

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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
February 22, 2024
Approved March 28, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the February 22, 2024 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 1:47 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 1:47 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

Of the seventeen (17) requests on the list of after deadline bill requests, one (1) request was withdrawn, and the Legislative Council accepted for introduction twelve (12), rejected two (2), and

tabled two (2) requests. 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.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for January 9, 2024 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Speaker Talbot Ross. Second by Rep. Terry. **Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).**

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OFFICE DIRECTORS

Fiscal Report

Christopher Nolan, Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, presented the fiscal report found in the agenda packet.

Legislative Studies Report

Danielle Fox, Director of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, presented the legislative studies report found in the agenda packet.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

State House Facilities Committee

Senator Daughtry reported that the State House Facilities Committee met on January 30th, February 8th, and February 15th to consider the following items:

1. Scheduling of Active Threat Training for Legislators. The committee unanimously voted in support of the presentation of Active Threat Training to members of the Legislature and caucus office staff, in the House Chamber following a session day. This is the training that was conducted two weeks ago, on February 6th.
2. Review of State House Emergency and Evacuation Planning
The committee worked on reviewing and revising drafts of an update to the State House Emergency Plan. The committee received input from staff and from Capitol Police, and finalized a draft for recommendation to the Legislative Council. This item appears as Item #2 under New Business on the Council's agenda today.
3. State House Complex Security
The committee has been working, and will continue to work, very closely with Maine Capitol Police Chief Clancy on a number of initiatives designed to maximize the safety of staff, Legislators, and members of the public when they are in the State House Complex.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That, upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, and pursuant to its authority under 26 MRSA, §979-A, sub-§5, the Legislative Council of the 131st Legislature ratify the collective bargaining agreement for the period ending September 30, 2025 that was negotiated and tentatively agreed to by the authorized representatives of the Legislative Council and the Independent Association of Nonpartisan Legislative Professionals (IANLP) on January 12, 2024.

Further, that the Legislative Council authorize the Executive Director to take all necessary steps to carry out the terms of this Agreement;

Further, upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, that the Legislative Council exercise its right to adopt the revisions to its personnel policies, pending agreement from the respective authorities; to apply personnel policies and benefit provisions that are comparable to those contained in the aforementioned ratified collective bargaining agreement; and direct its Executive Director to incorporate as appropriate and administer those provisions; and

Further, that compensation provisions in the form of cost of living adjustments, lump sum payments, and longevity stipend amounts comparable to that provided in the aforementioned ratified collective bargaining agreement be provided to legislative employees who are not represented by a collective bargaining agent, the effective dates of such compensation provisions to coincide with those contained in the aforementioned ratified collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by: President Jackson

Date: February 2, 2024

Vote: 8-0-0-2 Passed (with Senator Keim and Representative Arata recorded as absent)

Requests for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 3046 Resolve, To Promote Access to Education and Workforce Development by Transferring Ownership of the Hutchinson Center from the University of Maine System to the City of Belfast

Submitted by: Senator Curry

Date: February 6, 2024

Vote: 6-3-0-1 Passed (with Senator Stewart, Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Arata recorded as opposed, and Senator Keim recorded as absent)

LR 3045 An Act to Establish the Wabanaki Veterans Memorial

Submitted by: Speaker Talbot Ross

Date: February 16, 2024

Vote: 7-0-0-3 Passed (with Senator Stewart, Senator Keim, and Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

LR 3077 An Act to Promote Equity in the Forest Products Industry by Allowing Commercial Wood Trucking to Be Eligible for Certain Sales Tax Exemptions

Submitted by: President Jackson

Date: February 16, 2024

Vote: 6-1-0-3 Passed (with Representative Arata recorded as opposed, and Senator Stewart, Senator Keim, and Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

LR 3085 An Act to Change Department of Health and Human Services Rules Regarding Summer Camps to Major Substantive Rules

Submitted by: Senator Brenner

Date: February 20, 2024

Vote: 8-0-0-2 Passed (with Senator Keim and Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

LR 3068 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 80: Reduction of Toxics in Packaging, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

Submitted by: Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

Date: February 21, 2024

Vote: 7-1-0-2 Passed (with Representative Arata recorded as opposed, and Senator Stewart and Senator Keim recorded as absent)

LR 3056 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Submitted by: Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Date: February 21, 2024

Vote: 8-1-0-1 Passed (with Representative Arata recorded as opposed, and Senator Keim recorded as absent)

LR 3087 An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District

Submitted by: Senator Tipping

Date: February 21, 2024

Vote: 7-2-0-1 Passed (with Representative Faulkingham and Representative Arata recorded as opposed, and Senator Keim recorded as absent)

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2: Approval of the State House Emergency Plan Revision

Motion: That, upon the unanimous recommendation of the State House Facilities Committee, the Legislative Council adopt the State House Emergency Plan for the Maine State House.

Motion by Senator Daughtry. Second by Representative Cloutier. **Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-3**, with Senator Vitelli, Senator Stewart and Speaker Talbot Ross absent).

Item #3: Request for Waiver of Legislative Council Policy on the Use of Capitol Park

Director Gresser described the request from the project called “the 2200” to hold in Capitol Park a 100-mile, 30-hour ultramarathon, to be completed by 22 veterans beginning on Veterans Day in November 2024. The members discussed issues associated with the request. Senator Keim suggested that the request be referred to the State House Facilities Committee.

Motion: That the Request for Waiver of Legislative Council Policy on the Use of Capitol Park be referred to the State House Facilities Committee. Motion by Representative Terry. Second by Senator Keim. **Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-3**, with Senator Vitelli, Senator Stewart and Speaker Talbot Ross absent).

Item ## 4 to 15: Acceptance of Reports

Motion: That the Legislative Council accept the reports presented under Items 4 to 15. Motion by Senator Daughtry. Second by Representative Terry. **Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-3**, with Senator Vitelli, Senator Stewart, Speaker Talbot Ross, and Representative Faulkingham absent).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.