

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 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

**October 17, 2024
1:30 P.M.
REVISED AGENDA**

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 7, 2024 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	Decision
	REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fiscal Report (Director Nolan)	Information
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Legislative Studies Report (Director Fox)	Information
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">None	
	OLD BUSINESS	
13	Item #1: Council actions taken by ballot (No Action Required)	Information
	NEW BUSINESS	
14	Item #1 Maine Development Foundation Proposal for Policy Leaders Academy for 2024-2026	Decision
	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS	
	ADJOURNMENT	

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
August 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the August 7, 2024 meeting of the 131st Legislative Council to order at 1:16 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

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

Representatives: Speaker Talbot Ross (via Zoom), Representative Terry, Representative Cloutier, Representative Faulkingham Representative Arata

Absent: Senator Stewart

Legislative Officers: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Edward Charbonneau, Revisor of Statutes
Nik Rende, Director, Office of Legislative Information Technology

President Jackson convened the meeting at 1:16 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 7, 2024 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for April 30, 2024, be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Representative Terry. Second by Representative Cloutier. **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart absent).**

President Jackson announced his intention to take items out of order, and hearing no objection, moved to Reports from Council Committees and New Business Item #1.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

State House Facilities Committee

Senator Daughtry reported that the State House Facilities Committee met earlier today, August 7th, to consider the following items:

1. Update on Cross Office Building Security Screening; Proposal for State House Security Screening Area. Elaine Clark, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, and Tyler Barter from Oak Point Associates, the architect/contractor for the Cross Security Screening Project, presented an update to the committee on the Cross Security Screening project. Part of this plan includes establishing a security screening area at the West entrance of the State House in the space where the former State House Café is located. At the conclusion of the presentation, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Legislative Council approval of using the space to establish a State House Security Screening area. This recommendation is included under new business later in today's agenda.
2. Proposal for Wabanaki Veterans Memorial in Capitol Park. Sarah Sherman, the Director of Strategic Partnerships from the Bureau of Veterans Services, presented on behalf of the Wabanaki Veterans Memorial Committee, a proposal to create a Wabanaki Veterans Memorial to be located in Capitol Park. The committee asked Director Gresser to research additional information and reach out to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The committee also expressed their intent to view the space in Capitol Park that is proposed to be the site of the memorial. The chair announced her intent to take up the issue again, with the benefit of the additional information, at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Proposal for State House Security Screening area

President Jackson invited Elaine Clark, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, and Tyler Barter from Oak Point Associates, the architect/contractor for the Cross Security Screening Project, to provide to the full Legislative Council a presentation similar to the presentation earlier provided to the State House Facilities Committee.

Deputy Commissioner Clark explained that, in 2021, a security study of the Cross State Office Building was conducted at the request of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, and noted that at that same time the Legislature had expressed interest in hardening security in the Cross Building. Following the conclusion of the security study, Oak Point Associates was selected through a competitive process as the project's architect, and in 2023, the Legislature authorized the issuance of Maine Governmental Facilities bonds to be used for capital repairs and improvements to state-owned facilities, of which \$7 million has been allocated for the Cross State Office Building Security Project. Bonds for the project were issued in February of 2024, and the project is underway. In order to ensure seamless flow between the Cross Building and the State House, and to avoid the necessity of individuals moving between the two buildings requiring security screening more than once, Deputy Commissioner Clark explained that the architects had developed a proposal for which DAFS is seeking Legislative Council approval. Under this proposal, the State House Café space would be repurposed as a State House Security screening area, and the entrance and exit lanes into and out of the State House would be modified. Tyler Barter presented a visual presentation of the plans for both the Cross Office Building Security Screening Center and the potential State House Security Screening Center. Members of the Council asked questions and received information regarding the proposed plans.

Motion: That, upon the unanimous recommendation of the State House Facilities Committee, the Legislative Council approve the establishment of a State House Security Area in the space formerly used as the State House Café. Motion by Representative Terry. Second by Senator Vitelli. **Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorizes the funding for and approves nonconforming elements pursuant to Joint Rule 353 of the legislative study included in LD 1827, “Resolve, to Establish the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Make Recommendations on the Continuum of Long-term Care Options.” Further, the Legislative Council authorizes an amendment to LD 1827 to:

- Require the executive director of the long-term care ombudsman program to chair the commission and to select a co-chair from among the other members of the commission;
- Require the long-term care ombudsman program to provide staffing services to the commission;
- Increase costs to the Legislature associated with this study to \$4000, which includes \$1650 for Legislator per diem and expenses and \$2350 for staffing, with the remaining staffing costs of \$5150 to be raised by outside funding;
- Provide allocations for a portion of the costs related to staffing for payment to the ombudsman program;
- Require the commission to seek outside funding to fund a portion of the costs of the study; and
- Prohibit the commission from meeting unless adequate funding is obtained.

Motion by: President Jackson
Date: May 9, 2024
Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (With Senator Daughtry recorded as absent)

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorizes the funding for and approves the nonconforming elements pursuant to Joint Rule 353 of the legislative study included in LD 2077, “Resolve, to Study the Role of Natural Gas in an Equitable Clean Energy Transition for Maine.” Further, the Legislative Council authorizes an amendment to LD 2077 to require the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Bureau of Labor Education to provide necessary staffing services to the commission, and adds the director of the Bureau of Labor Education as a member of the commission and designates the director of the Bureau of Labor Education as the chair of the commission.

Motion by: President Jackson
Date: May 9, 2024
Vote: 6-0-0-4 Passed (With Senator Stewart, Senator Keim, Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Arata recorded as voting against)

Item #2: Funding of annual dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) for State fiscal years 2024 and 2025

Director Gresser drew the members’ attention to the materials in their packets regarding the annual dues for NCSL and CSG, and reminded the members that, at their meeting on December 21, 2023, the Council had requested that she identify specific funds that might be used to pay the amounts of the annual NCSL and CSG dues in excess of the amounts budgeted for that purpose. Director Gresser reported that there are balances in the amount of \$95,853 remaining from funds provided for the Apportionment Commission in the 130th Legislature, and that the remaining amount of \$68,317 is available from balances in the Citizen Trade Policy Commission account.

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorizes the transfer of \$74,419 from unspent balances in legislative accounts to allow dues requested by the Council of State Governments and by the National Conference of State Legislatures for fiscal year 2024 to be paid in full. Motion by Speaker Talbot Ross. Second by Senator Vitelli.
Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Stewart and Rep. Faulkingham recorded as absent).

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorizes the transfer of \$89,751 from unspent balances in legislative accounts to allow dues requested by the Council of State Governments and by the National Conference of State Legislatures for fiscal year 2025 to be paid in full. Motion by Speaker Talbot Ross. Second by Senator Vitelli.
Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Stewart and Rep. Faulkingham recorded as absent).

President Jackson suggested that the 131st Legislative Council consider transmitting a memorandum to the 132nd Legislative Council that recommends that the next Legislative Council give full consideration to increasing the amount in the Commission on Interstate Cooperation account (the account from which the annual dues for NCSL and CSG are paid) to the amount of actual dues invoiced by NCSL and CSG for the most recent fiscal year available, plus the \$10,000 provided to the Commission on Uniform State Laws. The members asked Director Gresser to develop a draft memorandum for the Council's review at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OFFICE DIRECTORS

Fiscal Report

Director Gresser drew the Council's attention to the fiscal report prepared by Christopher Nolan, Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, which was included in the agenda packet.

Studies Report

Director Gresser drew the Council's attention to the studies report prepared by Danielle Fox, Director of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, which was included in the agenda packet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Fiscal Briefing

October 17, 2024

Prepared by the Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2025 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Change
September	\$590.9	\$614.7	\$23.8	4.0%	\$600.2	2.4%
FYTD	\$1,407.6	\$1,539.6	\$132.0	9.4%	\$1,369.5	12.4%

General Fund revenue was above budget by \$23.8 million (4.0%) for the month of September and above budget by \$132.0 million (9.4%) for the fiscal year to date. General Fund revenue for FY25 through September was 12.4% greater than FY24 General Fund revenue through September of 2023. The cumulative impact for FY25 to date includes July's \$84.1 net positive variance in non-withholding individual income tax revenue resulting from the deferral of tax filings and payments in April and June until July because of the natural disaster declaration related to the January winter storm.

Individual income tax revenue was above budget by \$14.5 million for September and by \$104.9 million (16.3%) for the fiscal year to date. Individual income tax withholding payments for September were above budget by \$16.4 million but individual income tax refunds were \$3.7 million greater than budget for September (a negative impact on the General Fund). As noted above, individual income tax revenue to date includes July's \$84.1 net positive variance in non-withholding individual income tax revenue resulting from the deferral of tax filings and payments in April and June until July because of the natural disaster declaration related to the January winter storm. Corporate income tax revenue was \$1.3 million above budget for the month of September and \$15.8 million (15.6%) above budget for the fiscal year to date. Sales and use tax revenue for September (August sales) was \$0.6 million below budget for the month but \$2.8 million (0.4%) above budget for the fiscal year to date.

2. Highway Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2025 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Change
September	\$31.5	\$41.8	\$10.3	32.9%	\$37.7	11.0%
FYTD	\$155.5	\$170.4	\$15.0	9.6%	\$160.3	6.3%

Highway Fund revenue was above budget by \$10.3 million (32.9%) for the month of September and \$15.0 million (9.6%) for the fiscal year to date. Highway Fund revenue for FY25 through September was 6.3% greater than FY24 revenue through September of 2023.

Fuel taxes revenue was \$2.0 million above budget for September and \$4.4 million (7.5%) above budget for the fiscal year to date. Motor vehicle registrations and fees were above budget by \$4.6 million for September and above budget by \$6.2 million (25.1%) for the fiscal year to date. Highway Fund revenue for the fiscal year to date also includes \$58.6 million in automotive sales tax transfers, \$1.1 million below budget for the fiscal year to date, and \$14.8 million in liquor operations fund transfers, \$5.3 million above budget for the fiscal year to date.

3. Cash Balances Update

The average balance in the cash pool for September was \$3,970.1 million, a decrease of \$30.2 million from August's average balance. The decreases were in the General Fund (Maine Budget Stabilization Fund - MBSF), Other State Funds and Independent Agency Funds, partially offset by net increases in Other Special Revenue Funds. The decrease in the MBSF average cash balance in September reflects the mid-August timing of the \$60 million in FY25 winter storm related transfers from the MBSF made pursuant to P.L. 2023, c. 643, Part UUUU (LD 2214 – the 2024-2025 Supplemental Budget). The Highway Fund balance for September was \$89.8 million, a decrease of \$2.9 million from August.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (FY 2025)

Updated 10/15/24

September 2024 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2025 Budgeted Totals
	September '24 Budget	September '24 Actual	September '24 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Sales and Use Tax ¹	230,561,592	230,000,975	(560,617)	679,564,347	682,342,885	2,778,538	0.4%	2.2%	2,286,696,482
Service Provider Tax	3,887,406	3,673,960	(213,446)	12,109,850	11,696,039	(413,811)	-3.4%	-11.9%	46,766,812
Individual Income Tax	257,559,716	272,083,292	14,523,576	642,481,284	747,371,730	104,890,446	16.3%	22.7%	2,454,470,721
Corporate Income Tax	84,000,000	85,333,521	1,333,521	101,500,000	117,326,806	15,826,806	15.6%	12.9%	428,000,000
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax ²	13,115,266	12,368,828	(746,438)	41,470,392	38,386,923	(3,083,469)	-7.4%	-9.4%	156,582,458
Insurance Companies Tax	847,294	1,214,205	366,911	1,802,080	3,010,688	1,208,608	67.1%	206.4%	124,140,000
Estate Tax	2,291,000	7,116,770	4,825,770	6,873,000	17,056,379	10,183,379	148.2%	463.7%	27,440,000
Other Taxes and Fees *	10,362,688	11,958,403	1,595,715	36,002,539	35,435,986	(566,553)	-1.6%	17.3%	147,843,617
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	1,410,545	813,622	(596,923)	4,487,875	984,737	(3,503,138)	-78.1%	-63.7%	16,295,150
Income from Investments	3,868,408	6,660,863	2,792,455	8,012,568	13,359,758	5,347,190	66.7%	39.6%	38,007,512
Transfer from Lottery Commission	5,384,615	5,728,269	343,654	17,499,999	18,523,574	1,023,575	5.8%	-14.7%	70,000,000
Transfer from Liquor Commission	1,647	5,176	3,529	7,004,814	7,021,850	17,036	0.2%	317.8%	7,028,500
Transfers to Tax Relief Programs *	(1,892,190)	(1,897,308)	(5,118)	(2,796,761)	(1,955,119)	841,642	30.1%	39.3%	(86,210,000)
Transfers for Municipal Revenue Sharing	(22,572,707)	(23,106,568)	(533,861)	(68,212,977)	(76,228,557)	(8,015,580)	-11.8%	-14.9%	(264,668,128)
Highway Fund Sales Tax Transfer	0	0	0	(59,761,284)	(58,619,276)	1,142,008	1.9%	-104.3%	(115,418,279)
Other Revenue *	2,080,920	2,775,526	694,606	(20,434,364)	(16,102,881)	4,331,483	21.2%	12.6%	(3,720,905)
Totals	590,906,200	614,729,534	23,823,334	1,407,603,362	1,539,611,521	132,008,159	9.4%	12.4%	5,333,253,940

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

1 / Includes revenue from adult-use cannabis sales taxes of \$2.3 million for September and \$6.7 million for the fiscal year to date.

2 / Includes revenue from adult-use cannabis excise taxes of \$1.9 million for September and \$4.9 million for the fiscal year to date.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (FY 2025)

Updated 10/15/24

September 2024 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	Fiscal Year-To-Date								FY 2025 Budgeted Totals
	September '24 Budget	September '24 Actual	September '24 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Detail of Other Taxes and Fees:									
- Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	14,883,223
- Real Estate Transfer Tax	2,250,466	2,786,554	536,088	2,871,771	3,011,269	139,498	4.9%	-12.5%	20,444,062
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	1,852,897	1,557,936	(294,961)	5,627,096	4,981,202	(645,894)	-11.5%	-5.0%	22,093,824
- Corporation Fees and Licenses	371,534	655,571	284,037	2,742,999	3,514,180	771,181	28.1%	17.6%	12,643,649
- Telecommunication Excise Tax	0	1,941,394	1,941,394	6,300,000	6,135,714	(164,286)	-2.6%	108175.7%	6,300,000
- Finance Industry Fees	2,115,581	1,968,350	(147,231)	6,346,743	5,843,600	(503,143)	-7.9%	-0.8%	25,916,990
- Milk Handling Fee	165,487	80,581	(84,906)	290,510	221,446	(69,064)	-23.8%	-49.9%	816,000
- Racino Revenue	959,034	1,071,635	112,601	2,877,102	3,269,769	392,667	13.6%	5.3%	11,508,450
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	197,658	153,159	(44,499)	1,124,675	1,142,183	17,508	1.6%	6.2%	4,559,561
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	1,846,163	1,117,597	(728,566)	5,848,834	5,211,420	(637,414)	-10.9%	-13.9%	15,996,984
- Other Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees	603,868	625,627	21,759	1,972,809	2,105,205	132,396	6.7%	7.4%	12,680,874
Subtotal - Other Taxes and Fees	10,362,688	11,958,403	1,595,715	36,002,539	35,435,986	(566,553)	-1.6%	17.3%	147,843,617
Detail of Other Revenue:									
- Targeted Case Management (DHHS)	3,668	0	(3,668)	11,000	0	(11,000)	-100.0%	-100.0%	44,000
- State Cost Allocation Program	2,008,385	1,898,034	(110,351)	6,563,215	6,257,767	(305,448)	-4.7%	21.8%	24,094,300
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
- Tourism Transfer	0	0	0	(15,920,280)	(15,611,407)	308,873	1.9%	-5.8%	(25,473,693)
- Transfer to Maine Milk Pool	(1,676,304)	(281,730)	1,394,574	(5,128,332)	(1,806,438)	3,321,894	64.8%	58.8%	(8,923,549)
- Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund	0	0	0	(11,531,912)	(10,236,601)	1,295,311	11.2%	3.7%	(16,698,702)
- Transfer to Adult-Use Cannabis Fund	(477,426)	(447,779)	29,647	(1,384,641)	(1,267,831)	116,810	8.4%	-117.4%	(4,328,582)
- Other Miscellaneous Revenue	2,222,597	1,607,000	(615,597)	6,956,586	6,561,629	(394,957)	-5.7%	-10.1%	27,565,321
Subtotal - Other Revenue	2,080,920	2,775,526	694,606	(20,434,364)	(16,102,881)	4,331,483	21.2%	12.6%	(3,720,905)
Detail of Transfers to Tax Relief Programs:									
- Me. Resident Prop. Tax Program (Circuitbreaker)	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	-100.0%	0
- BETR - Business Equipment Tax Reimb.	(1,892,190)	(1,850,201)	41,989	(2,796,761)	(1,875,110)	921,651	33.0%	41.9%	(17,000,000)
- BETE - Municipal Bus. Equip. Tax Reimb.	0	(47,107)	(47,107)	0	(80,009)	(80,009)	N/A	-2430.6%	(69,210,000)
Subtotal - Tax Relief Transfers	(1,892,190)	(1,897,308)	(5,118)	(2,796,761)	(1,955,119)	841,642	30.1%	39.3%	(86,210,000)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue - Total	2,111,321	1,343,893	(767,428)	7,174,321	6,593,487	(580,834)	-8.1%	-9.9%	21,501,695

Highway Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (FY 2025)

Updated 10/15/24

September 2024 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category	September '24 Budget	September '24 Actual	September '24 Variance	Fiscal Year-To-Date				FY 2025 Budgeted Totals	
				Budget	Actual	Variance	% Change from Prior Year		
Fuel Taxes:									
- Gasoline Tax	18,022,399	18,922,161	899,762	53,506,158	56,406,353	2,900,195	5.4%	1.1%	192,260,028
- Special Fuel and Road Use Taxes	5,128,729	6,463,272	1,334,543	13,063,586	15,083,219	2,019,633	15.5%	37.3%	49,545,568
- Transcap Transfers - Fuel Taxes	(2,359,561)	(2,569,784)	(210,223)	(6,674,175)	(7,191,101)	(516,926)	-7.7%	-46.6%	(24,211,650)
- Other Fund Gasoline Tax Distributions	(524,417)	(557,677)	(33,260)	(1,556,924)	(1,575,795)	(18,871)	-1.2%	-12.9%	(5,594,381)
Subtotal - Fuel Taxes	20,267,150	22,257,972	1,990,822	58,338,645	62,722,675	4,384,030	7.5%	3.7%	211,999,565
Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees:									
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	6,255,866	5,643,301	(612,565)	19,216,983	19,457,687	240,704	1.3%	1.5%	70,669,954
- License Plate Fees	473,072	649,900	176,828	1,352,619	2,059,527	706,908	52.3%	44.2%	3,664,608
- Long-term Trailer Registration Fees	621,468	764,699	143,231	2,287,445	2,696,522	409,077	17.9%	3.2%	15,034,523
- Title Fees	1,253,341	1,296,847	43,506	3,802,153	3,792,887	(9,266)	-0.2%	-3.2%	14,264,069
- Motor Vehicle Operator License Fees	881,363	978,302	96,939	2,893,809	3,050,260	156,451	5.4%	2.4%	10,558,098
- Transcap Transfers - Motor Vehicle Fees	(4,720,096)	0	4,720,096	(4,720,096)	0	4,720,096	100.0%	N/A	(16,653,054)
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Reg. & Fees	4,765,014	9,333,049	4,568,035	24,832,913	31,056,883	6,223,970	25.1%	3.2%	97,538,198
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	265,215	35,382	(229,833)	795,645	357,473	(438,172)	-55.1%	-31.7%	3,182,600
Other Highway Fund Taxes and Fees	46,764	104,217	57,453	158,969	355,504	196,535	123.6%	5.8%	1,429,470
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	64,794	81,944	17,150	139,214	272,533	133,319	95.8%	-3.2%	606,512
Interest Earnings	164,560	375,400	210,840	493,680	804,224	310,544	62.9%	224.4%	1,974,719
Highway Fund Sales Tax Transfer	0	0	0	59,761,284	58,619,276	(1,142,008)	-1.9%	23548.0%	115,418,279
Liquor Operations Fund Transfer	5,500,000	9,324,552	3,824,552	9,500,000	14,769,330	5,269,330	55.5%	5858.2%	59,000,000
Other Highway Fund Revenue	409,999	320,510	(89,489)	1,440,853	1,457,249	16,396	1.1%	5.0%	12,411,265
Totals	31,483,496	41,833,027	10,349,531	155,461,203	170,415,147	14,953,944	9.6%	6.3%	503,560,608

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
October 17, 2024

Study Commission/Committee Study	Assigned Staff	Authorized meetings <i>held to date</i> and tentative dates of future meetings	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 Lynne Westphal Luke Lazure Kristin Brawn Tanya Condon	<i>Wednesday, May 29, 2024 @ 10:00 am</i> <i>Wednesday, June 19, 2024 @ 9:30 am</i> <i>Wednesday, July 10, 2024 @ 10:00 am</i> <i>Tuesday, September 17, 2024 @ 10:00am</i> <i>Wednesday, October 9, 2024 @ 10:00am</i> Wednesday, October 30, 2024 @ 10:00am	11/6/2024	Sen. Duson Rep. Craven	
LD 1622 Criminal Records Review Committee Resolve 2023, c. 103	Janet Stocco Sophia Paddon Darlene ShoresLynch Tanya Condon	<i>Tuesday, July 16, 2024 @ 9:00 am</i> <i>Tuesday, August 13, 2024 @ 9:00 am</i> <i>Tuesday, Sept 24, 2024 @ 9:00 am</i> <i>Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 9:00 am</i> Tuesday, Nov 19, 2024 @ 9:00 am	Interim 12/6/2023 Final 12/4/2024 (extension approved)	Sen. Bailey Speaker Talbot Ross	
Ongoing statutory studies					
Right to Know (Advisory Committee) T 1 §411	Lindsay Laxon Anne Davison Elena Roig Sam Senft Colleen McCarthyReid Darlene ShoresLynch Arlene Harrison	Full committee meetings <i>Monday, August 12, 2024 @ 1:00 pm</i> <i>Monday, Sept 23, 2024 @ 1:00pm</i> <i>Monday, Oct 7, 2024 @ 1:00pm</i> Monday, Oct 21, 2024 @ 1:00pm Monday, November 18 @ 1:00pm Subcommittee meetings Public Records Exceptions <i>Monday Sept. 30, 2024 @ 1:00pm</i> Thursday Oct. 24, 2024 @ 10:00am	Annually	Rep. Sheehan	

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
October 17, 2024

		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Burdensome Requests</u> <i>Monday Sept. 23, 2024 @10:00am</i> <i>Monday Oct. 7, 2024 @10:00am</i> Monday Oct. 21, 2024 @10:00am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Public Employee Disciplinary Records</u> <i>Monday Sept. 23, 2024 @9:00am</i> Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024 @9:00am</p>			
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**131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE/SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2024
AUTHORIZED INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Interim meetings of Joint Standing/Select Committees and subcommittees (excluding confirmation hearings)			
Committee Name	Assigned Staff	Scheduled Meetings	Status or Comments
Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry	Karen Nadeau		
Appropriations and Financial Affairs	Maureen Dawson		
Criminal Justice and Public Safety			
Education and Cultural Affairs	Elena Roig	Tuesday, September 17, 2024	MEPRI update
Environment and Natural Resources	Daniel Tartakoff		
Energy, Utilities and Technology	Lindsay Laxon		
Health and Human Services	Anna Broome Sam Senft	Wednesday, July 31, 2024	Quarterly meeting on child welfare matters (statutory)
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services	Colleen McCarthyReid		
Housing	Danielle Fox Steve Langlin	Wednesday, September 25, 2024	Multiple briefings
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Anne Davison		
Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business	Sophia Paddon		
Judiciary	Janet Stocco Eli Murphy		
Labor and Housing	Steven Langlin		
Marine Resources	Anne Davison		
State and Local Government	Lynne Westphal		
Taxation			

**131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE/SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2024
 AUTHORIZED INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Transportation	Elena Roig Karen Nadeau		
Veteran and Legal Affairs	Rachel Olson Lynne Westphal	Meetings authorized – but no meetings currently planned Subcommittee on Medical Use of Cannabis No plans to meet	Committee currently has 12 members (one unfilled vacancy)

Legislative Council Actions
Taken by Ballot Since the
August 7, 2024 Council Meeting

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That, in accordance with Joint Rule 353(7), the Legislative Council extends to December 4, 2024, the reporting deadline of the Criminal Records Review Committee

Motion by: Speaker Talbot Ross
Date: August 7, 2024
Vote: 6-1-0-3 Passed (With Representative Arata recorded as voting against, and Senator Daughtry, Senator Stewart, and Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

Policy Leaders Academy 2024 - 2025

The **Policy Leaders Academy (PLA)**, a program of the Maine Development Foundation (MDF), delivers experiential training for Maine's Legislators on issues important to Maine's economy. PLA has delivered high quality, objective, and non-partisan experiential training to legislators since 1985; MDF itself was established by the Legislature in 1977. The program is financed by private contributions from MDF's philanthropic, education, nonprofit partners and business members, as well as certain direct legislator expenses (e.g., meals, per diem, lodging) that are reimbursed to MDF by the Legislature itself. This diverse funding allows all legislators to participate in the program at no cost. PLA is offered exclusively to legislators, creating a focused learning environment of peers that allows for open and frank discussion of the issues.

Actions: Seeking Legislative Council feedback and confirmation of support for the following:

- Affirm the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Conference date and assess preference for January 15-17 vs 22-24, 2025, Bus Tour dates (with backup snow dates January 22-24 or January 29-31).
- Enable the Council Executive Director to provide implementation guidance on MDF's PLA work and approve expense reimbursements and cost sharing consistent with established past practices.
- Provide any content feedback leaders may have through the Executive Director or directly to MDF.
- Communicate and encourage legislator participation in the PLA program.
- **Make all best efforts to limit legislative calendar conflicts for the Conference and Bus Tour.**

Through PLA, MDF's goals are to create:

- Knowledge of the issues presented in the Measures of Growth report and Maine's 10-Year Economic Development Strategy, important in crafting effective policy in service to Maine's communities and economy.
- Understanding of the impact of policy decisions on businesses and regional economies.
- Understanding of Maine's regional economies, including the interdependence and differences between these regions.
- Knowledge of workforce issues and what is required for sustainable job creation.
- Encouragement of bipartisan and cross-committee thinking and solution development.
- Frank discussion of issues.

The curriculum is designed to build awareness of the Measures of Growth report and its application to policy. Measures of Growth is a report of the Maine Economic Growth Council prepared by MDF. The data-driven report contains performance measures and benchmarks for achieving Maine's long-term economic goals. Other economic data produced by trusted economic resources are also provided throughout the program.

In 2024-2025, the program will include the following events:

- All-day Orientation Session (Pre-Legislative Conference) – Thursday, December 5, 2024, at Maine Municipal Association in Augusta. Anticipated topics include the Maine economy and demographics, budget process, Measures of Growth report and Maine's 10-Year Economic Development Strategy, and helpful tips from veteran legislators.
- Bus Tour – Either January 15-17 or January 22-24, 2025, to Aroostook County and other key stops en route (e.g. Penobscot County/Katahdin Region) (with snow dates of January 22-24 or January 29-31). A kick-off meeting with MDF's PLA Planning Partners on October 15 will begin the brainstorming of

specific tour stops. Stops typically highlight the region's natural resource-based industries, manufacturing, health care/public health, and education, providing an understanding of challenges, successes, and opportunities faced by the region's communities and economy. [Note: the bus tour moves to a different region of the state each biennium, e.g., Downeast Maine most recently and Western Maine prior to that.]

- Additional 2025 programming TBD.

For the 2022-2024 biennium, PLA was funded, designed, and executed in partnership with the following entities (and we are pursuing renewal of these commitments for 2024-2026):

- The University of Maine and University of Maine System
- Maine State Chamber of Commerce
- The Bingham Program
- Maine Community Foundation
- Educate Maine
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Maine Legislature

Re-cap of programming in 2022-23 and 2023-24:

In the 2022-23 PLA session, the kick-off Pre-Legislative Conference and 3-day Bus Tour to Downeast Maine were very popular and well attended. Fifty-two legislators attended the Conference, with solid participation from all parties and feedback surveys scoring the event 4.9 out of 5. In 2024 we expect closer to 75 legislators at the Conference, given historic attendance numbers and (hopefully) fewer competing events day-of. The Bus Tour had a record 90 sign-ups with 65 able to attend (most cancellations due to COVID and conflicting committee meetings). Bi-partisan participation was strong (43% Rs, 57% Ds), as was legislative leadership attendance, and feedback surveys scored the event 9.6 out of 10.

In 2024, the centerpiece PLA event was an overnight, 1.5-day tour of Southern Maine that brought 45 legislators, including leadership, to stops like BIW, Brunswick Landing (UMA, SMCC), IDEXX, UNE, Tanbark, and Atlantic Sea Farms. This was unprecedented short session turnout and the feedback surveys scored the event 9.7 out of 10. Other 2024 PLA events included a one-hour virtual Measures of Growth presentation and an Educator Workforce Legislative Reception in partnership with Educate Maine.

Representative quotes from the 2022-24 post-event surveys:

- "I always benefit from the opportunity to socialize with folks from the other side of the aisle."
- "Incredibly valuable stops and sessions. Managed to squeeze so much in, and somehow stay on schedule."
- "Well done and I hope the PLA tours will continue in both sessions."
- "Thank you for gathering such a great collection of knowledge and energy!!!!"
- "I want to thank you and MDF for putting together this opportunity to learn more about Maine. In all aspects, it exceeded my expectations and gave me, as a new legislator, a wonderful opportunity to build meaningful relationships. I know the experience will be invaluable in representing my district and helping Maine move forward into the future."