

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. TROY JACKSON
CHAIR

REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



131ST MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
January 9, 2024
Approved February 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the January 9, 2024 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Legislative Officers: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Rob Hunt, Assistant Clerk of the House
Edward 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 2:30 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

The Legislative Council proceeded to consider and vote on thirty-one (31) after deadline bill requests and two (2) Joint Resolutions. With respect to requests for after deadline bill requests, the

Legislative Council accepted for introduction nineteen (19), rejected twelve (12), and tabled two (2) request. In addition, the Council rejected two (2) requests for Joint Resolutions. The Legislative Council's action on the requests is attached to this meeting summary.

Following the Legislative Council's consideration of requests for after deadline bills and joint resolutions, the President returned to the printed agenda.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OFFICE DIRECTORS

Fiscal Report

Although a written fiscal report had not been included in the Council materials, President Jackson invited the Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review to provide an oral briefing to the Council regarding the appropriation limit and the most recent revenue projections. Director Nolan reported to the Legislative Council that: so far, the State is below the appropriation limit for both FY24 and FY25, but it is close to the limit for FY24; the December forecast had added \$139.3 million for FY24 and \$125.3 million for FY25, for a total of \$264.6 million; and this re-projected amount, when added to the previously projected balance of \$28.5 million, results in an estimated balance at the end of FY25 of \$293.1 million. In response to questioning, Director Nolan further explained that while the estimated 2024-2025 General Fund balances are technically available to fund new initiatives, any additional appropriations in those initiatives would be limited by the appropriations limit, particularly in FY24.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

State House Facilities Committee

Representative Terry reported that the State House Facilities Committee met on Friday, January 5th, to consider the following items.

1. Request for the Commissioning of Official Portraits and Overview of Policy

The committee considered a request from the Honorable Kevin Raye, former President of the Maine Senate, that the Legislative Council authorize the commissioning of official portraits of former United States Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen. The committee discussed the specifics of the request, as well as processes set out in the Legislative Council Policy on the Maine State House Portrait Collection, such as artist selection, sharing of portrait commission costs, and responsibility for the placement of portraits in the State House. Representatives of the Maine State Museum who were present at the meeting provided information to the committee. Following its discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Legislative Council that it approve commissioning and adding to the Maine State House Portrait Collection the official portraits of former United States Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen.

2. Emergency Preparedness

The committee discussed emergency preparedness with Matthew Clancy, Chief of Maine Capitol Police. The committee requested that Chief Clancy provide the committee with a plan to enhance communications in emergency situations, including information on the costs that would be associated with implementing a type of public address system; and to work with the Clerk and the

Secretary on a date to provide training on active threat procedures to members of the Legislature and caucus office staff, in the House chamber.

Representative Terry reported that at the end of its meeting, the committee went into executive session to receive information related to security plans and security procedures, and to discuss details of what an updated security system would look like. In response to a question from Sen. Stewart, Representative Terry confirmed that the plan for security screening in the CSOB would be similar to the security screening that currently exists in the State House. In response to a question from Speaker Talbot Ross, Director Gresser confirmed that the plan to move forward on security screening in the CSOB is not dependent on legislative action on LD 1100, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session from the First Regular Session.

Representative Terry returned to the topic of the Commissioning of Official Portraits, and offered the following motion:

Motion: That, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve commissioning and adding to the Maine State House Portrait collection, official portraits of former United States Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen, and further that the Executive Director initiate the process of commissioning the portraits.

Motion by Representative Terry. Second by Senator Stewart. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

None

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for December 21, 2023 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Senator Vitelli. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-1, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.