u>	<u>2,228,100</u>
LONG-TERM DEBT		
Notes Payable (Note 14)	418,260	877,679
Less Current Portion	<u>(28,806)</u>	<u>(109,554)</u>
	389,454	768,125
Due to State of Maine (Note 15)	<u>-</u>	<u>207,000</u>
	<u>389,454</u>	<u>975,125</u>
OPEB LIABILITY (Note 19)	<u>145,662</u>	<u>160,815</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 843,726</u>	<u>\$ 3,364,040</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Grants authorized and unexpended (Note 9)	97,866	12,866
Unearned lease revenue (Note 6)	100,008	100,008
Unearned revenue (Note 7)	150,623	482,248
Deferred inflows related to OPEB (Note 19)	31,912	28,711
Prepaid rent	<u>1,933</u>	<u>12,583</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>\$ 382,342</u>	<u>\$ 636,416</u>
NET POSITION		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	38,827,053	52,369,679
Unrestricted	<u>4,860,776</u>	<u>(1,466,487)</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$ 43,687,829</u>	<u>\$ 50,903,192</u>

See notes to financial statements

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
OPERATING REVENUES		
State assistance (Note 9)	\$ 818,728	\$ 1,897,547
Lease revenue	480,368	399,489
Water and sewer fees	285,696	284,370
Other	45	14,872
	<u>1,584,837</u>	<u>2,596,278</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	369,489	430,585
Depreciation	723,896	968,899
Utilities	509,277	753,682
Supplies and expense	102,820	74,338
Repairs and maintenance	198,667	116,263
Contracted services	658,087	599,330
Legal and audit	11,605	6,287
Insurance	9,880	47,976
Communications	12,581	13,282
Travel	1,858	2,050
Interest expense and bond bank fees	72,384	64,622
Marketing	15,600	514
Uncollectable accounts	131,906	151,327
	<u>2,818,050</u>	<u>3,229,155</u>
LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(1,233,213)</u>	<u>(632,877)</u>
NON-OPERATING REVENUES/(EXPENSES)		
Federal and State assistance for capital projects (Note 9)	20,465	102,056
Gain on sale of surplus property	210	620
Loss on asset disposal	(6,010,305)	-
Interest income	25,789	2,487
OPEB (expense)/ recovery (Note 20)	(18,309)	(20,112)
	<u>(5,982,150)</u>	<u>85,051</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(7,215,363)	(547,826)
NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>50,903,192</u>	<u>51,451,018</u>
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 43,687,829</u>	<u>\$ 50,903,192</u>

See notes to financial statements

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from customers	\$ 1,047,723	\$ 795,646
Cash received from governmental assistance	746,449	1,458,098
Cash received from other sources	45	14,872
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(379,895)	(401,543)
Cash paid for contract services	(658,087)	(599,330)
Cash paid for goods and services	(1,053,742)	(1,310,416)
Interest paid	(72,384)	(64,622)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(369,891)</u>	<u>(107,295)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM NON-CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Net advances on line of credit	(1,700,000)	-
Proceeds (Payments) on short-term debt	(64,990)	(35,010)
Proceeds from long-term debt	-	-
Interest received	25,789	2,487
Net cash used in non-capital financing activities	<u>(1,739,201)</u>	<u>(32,523)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for capital acquisitions and construction	(34,940)	(87,535)
Payments on long-term debt	(666,419)	(102,882)
Payments received on note receivable	2,771,252	302,699
Proceeds from capital grants	120,242	78,002
Sale of property	-	620
Net cash provided by capital financing activities	<u>2,190,135</u>	<u>190,904</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	81,043	51,086
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>138,767</u>	<u>87,681</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	<u>219,810</u>	<u>138,767</u>
RECONCILIATION OF LOSS FROM OPERATIONS TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Loss from operations	<u>(1,233,213)</u>	<u>(632,877)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile loss from operations to net cash used in operating activities		
Depreciation	723,896	968,899
OPEB expense (recovery)	(18,309)	(20,112)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Operating accounts receivable, net	292,309	106,114
Operating funds due from other governments	(72,279)	(439,449)
Inventory	3,798	(4,438)
Leases receivable	331,625	(482,248)
Accounts payable	(63,346)	(140,259)
Prepaid rent	(10,650)	6,172
Accrued expenses	(10,406)	29,042
Unearned lease revenue	(331,625)	481,749
Deferred outflows related to OPEB	30,261	(88,940)
OPEB Liability	(15,153)	120,294
Deferred inflows related to OPEB	3,201	(11,242)
	<u>863,322</u>	<u>525,582</u>
Net cash provided used in operating activities	<u>\$ (369,891)</u>	<u>\$ (107,295)</u>

See notes to financial statements

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

On July 12, 1991, the President of the United States accepted the recommendation of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission to close Loring Air Force Base (Loring) located in the Town of Limestone, Maine, Town of Caswell, Maine, and the City of Caribou, Maine, as well as nine off-site locations used for housing, communications and water distribution. The effective date of closure was September 30, 1994. The Loring base property, which excludes any off-site locations, consists of approximately 8,700 acres of land, 3.1 million square feet of existing facility space and an aviation complex, which includes a 12,100 foot runway, related aviation facilities and operating systems.

On July 13, 1993, the Maine State Legislature enacted Public Law Chapter 474, establishing the Loring Development Authority of Maine (LDA), a public municipal corporation. The LDA is entrusted with investigating the acquisition of the properties within the geographical boundaries of Loring, and the subsequent redevelopment and management of property so acquired.

On April 4, 1997, the United States Air Force transferred approximately 3,700 acres of land, associated facilities, infrastructure and personal property to the LDA via the execution of Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) and Lease in Furtherance of Conveyance documents. This EDC document, which is a mechanism used by the Federal government to transfer former military installations to local reuse authorities for job creation and economic development purposes, transferred control of the Loring property to the LDA through a no-cost, 55-year lease, with commitments from the Air Force to transfer title to the property upon receiving environmental clearance from the Environmental Protection Agency. The conveyance documents also include a provision that provided the LDA with an average of \$2.7 million annually through September 30, 2004 to fund its municipal type functions including, but not limited to, fire and emergency services, police protection, water and waste water systems, as well as protection and maintenance of buildings, grounds and roadways. This funding expired September 30, 2004. The lease given to the LDA in 1997 was superseded in 2001 with a Quit Claim deed conveying 2,805 of the original 3,700 acres in fee title and in 2004 when the remainder of the property was conveyed by deed. The LDA also acquired a 185 mile pipeline in 2005 and a 142,000 square-foot building used by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, subject to a leaseback arrangement.

Consistent with the LDA's enabling legislation, as amended, the Board of Trustees is comprised of thirteen (13) voting members, each of whom are nominated by the Governor of the State of Maine and confirmed by the Maine Senate. Of the thirteen (13), one is a commissioner of a department of state government, designated by the Governor to serve on the LDA Board. No less than seven of the Board of Trustees must be residents of Aroostook County and be nominated by one of the primary impacted communities, as defined in the enabling legislation. In addition, no less than four of the Board of Trustees must live outside of Aroostook County. The enabling legislation also imposes term limits on the Trustees of two consecutive four-year terms. The Board of Trustees have elected a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to serve terms of one year. The fiscal year for the LDA runs from July 1 through June 30. The financial information of the LDA is reported as a component unit as part of the financial statements of the State of Maine.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The LDA prepares its financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenue is recognized when earned and measurable and expenses are recognized when incurred and measurable.

The LDA is comprised of business-type activities only. As prescribed by Section Sp20 of GASB's Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, *Special Purpose Governments*, only the financial statements required for enterprise funds are presented.

Measurement focus

Proprietary funds are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the Statements of Net Position. The Statements of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Net Position presents the increases (i.e. revenues) and decreases (i.e. expenses) in net total assets. The Statements of Cash Flows provides information about how the Authority finances and meets the cash flow needs of its proprietary activities.

Use of estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Budgetary information

GASB #34 requires that budgetary comparison schedules be presented only for the general fund and each major special revenue fund that has a legally adopted annual budget. The LDA currently does not legally adopt an annual budget and therefore has not presented one in these financial statements.

Cash and cash equivalents

The LDA has defined cash and cash equivalents to include cash on hand, demand deposits and cash with fiscal agents. Currently, the LDA treats all their cash as a cash equivalent because they can deposit or withdraw cash at any time without prior notice or penalty.

Defining operating revenues and expenses

The LDA's proprietary funds distinguish between operating and non-operating revenues and expenses. Operating revenues and expenses of the LDA consist of federal and state assistance for non-capital transactions as well as revenue derived from rental activities and the costs of providing rental property, including depreciation and excluding interest costs. All other revenues and expenses are reported as non-operating.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd.)

Deferred Outflows of Resources

The LDA reports decreases in net assets that relate to future periods as deferred outflows of resources in a separate section of its statement of net position. Deferred outflows of resources as of June 30, 2023 consist of prepaid utility expenses and items relating to other post-employment benefits.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

The LDA reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element reflects an increase in net assets that applies to future periods. The LDA will not recognize the related revenues until a future event occurs. The LDA's deferred inflows of resources are detailed in Note #6, Note #7, Note #9 and Note #21.

(3) CASH AND TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS

Deposits with financial institutions are subject to custodial credit risk. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned to it. The Authority's investment policy is to invest in regional banks and federal securities and to insure the funds to as great a degree as possible. The Authority's checking deposits at year-end were covered by Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or collateralized by U.S. Governmental Agency securities held in the Authority's name.

The Authority's cash balances in the financial statements are \$219,810 and \$138,767 as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The Authority's cash is categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Authority at year-end. These categories are defined as follows:

- Category #1 – Insured or collateralized with securities held by the Authority or by its agency in the Authority's name.
- Category #2 – Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the Authority's name.
- Category #3 – Uncollateralized, which includes any bank balance that is collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution or by its trust department or agent but not in the Authority's name.

As of June 30, 2023 and 2022 the Authority's entire cash and temporary investment balances are classified as Category 1.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(4) COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Authority employees are granted vacation and sick leave in varying amounts. Upon termination, an employee is paid the full amount of accumulated vacation days not taken. Sick leave is not payable upon termination.

The Authority's financial liability for accrued vacations at June 30, 2023 and 2022 is \$12,198 and \$23,158, respectively.

(5) PENSION PLAN

The Authority has instituted a Model Simplified Employee Pension Plan for all eligible Authority employees in accordance with Section 408(K) of the Internal Revenue Code. All Authority contributions to the employee's individual retirement account are 100% vested to the employee on the date of the contribution. Employee contributions to the plan are discretionary, subject to Internal Revenue Code limitations. Accrued contributions to the plan, at 5% of regular gross wages, totaled \$15,211 and \$17,173 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

(6) RENTAL OF FACILITIES

The Authority has leased land and buildings at Loring to various third parties under non-cancellable operating leases requiring fixed payments through 2026. The leases provide for varying terms and conditions.

As of June 30, 2023, the future minimum lease payments, discounted at a rate of 6.5%, for the next 5 years are as follows:

<u>Fiscal year ending June 30:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2024	55,925
2025	27,997
2026	30,018
2027	17,730
2028	<u>18,953</u>
	<u>\$150,623</u>

The discounted lease receivable amount has also been recorded as a deferred inflow of resources as of June 30, 2023.

(7) DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

The Authority received advances of rent and other receipts, which have been characterized as deferred inflows in the accompanying Statement of Net Position.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(7) DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES (cont'd.)

As of June 30, 2023 and 2022 the amount included as deferred inflows was \$100,008. The balance consists of a \$100,000 partial payment of a fee for an exclusive negotiation period received from CSJ Green Eco-Energy development company and the remaining \$8 is an advance on a property insurance claim.

The Authority records a deferred inflow of resources related to OPEB obligations; this amount is further detailed in Note 21.

(8) LINE OF CREDIT AND SHORT-TERM DEBT

The Authority had a variable rate operating line of credit with Machias Savings Bank with interest payable at 70% of "Wall Street Prime" with a maximum limit of \$1,500,000. On January 18, 2022 the line was modified and extended with a maximum limit of \$1,700,000. As of June 30, 2022, the line of credit balance was \$1,700,000, leaving \$0 available for use. The line was paid in full and closed on January 26, 2023. The line was secured by the Authority's accounts and notes receivable, with mortgages on buildings 8700, 8702 and 7230 and other general intangibles.

On March 12, 2021 the Authority was advanced \$100,000 from Northern Maine Development Commission to be used as working capital. The balance was due in full on or before September 12, 2021 including interest accrued at 4% per annum. On June 13, 2022 the parties signed a modification agreement which extended the maturity date to July 15, 2022. As of June 30, 2023 the advance was paid in full.

(9) PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING

The LDA is currently funded through the following public sources:

(A) State of Maine:

Tax Increment Financing – On July 5, 1996, the State Legislature enacted LD 1741 establishing the Loring Job Increment Financing Fund (Fund). The Fund, which has a term of thirty years, was created to establish a supplemental source of funding to subsidize future municipal service costs. This Fund will receive state income tax withholding revenues which can be attributed to incremental jobs created at Loring and will be based upon 50% of the State income tax withholding from these incremental jobs. State contributions to the Fund will be made on an annual basis and are payable by July 31 of each year. The LDA has realized revenues of \$611,728 and \$539,449 for the years ending June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – The state of Maine DOT awarded the Authority a grant of \$1,000,000 for airport facility renovations. \$0 was spent in the year ended June 30, 2023 and 2022. \$7,825 of the balance was unexpended as of June 30, 2022 and is recorded as grants authorized and unexpended.

Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) – The Authority received \$85,000 in 2023 for the purpose of renovations that will upgrade infrastructure. \$0 was expended in the year ended June 30, 2023. \$85,000 remains to be spent and is recorded as grants authorized and unexpended.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(9) PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING (cont'd.)

(B) The United States Department of Defense – In 2009 the United States Air Force Real Property Agency made payment of \$1,500,000 to the Authority under an agreement relating to the Air Force's obligation to provide an alternative source of supply for Loring's drinking water. In 2015, upon recognizing that the initial funding was insufficient to complete the project and comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act an additional \$300,000 was approved and advanced. \$0 of these funds were spent in the year ended June 30, 2023 while for the year ended June 30, 2022 the Authority expended \$9,080 of these funds on the water system. \$5,041 remains to be spent and is recorded as grants authorized and unexpended.

(10) CONCENTRATION OF RISK

Federal and State funding

The LDA received approximately 50% of its operating revenue from state funding for the year ended June 30, 2023. The ability to continue its operations is dependent on continued funding.

Accounts receivable

For the year ended June 30, 2023, approximately 64.7% of the Authority's accounts receivable was due from 1 customer. \$455,635 (100%) of this amount has been reserved as a doubtful account.

(11) ALLOWANCE FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS

Accounts receivable are shown on the Statements of Net Position net of the allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$661,635 and \$555,635 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

(12) NOTES RECEIVABLE

British Cycle Supply Company

On July 22, 2015 the Authority sold a building to the British Cycle Supply Company and received a promissory note in the amount of \$66,400. The note is payable to the Authority in monthly installments of \$429 including interest at 4.75% through July 2035 the original note contained a final balloon payment in the amount of \$55,595 due July 2020 which the borrower was unable to pay so the parties have agreed to extend the note term. The note is secured by the building. The note balance as of June 30, 2022 was \$50,101. In 2023 the note was sold as part of the sale of real estate and other assets for its carrying value.

Green 4 Maine, LLC

On January 25, 2023, the LDA transferred assets, comprised of real estate and other assets, for a total of \$7,250,000. The LDA received \$2,750,000 cash at closing and a \$4,500,000 promissory note. The note is payable to the LDA in quarterly installments of interest only at 2% (\$22,500) beginning on April 25, 2023 and continuing through January 25, 2033.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(12) NOTES RECEIVABLE (cont'd.)

Principal payments on the note in the amount of \$100,000 are due on the third, fifth and seventh anniversary of the note (progress payments). The remaining balance is due in full on the maturity date of January 25, 2033. The note is secured by a mortgage on the real estate.

(13) CAPITAL ASSETS

With the exception of the assets acquired from the United States Air Force, (see below) all capital assets are stated at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Assets acquired with grants are also stated at cost. The Authority maintains a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. Improvements are capitalized; the cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add value to the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized. Assets such as land and some land improvements are considered inexhaustible and are not being depreciated. Capital assets not in use are also not being depreciated.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated lives</u>
Buildings and improvements	15-50 years
Equipment	3-5 years
Vehicles	3-5 years

On June 30, 2017 the Authority adjusted the values of buildings that were contributed by the United States Air Force to reflect revised estimates of the buildings' potential future use and value to the Authority. The adjustment reduced the original value by \$7,482,924. The total accumulated depreciation on these buildings was \$2,234,222 resulting in a recognized write down in the amount of \$5,248,702. In June 2019 an additional \$37,208 was written off.

On January 25, 2023 the LDA sold capital assets with a book value of approximately \$13,230,000 to Green 4 Maine. LLC for \$7,250,000. As a result, the LDA recognized a loss on the sale in the amount of \$6,010,305.

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

CAPITAL ASSETS ACQUIRED BY LDA (HISTORICAL COST)

<u>Capital Assets</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Land	10,000			10,000
Equipment and improvements	<u>11,831,612</u>	<u>13,625</u>	<u>(2,809,847)</u>	<u>9,035,390</u>
Total at historical cost	<u>11,841,612</u>	<u>13,625</u>	<u>(2,809,847)</u>	<u>9,045,390</u>
<u>Less Accumulated Depreciation</u>				
Equipment and improvements	<u>4,753,604</u>	<u>346,423</u>	<u>(1,202,608)</u>	<u>3,897,419</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>4,753,604</u>	<u>346,423</u>	<u>(1,202,608)</u>	<u>3,897,419</u>
Capital assets at historical cost, net	<u>7,088,008</u>	<u>(332,798)</u>	<u>(1,607,239)</u>	<u>5,147,971</u>

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LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(13) CAPITAL ASSETS (cont'd.)

CAPITAL ASSETS ACQUIRED FROM U. S. AIR FORCE

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
<u>Capital Assets</u>				
Land	<u>10,434,599</u>		<u>(1,950,000)</u>	<u>8,484,599</u>
Buildings				
In use	4,747,037		(4,460,345)	286,692
Leased	15,185,894		(12,451,294)	2,734,600
Not in use	<u>1,666,025</u>		<u>(1,243,770)</u>	<u>422,255</u>
	<u>21,598,956</u>		<u>(18,155,409)</u>	<u>3,443,547</u>
Equipment				
In use	102,500	16,000		118,500
Not in use	<u>89,000</u>		<u>(89,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>191,500</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>(89,000)</u>	<u>118,500</u>
Special use structures				
Water plant and distribution	<u>5,080,033</u>			<u>5,080,033</u>
Other facilities and improvements				
Aviation facilities				
Runways	9,472,226			9,472,226
Structures	6,105,861			6,105,861
Fuel pipeline	<u>2,000,000</u>			<u>2,000,000</u>
	<u>17,578,087</u>			<u>17,578,087</u>
Roadways and accessories	<u>3,517,496</u>			<u>3,517,496</u>
Capital assets from U.S. Air Force	<u>58,400,671</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>(20,194,409)</u>	<u>38,222,262</u>

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(13) CAPITAL ASSETS (cont'd.)

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
<u>Less Accumulated Depreciation</u>				
Buildings	<u>9,717,376</u>	<u>259,872</u>	<u>(8,554,402)</u>	<u>1,422,846</u>
Equipment In use	<u>102,500</u>	<u>16,000</u>		<u>118,500</u>
Special use structures Water plant and distribution	<u>2,590,824</u>	<u>101,601</u>		<u>2,692,425</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>12,410,700</u>	<u>377,473</u>	<u>(8,554,402)</u>	<u>4,233,771</u>
Capital assets acquired from U. S. Air Force, net	<u>45,989,971</u>	<u>(361,473)</u>	<u>(11,640,007)</u>	<u>33,988,491</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS				
Capital assets	70,242,283	29,625	(23,004,256)	47,267,652
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(17,164,304)</u>	<u>(723,896)</u>	<u>9,757,010</u>	<u>(8,131,190)</u>
	<u>53,077,979</u>	<u>(694,271)</u>	<u>(13,247,246)</u>	<u>39,136,462</u>

On April 4, 1997 the Authority received 3,700 acres of land, associated facilities, and personal property from the United States Air Force via a 55-year no cost lease. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles all assets associated with this lease were capitalized at estimated fair market value. The Authority has since obtained this property in fee title.

During fiscal year 2005 the United States Air Force transferred to the Authority additional property consisting of a fuel pipeline and associated rights of way extending from Searsport, Maine to Limestone, Maine. The pipeline was not in service as of June 30, 2010 and the pipeline and associated easement rights were leased during the year ended June 30, 2011.

During fiscal year 2005 the United States Air Force transferred title to a building currently occupied by federal employees to the Authority. Transfer of the deed for this property was contingent upon the Authority's promise to lease the property back to the United States at no cost. The 50-year lease may be renewed, extended, or terminated by the United States at its option but the Authority is given no option to decline an extension or renewal or to terminate the lease. The United States Government may use this property for any government purpose and is not required to pay any taxes, assessments or similar charges. However, the United States Government is responsible for all costs and liabilities associated with the property as if it were the owner. Accordingly, this property is not included as a capital asset on these financial statements.

Management feels that the value of these assets could fluctuate significantly in the event that the operational status of the Authority changes.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(14) LONG-TERM DEBT

As of June 30 long-term debt consisted of:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Note payable to Northern Maine Development Commission, payable in monthly installments of \$1,506 including interest at 3% per annum, matures May 2023; secured by assets of the Authority. Paid in full January 2023.		19,447
Note payable to Northern Maine Development Commission, payable in monthly installments of \$3,857 including interest at 6% per annum, matures June 2025; secured by assets of the Authority. Paid in full January 2023.		138,844
Note payable to USDA Rural Development, payable in annual installments of \$14,860 including interest at 3.25% per annum, matures August 2050; secured by assets of the Authority	270,476	276,355
Note payable to US Small Business Administration, obtained through the EIDL program, payable in monthly installments of \$643 including interest at 2.75% per annum beginning June 2023, matures December 2050; unsecured. Paid in full January 2023.		150,000
Note payable to Katahdin Trust Company, payable in monthly installments of \$2,488 including interest at 6.5% per annum, matures December 2026; secured by real estate. Paid in full January 2023.		122,513
Bond payable to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, payable in semi-annual installments of \$11,368 plus bond bank fees of \$569 per installment, matures October 2029. Interest rate is 0%.	147,784	170,520
	418,260	877,679
Less current portion	(28,806)	(109,554)
	<u>389,454</u>	<u>768,125</u>

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(14) LONG-TERM DEBT (cont'd.)

Future long-term debt obligations are as follows for the year ended June 30, 2023:

	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
6/30/2024	28,806	8,790	37,596
6/30/2025	29,003	8,592	37,595
6/30/2026	29,206	8,389	37,595
6/30/2027	29,417	8,178	37,595
6/30/2028	29,634	7,961	37,595
2029-33	72,106	36,268	108,374
2034-38	44,591	29,678	74,269
2039-43	52,324	21,945	74,269
2044-48	61,398	12,871	74,269
2049-53	<u>41,775</u>	<u>2,742</u>	<u>44,517</u>
Total	<u>418,260</u>	<u>145,414</u>	<u>563,674</u>

Long-term debt activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 is as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Advances</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Long-Term Debt				
Note payable –NMDC	19,447		19,447	-
Note payable – NMDC	138,844		138,844	-
Note payable-USDA	276,355		5,879	270,476
Note payable – US SBA	150,000		150,000	-
Note payable-Katahdin Trust Company	122,513		122,513	-
Bond payable – MMBB	<u>170,520</u>	_____	<u>22,736</u>	<u>147,784</u>
	<u>877,679</u>	=====	<u>459,419</u>	<u>418,260</u>
Other Long-Term Obligations				
OPEB liabilities	<u>160,815</u>		<u>15,153</u>	<u>145,662</u>

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(15) DUE TO STATE OF MAINE

On January 2, 2019 the Authority entered into an agreement with the Maine Military Authority (MMA) by which the Authority received equipment valued at \$207,000. Under the terms of the agreement the Authority cannot sell or transfer ownership of the assets for a period of ten (10) years. During the ten (10) year period the Authority is obligated to pay 25% of any lease revenue received for the use of the equipment. On January 25, 2023 the equipment was transferred as part of the asset sale to Green 4 Maine, LLC with permission from the State of Maine. The LDA was released from the obligation to repay the MMA and the amount of \$207,000 was recognized as state assistance on the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in net position.

(16) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events occurring through September 25, 2023, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

(17) FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority has a number of financial instruments, none of which are held for trading purposes. The Authority categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

The Authority estimates that the fair value of all financial instruments at June 30, 2023, does not differ materially from the aggregate carrying values of its financial instruments recorded in the accompanying Statement of Net Position. The estimated fair value amounts have been determined by the Authority using available market information and appropriate valuation methodologies. Considerable judgment is necessarily required in interpreting market data to develop the estimates of fair value, and, accordingly, the estimates are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that the Authority could realize in a current market exchange.

(18) TAXES

As a governmental entity, the Authority is not subject to Federal and State income taxes, accordingly, it is not necessary to consider the effects of any uncertain tax positions.

The Authority is subject to Federal and State payroll tax and is required to file the appropriate tax returns. Management believes that all required returns have been properly filed as of June 30, 2023. No examinations have been conducted by the Federal or State taxing authorities and no correspondence has been received from these authorities.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(19) OPEB OBLIGATIONS

Plan Description

The Authority provides health insurance to its employees through Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust (MMEHT). The Authority does not provide postemployment or postretirement healthcare benefits but is subject to an implicit benefit for its members in MMEHT.

Accounting Policies

The impact of experience gains and losses and assumption changes on the Total OPEB Liability (TOL) are recognized in the OPEB expense over the average expected remaining service life of all active and inactive members of the plan. As of the beginning of the measurement period this average was 4 years.

The table below summarizes the current balances of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources along with the recognition over the next 5 years, and thereafter:

	Deferred Outflows of <u>Resources</u>	Deferred Inflows of <u>Resources</u>
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 47,921	\$ 19,141
Payments subsequent to the measurement date	3,844	
Difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments		
Changes of assumptions	<u>14,321</u>	<u>12,771</u>
	<u>\$ 66,086</u>	<u>\$ 31,912</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized as OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:

2024	20,939
2025	17,095
2026	(3,860)
2027	0
2028	0
Thereafter	0

As of January 1, 2023, the plan membership data is comprised of 2 active members with only an implicit benefit.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(19) OPBB OBLIGATIONS (cont'd.)

Key Assumptions

Measurement Date:	January 1, 2023
Discount Rate:	3.72% per annum for year-end 2022/23 reporting 2.06% per annum for year-end 2021/22 reporting
Trend Assumptions:	Pre-Medicare Medical – Initial trend of 8.2% applied in FYE 2018 grading over 14 years to 4% per annum Pre-Medicare Drug – Initial trend of 9.6% applied in FYE 2018 grading over 14 years to 4% per annum Medicare Medical – Initial trend of 4.93% applied in FYE 2018 grading over 14 years to 4% per annum Medicare Drug – Initial trend of 9.6% applied in FYE 2018 grading over 14 years to 4% per annum
Administrative and Claims Expense:	3% per annum

Future Plan Changes

It is assumed that the current plan and cost-sharing structure remains in place for all future years.

Demographic Assumptions

Retiree continuation:	Retirees who are current Medicare participants: 100% Retirees who are Pre-Medicare, active participants: 75% Spouses who are Pre-Medicare, active participants: 50%
Rate of mortality:	Based on 104% and 120 % of the RP-2014 Total Dataset Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, respectively, for males and females, using the RP-2014 Total Dataset Employee Mortality Table for ages prior to start of the Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, both project from the 2006 base rates using RPEC-2015 model, with an ultimate rate of 85% for ages 20-85 grading down to an ultimate rate of 0% for ages 111-120 and convergence to the ultimate rate in the year 2020.
Marriage assumptions:	A husband is assumed to be 3 years older than his wife
Assumed rate of retirement:	For employees hired prior to July 1, 2014 Age 55-63 – 5% Age 64-69 – 20% Age 70 + - 100% For employees hired after July 1, 2014 Age 55-58 – 5% Age 59-64 – 20% Age 65-69 – 25% Age 70 + - 100%
Salary increases:	2.75% per year
Changes in assumptions:	Funding method was changed from Projected Unit Credit funding to Entry Age Normal funding method.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(19) OPEB OBLIGATIONS (cont'd.)

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the OPEB liability was 3.72% based on a measurement date of January 1, 2023. This rate is assumed to be an index rate for 20-year, tax exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher, for pay as you go plans.

The following table shows how the net OPEB liability (NOL) as of June 30, 2022 would change if the discount rate used was one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate. The current rate is 2.06%.

1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
2.72%	3.72%	4.72%
\$164,428	\$145,662	\$129,864

A 1% decrease in the healthcare trend rate increases the NOL by approximately 12.9% while a 1% increase in the healthcare trend rate decreases the TOL by approximately 10.8%.

Changes in the healthcare trend affect the measurement of the TOL. Lower healthcare trend rates produce a lower TOL and higher healthcare trend rates produce a higher TOL. The table below shows the sensitivity of the TOL to the healthcare trend rate.

1% Decrease	Healthcare Trend Rates	1% Increase
\$128,778	\$145,662	\$165,512

A 1% decrease in the healthcare trend rate decreases the TOL by approximately 11.6% while a 1% increase in the healthcare trend rate increases the TOL by approximately 13.6%.

(20) LEASING

The Authority follows GASB #87 in regard to reporting leases. The policy is applied to contracts entered or changed, on or after July 1, 2021. The Authority assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease. A contract is or contains a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Authority assesses whether; the contract involves the use of an identified asset, if the Authority has the right to obtain substantially all the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use and if the Authority has the right to direct the use of the asset. The Authority recognizes a right of use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(20) LEASING (cont'd.)

The right of use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received. The right of use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right of use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of the right of use assets are determined on the same basis as those for property and equipment. In addition, the right of use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability. The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or if that rate cannot be readily determined, the Authority's incremental borrowing rate. Generally, the Authority will use the incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate. The Authority has elected not to separate non-lease components of the contract and account for the lease and non-lease components as a single lease component.

When the Authority acts as a lessor, it determines at lease inception whether each lease is classified as a short-term lease, a contract that transfers ownership, or all other leases. Under GASB #87 a lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. If the underlying asset transfers ownership to the lessee by the end of the contract, the transaction should be reported as a financed purchase of the underlying asset by the lessee, or sale of the asset by the lessor. GASB #87 requires the recognition of lease payments received under short-term financing leases as income on a straight-line basis over the lease term. For long-term leases whereby the lessee has the right to obtain substantially all the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use and has the right to direct the use of the asset the Authority recognizes a lease receivable and deferred revenue for the remaining lease term discounted at 6.5% to net present value.

A short-term lease is defined as a lease that, at the commencement date, has a lease term of 12 months or less and does not include an option to extend that the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise. Under GASB #87 lease transactions of buildings and equipment that have a lease term of 12 months or less are recognized in the statement of activities as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term in the period in which the obligation for those payments has occurred.

(21) COMPONENT UNIT

In February 2021 the Authority acquired a 100% membership interest in Loring Industries, LLC upon the death of the LLC's sole member. The member's heirs did not wish to obtain the LLC and disclaimed this portion of the estate. The LLC was terminated in March 2023.

Management has not presented any financial information related to Loring Industries, LLC in its financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)

(22) SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

<u>Function</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Capital Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Total</u>
General operations	<u>(2,836,359)</u>	<u>766,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,465</u>	<u>(2,049,830)</u>
General revenues:					
State appropriations					207,000
Loring Job Incremental Financing					611,728
Interest income					25,789
Sale of surplus property					(6,010,095)
Other income					<u>45</u>
Total general revenues					<u>(5,165,533)</u>
Change in net position					(7,215,363)
Net position - July 1, 2022					<u>50,903,192</u>
Net position - June 30, 2023					<u>43,687,829</u>

(23) SUMMARY OF NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Non-cash investing and financing activities are as follows:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
None	-	-

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Total OPEB Liability	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Service cost (BOY)	\$ 1,742	\$ 2,825	\$ 2,452	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,574	\$ 2,175
Interest (includes interest on service cost)	3,316	915	1,022	3,404	3,011	3,819
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	(680)	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	95,843	-	(57,421)	-	(29,471)
Changes of assumptions	(17,028)	21,056	2,382	7,802	(6,685)	12,105
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,183)	(345)	(332)	(2,243)	(2,157)	(907)
Net Change in total OPEB Liability	<u>\$ (15,153)</u>	<u>\$ 120,294</u>	<u>\$ 5,524</u>	<u>\$ (47,775)</u>	<u>\$ (4,257)</u>	<u>\$ (12,279)</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	<u>\$ 160,815</u>	<u>\$ 40,521</u>	<u>\$ 34,997</u>	<u>\$ 82,770</u>	<u>\$ 87,027</u>	<u>\$ 99,306</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u>\$ 145,662</u>	<u>\$ 160,815</u>	<u>\$ 40,521</u>	<u>\$ 34,997</u>	<u>\$ 82,770</u>	<u>\$ 87,027</u>

LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Plan Fiduciary Net Position						
Contributions - Employer	3,183	345	332	2,243	2,157	907
Contributions - Member	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,183)	(345)	(332)	(2,243)	(2,157)	(907)
Administrative expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net change in plan fiduciary net positions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Fiduciary Net Position - Ending	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Covered employee payroll	124,762	124,762	251,783	251,783	402,382	402,382
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll	116.8%	128.9%	16.1%	13.9%	20.6%	21.6%

Supplementary schedule starts with one year of information as of the implementation of GASB No. 75, but eventually will build up to 10 years of information. The schedule above shows changes in TOL and related ratios required by GASB No. 75.

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.



Chester M. Kearney
Certified Public Accountants

12 Dyer Street, Presque Isle, Maine 04769-1550
207-764-3171 Fax 207-764-6362

Barbara E. McGuire, CPA, CGMA
Timothy P. Poitras, CPA, CGMA

To the Board of Trustees of the
Loring Development Authority of Maine

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Loring Development Authority of Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Loring Development Authority of Maine's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 25, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Loring Development Authority of Maine's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Loring Development Authority of Maine's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Loring Development Authority of Maine's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

ADDITIONAL REPORT

Report on Compliance and other matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Loring Development Authority of Maine's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Chester M. Kearney

Presque Isle, Maine
September 25, 2023

From: [Arturo Perez](#)
To: [Gresser, Suzanne](#)
Subject: NCSL Dues Letter and Invoice Amount for FY 2024
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 9:21:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[Dues 2024 Maine.pdf](#)

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear Suzanne,

Let me begin with gratitude for what you do to serve the people in Maine and to strengthen your legislature. Strengthening the legislative institution is at the core of NCSL's mission along with producing exceptional nonpartisan research, bringing legislators and staff together to learn from each other and fighting for the interests of the states in Washington.

Enclosed is NCSL's Maine FY 2024 dues invoice as established by the NCSL governing body made up of elected legislators and legislative staff. By joining with the other 49 state legislatures, as well as the territories, you are leveraging your resources and supporting the premier organization dedicated to your success and the success of your fellow members plus all of your staff. Thank you for continuing to contribute to the vital work that we do in your service.

We place tremendous value on your feedback; therefore, I highly encourage you to contact me if you have ideas about how we can continue to improve our many products and services to legislatures.

I speak for all the NCSL staff when I say that it is our honor, and a true privilege, to serve you and be your national staff support. NCSL remains committed to your success and the success of the other 7,386 legislators and 30,000 legislative staff who comprise NCSL.

Thank you,



Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
NCSL

Sent by:

Arturo Pérez

National Conference of State Legislatures

Vice President of State Services

720.401.0186 (m)



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INVOICE

Maine



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Invoice for FY 2024 NCSL Dues

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National Conference of State Legislatures

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May 10, 2023

Ms. Suzanne Gresser
Executive Director, Maine Legislature
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Ms. Gresser:

I am writing to share important information regarding Maine's Fiscal Year 2024 dues for its membership in The Council of State Governments (CSG) and CSG East. I have also included the invoice for Maine's annual dues to CSG in the amount of \$132,287.

CSG was created by the states in 1933 and has, for 90 years, delivered exceptional value to state officials. With your state's continued financial support, we will continue to provide nonpartisan, regional and national programming on priority public policy issues of state officials.

Through the CSG Executive Committee, which includes state leaders from Maine, the states themselves determine the dues to be paid by each state based on a formula that includes a base amount plus a population-based component. Sixty percent of Maine's dues are allocated directly to support CSG East and forty percent supports CSG national programs and services including the CSG Justice Center. The final FY2024 dues amount was approved by the Executive Committee in December 2022.

On behalf of the CSG leadership, thank you for your continued investment in the work of CSG. Should you need additional information, you can reach me on my cell at (859) 559-3915 or by email at dadkins@csg.org or David Biette, director of CSG East, at (646) 383-5711 or dbiette@csg.org.

Maine 2024 CSG Dues

Total Amount: \$132,287
Time Period: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
CSG National Programs and Services
CSG Justice Center
CSG East
CSG Eastern Regional Conference

Sincerely,



David Adkins
Executive Director/CEO
The Council of State Governments

C: Senate President Troy Jackson, Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Senator Eloise Vitelli, Representative Maureen Terry, Assistant Majority Leader Kristen Cloutier

The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 244-8000

To: Maine

Invoice Date: 05/10/2023

DUES INVOICE

For: The Council of State Governments
Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
Total Due: \$132,287

(Federal Identification Number: 36-6000818)

Thank You for Your Continued Support

The Council of State Governments accepts payment for state dues by electronic funds transfer or check. CSG policy prohibits payment of state dues by credit card, debit card or by any other method for which CSG would incur a transaction fee.

To submit payment via electronic funds transfer:

CSG uses Traditional Bank, Mt. Sterling, KY
Routing number: 042101514
Account number: 103543

To remit payment via check:

The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

If you have questions regarding this invoice or if you need assistance completing any documentation, please contact Julie Leininger at (859) 244-8129 or julie.leininger@csg.org.

From: [Figueroa, Kirsten](#)
To: [Gresser, Suzanne](#)
Cc: [Clark, Elaine](#)
Subject: Blaine House Renovations and Repairs Fund account
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 2:19:43 PM

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Good afternoon Suzanne,

I hope this email finds you well after a long legislative session.

I am writing about the possibility of a transfer into this account.

According to Title 3, section 162 (12-A):

12-A. Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance. To administer the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance, established and maintained as provided in this subsection. The State Controller at the close of each fiscal year and at the request of the Legislative Council shall transfer from unexpended balances of General Fund appropriations to the Legislature to the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance available amounts up to \$250,000 a year until a maximum of \$1,500,000 is achieved. **The State Controller is further authorized to transfer from the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance to the Blaine House Renovations and Repairs Fund the amounts recommended by the Legislative Council.** The Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance may also receive and accept allocations, appropriations, grants and contributions of money to be held, used or applied to carry out this subsection, subject to the conditions upon which these allocations, appropriations, grants and contributions are made. Expenditures from the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance are subject to legislative allocation, may be made only for major repairs and renovations to the State House, must be reviewed and recommended by the State House and Capitol Park Commission and must receive a majority vote of the Legislative Council. Funds allocated or appropriated to the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance may not lapse but must be carried forward;

Our records indicate the last transfer request was in fiscal year 2019 (7/9/2018). We have carefully used/carried those funds since, and currently have a balance of approximately \$15,000.

Unlike many years, BGS has committed significant funds to the Blaine House from capital funds appropriated by the Legislature and funds available via MGFA. We have a long list of neglected and/or critical capital improvements, including a significant investment in the fence

that will surround the property improving security, that will benefit the Blaine House for years to come. But as you know, with caring for an older historic building, the needs never end.

We would like Legislative Council to consider allowing a transfer from its Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance to the Blaine House Renovations and Repairs Fund in an amount up to \$100,000. Efforts that would be considered with these funds are equipment replacement (commercial range/oven); landscaping/grounds improvements (including replacement of garden beds); exterior cleaning; repairs or replacement of flooring – back entry way, piano room, signature room, and pool table room; a lift to help move things and people from the first to second floor; and molding repair, upkeep and painting.

It may be that we are a bit late on this request. We have had some transition in accounting responsibilities and general oversight of the Blaine House, so this request was lost amongst that shuffle.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, Kirsten

Kirsten LC Figueroa

Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services
(207) 624-7811
78 State House Station
111 Sewall St.
Augusta, ME 04333-0078

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SEN. TROY D. JACKSON
CHAIR

REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
VICE-CHAIR



131st MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER

To: Members, Legislative Council

From: Suzanne M. Gresser, Executive Director

Date: December 21, 2023

Re: Maine National Speech and Debate Association

I received a request to allow the Maine National Speech and Debate Association to use the State House as the venue for the upcoming Maine high school debate tournament, which has been named in honor of the late Representative Dale Denno. The event was successfully held in the State House in 2019, 2020, and again in 2023, and the Association is asking for the Legislative Council to approve the date for the upcoming tournament in January of 2024.

The Maine National Speech and Debate Association's requested date for scheduling the program is Saturday, January 27, 2024. I have informed the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate regarding the request, as all such requests involve the participation of legislative staff.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

SEN. TROY D. JACKSON
CHAIR

REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



131st MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
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REP. BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM
REP. AMY B. ARATA

To: Members, Legislative Council

From: Suzanne M. Gresser, Executive Director

Date: December 21, 2023

Re: YMCA Youth and Government Program

I received a request from Lonney Steeves, Director of the Maine YMCA Youth and Government Program, regarding the scheduling of the 2024 program. This program has been using the State House in early November for years, and are asking for the Legislative Council to once again approve for next year's program.

Mr. Steeves' requested dates for scheduling the 2024 program occurs over the long Veterans Day weekend on November 8th, 9th and 10th of 2024. I have informed the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate regarding the request, as all such requests involve the participation of legislative staff.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Kevin L. Raye
63 Sunset Cove Lane
Perry, Maine 04667
kevin@kevinraye.com
tel. 207-214-7900

April 27, 2023

The Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0115

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Ross, and Members of the Legislative Council,

I am writing to request that the Legislative Council authorize the commissioning of official portraits of former U.S. Senators William S. Cohen and Olympia J. Snowe to be displayed prominently in the Maine State House.

Senator Cohen began his public service as an Assistant District Attorney in Penobscot County (1968-1970). He served on the Bangor City Council (1969-1972) and as Bangor's Mayor (1971-1972). He then served three terms representing Maine's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives (1973-1979), and three terms representing Maine in the United States Senate (1979-1997). In 1996, he chose not to seek re-election after 24 years in Congress. In his final days in office, Democratic President Clinton nominated Republican Bill Cohen to serve as Secretary of Defense, a position he held for four years (1997-2001).

Senator Snowe's first office was as a member of the Maine House of Representatives (1973-1977) and then the Maine Senate (1977-1979). In 1978, she was elected to the first of eight terms representing the 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives (1979-1995). At the time of her election, she was the youngest Republican woman ever elected to Congress. She went on to serve three terms representing Maine in the United States Senate (1995-2013), retiring after 34 years in Congress. The first woman in American history elected to both houses of a state legislature and both houses of Congress, she has won the most elections of any federal candidate in Maine since WWII.

Both Senator Snowe and Senator Cohen have compelling life stories and represented Maine honorably, with integrity, distinction and a healthy dose of Maine's cherished spirit of independence. Both rose to national prominence and brought great credit to the State of Maine through their years of public service and long lists of accomplishments for Maine and the Nation. As a former President of the Maine Senate, former Chief of Staff to Senator Snowe, and proud Mainer, I believe both are richly deserving of the recognition and honor of having official portraits on display in the State Capitol alongside those of Margaret Chase Smith, Edmund Muskie, George Mitchell and William Hathaway.

It is my understanding that, if the Legislative Council authorizes portraits to be commissioned, 25% of the cost of the portraits must be secured from private donors. If approved by the Council, I will be happy to take on responsibility to organize an effort to raise private funds to meet that requirement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please let me know if there is anything else you need from me related to this request.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Raye
Former Senate President

cc: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director

SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU
CHAIR

REP. MARK W. EVES
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRANT T. PENNOYER



127TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. GARRETT P. MASON
SEN. ANDRE E. CUSHING
SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
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REP. JEFFREY M. MCCABE
REP. SARA GIDEON
REP. KENNETH W. FREDETTE
REP. ELEANOR M. ESPLING

Legislative Council Policy on the Maine State House Portrait Collection

I. Care and Management of the Portrait Collection

- Care and management of the Portrait Collection.** The care and management of the Portrait Collection of the Maine State House are responsibilities of the Maine State Museum, which solely shall determine and satisfy the needs related to the storage, conservation, exhibition, public education and public placement of the portraits in the collection. All such decisions shall be based on sound and recognized professional principles of museum practice. Within professional and space constraints, the museum will display much of the Portrait Collection in the public spaces of the State House. Public spaces include hallways and corridors, rotunda areas, legislative committee rooms, Law and Legislative Reference Library, Senate and House chambers, Governor's office, and offices of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. Once the portrait locations have been determined by museum curatorial staff, the museum will try to minimize further movement of the paintings to limit the potential for damage and to conserve staff time. Legislative proposals for relocating portraits to places within the State House other than those established by the museum shall be made to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council who will then contact the museum director to determine the viability of the proposed relocation.
- Museum to hold title to portraits.** In keeping with the legislation creating the Maine State Museum and defining and regulating its activities, the Maine State Museum holds title to the portraits as trustee for the State (pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes Title 27, 86-A). In this context every portrait that comes into the Portrait Collection must be accompanied by a signed Deed of Gift or equivalent conveyance permanently transferring ownership to the museum.
- Notification to Maine State Museum of decision affecting Portrait Collection.** The museum must be notified in a timely and appropriate manner of authorized decisions made to commission, fund, transport, accept, receive or hang portraits so that it can respond to those matters as required and in a prompt and proper fashion.
- Legislative Council funding.** The Legislative Council shall pay up to \$3,000 annually for contracted services by the Maine State Museum for the purposes of care, maintenance or conservation related to the Portrait Collection.

II. Standards for Portraits to be included in Portrait Collection.

1. **Eligible persons for Portrait Collection.** Commissioned portraits may include Governors of Maine, U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives, members of the judiciary, military figures, and citizens of special distinction. Every portrait must be of a once-living or currently living individual.
2. **Standards for Portraits to be included in the Portrait Collection.** All portraits commissioned for or accepted into the Portrait Collection must meet the following standards:
 - A. **Portraits to be executed in oil pigments.** All portraits must be executed in oil pigments. The only allowed exceptions are original pastel portraits, watercolors, drawings, or other unique, original graphic depictions of early Governors of Maine or other distinguished individuals of the 19th century for whom no oil portraits are known to be available or exist.
 - B. **Portraits to be in traditional, representational style.** All portraits must be in a traditional, representational style in keeping with those portraits presently in the collection. Portraits should present qualities of high technical competence and achievement in recognition of the honor of inclusion in the collection and the special respect in which the State House is held by the citizens of Maine.
 - C. **Portrait size limitation.** No portrait may be larger than 40 inches in height by 30 inches in width, excluding the frame.
 - D. **Portrait frame requirements.** Every portrait shall be provided with a frame of dignified appearance, tasteful presentation and careful construction suitable for display among the many historical examples of the same.

III. Non-Gubernatorial Portraits

1. **Sole Authority to approve the commissioning of portraits.** The Legislative Council shall have the sole authority to approve any proposal to commission a portrait for the Portrait Collection and to initiate the process of commissioning it.
2. **Artist selection panel.** Upon approval by the Legislative Council of a potential subject for a portrait commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall notify the Maine Arts Commission to convene a review panel to select a qualified artist to execute the portrait. That panel will consist of seven members, three from the Maine Arts Commission (one of commission members shall chair the panel), two from the Maine State Museum, one member from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and one representative of the Legislative Council, to select by a majority vote a qualified artist. The review panel will then negotiate the cost of the portrait commission with the artist and report that to the Legislative Council.
3. **Review panel for commissioned portraits, membership.** The Maine Arts Commission shall establish a review panel to assess and select artists once the Legislative Council has approved the commissioning of a portrait for the Portrait Collection. The review panel must include a

representative of the Legislative Council, two representatives of the Maine State Museum and a representative of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

4. **Approval of cost and funding.** When the artist has been chosen, the Legislative Council must approve the portrait commission cost.
5. **Cost sharing of portrait commission costs.** Any portrait not of a Maine Governor must include funding for 25% of the total expense from the State. The remainder of the expense must be raised by private subscriptions or contributions. The intent of this provision is to strike a healthy balance between private and public commitment in the commissioning of any non-gubernatorial portrait intended for the Portrait Collection.
6. **Execution of commission contingent on full funding being identified.** No commission for a non-gubernatorial portrait may be executed until funding for the 25% State share and the remaining private subscriptions or contribution required pursuant to section 3.5 have been determined to be available and certified by the Legislative Council. Once funding is certified as available, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall notify the Maine Arts Commission.
7. **Contract administration.** The Maine Arts Commission will negotiate the terms of any contract with the artist selected, administer the contract to completion and transfer the completed portrait with its title to the Maine State Museum.
8. **Organization of portrait presentation events.** If there is to be a portrait dedication or public ceremony marking the official hanging or delivery of the portrait, it shall be organized by the Maine State Museum in concert with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and other significant entities involved in the process. The cost of the public ceremony must be borne by those private entities chiefly responsible for the commissioning of the portrait.

THIS POLICY IS ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT AUGUSTA, MAINE ON JUNE 24, 2015.

BY:



Executive Director of the Legislative Council

Effective Date: JUNE 24, 2015