

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
December 3, 2014 - July 16, 2015

First Confirmation Session
November 19, 2015

Second Regular Session
January 6, 2016 - April 29, 2016

Second Confirmation Session
August 4, 2016

pages 1 - 2171

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE**

The following communications were received by the Secretary of the Senate during the interim and placed on file or with accompanying bills placed on file:

The Following Communication: S.C. 1005

**STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

May 3, 2016

Honorable Heather J. R. Priest
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 0433

Dear Secretary Priest,

Pursuant to my authority under Public Law 2016 Chapter 468, I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the York County Courthouse Site Selection Commission:

Senator Ron Collins of York Senator Linda Valentino of York

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding these appointments.

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1018

**STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

November 28, 2016

Heather J.R. Priest
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Priest:
Pursuant to my authority, I have appointed the following members to serve on boards, committees, commissions and task forces:

Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry

Senator Tom Saviello of Franklin
Senator James Dill of Penobscot

Steve Hanington of Macwahoc Plantation
Robert Cleaves of Portland
Jason Brochu of Dover-Foxcroft
Dr. Stephen Shaler of Orono

Right to Know Advisory Committee, Title 1, MRSA, Chapter 13, Section 411

A. Jay Higgins

Permanent Commission on Status of Women, Title 5, MRSA, §7030

Kelly Bentley, of Farmington

Working Group to Study Child Care Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers, HP 1167

Senator Roger Katz
Senator Christopher Johnson

Task Force on Public-private Partnerships to Support Public Education, Resolve, c. 89

Senator Kim Rosen of Bucksport
Lauren Sterling of Falmouth
Kim Gore of Topsham
Maggie Allen of Madison
Laura Buxbaum of Waldoboro

Feasibility Working Group, P.L. 2015, c. 484

Senator Earle McCormick of Kennebec
Senator Anne Haskell of Cumberland

Clean-up and Response Fund Review Board, Title 38, Chapter 3

Brian Beal

Senate Standing Committee on Conduct and Ethics, Senate Rule 201.6

Rescinding - Senator Ron Collins of York & Senator Brian Langley of Hancock
Appointing – Senator Linda L. Baker & Senator Roger Katz of Kennebec

If you have any questions regarding these appointments please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1019

**STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

September 20, 2016

The Honorable Heather J.R. Priest
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Secretary Priest:

Please be advised that Diane Johanson has resigned her position as Chief of Staff for the Senate Majority Office, effective at the close of business on September 30th. Pursuant to policy, please make sure that Mrs. Johanson is paid out for any time or compensation earned.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1020

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

May 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
The Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

28 Total Number of Bills and Papers
9 Unanimous Reports
3 Ought Not To Pass
2 Ought To Pass
2 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred to Another Committee
4 Divided Reports
15 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Peter E. Edgecomb Senate Chair
S/Craig V. Hickman House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE

The Following Communication: S.C. 1021

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS**

May 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
The Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

62 Total Number of Bills and Papers
42 Unanimous Reports
32 Ought Not To Pass
9 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred To Another Committee
15 Divided Reports
1 Carried Over (Died on Adjournment)
4 Gubernatorial Nomination

Respectfully Submitted,

S/James M. Hamper Senate Chair
S/Margaret R. Rotundo House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1022

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
The Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

31 Total Number of Bills and Papers
14 Unanimous Reports
2 Ought Not To Pass
2 Ought To Pass
9 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred To Another Committee
17 Divided Reports

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Kimberley C. Rosen, Senate Chair

S/Lori A. Fowle, House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1023

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

58 Total Number of Bills and Papers
24 Unanimous Reports
5 Ought Not To Pass
6 Ought To Pass
12 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred to Another Committee
4 Divided Reports
1 Leave to Withdraw
29 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Brian D. Langley
Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1024

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

25 Total Number of Bills and Papers
11 Unanimous Reports
5 Ought Not To Pass
3 Ought To Pass
3 Ought To Pass As Amended
10 Divided Reports
4 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/David Woodsome
Senate Chair

S/Mark Dion
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1025

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

15 Total Number of Bills and Papers
10 Unanimous Reports
4 Ought Not To Pass
3 Ought To Pass
3 Ought To Pass As Amended
2 Divided Reports
3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Thomas B. Saviello
Senate Chair

S/Joan W. Welsh
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1026

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

52 Total Number of Bills and Papers
34 Unanimous Reports
9 Ought Not To Pass
6 Ought To Pass

19 Ought To Pass As Amended
18 Divided Reports

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Eric L. Brakey
Senate Chair

S/Andrew M. Gattine
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1027

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

11 Total Number of Bills and Papers
4 Unanimous Reports
1 Ought Not To Pass
3 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Divided Reports
6 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Paul T. Davis
Senate Chair

S/Robert S. Duchesne
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1028

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

9 Total Number of Bills and Papers
5 Unanimous Reports
3 Ought Not To Pass
2 Ought To Pass As Amended
4 Divided Reports

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Rodney L. Whittemore
Senate Chair

S/Henry E. M. Beck
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1029

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

57 Total Number of Bills and Papers
27 Unanimous Reports

8 Ought Not To Pass
4 Ought To Pass
15 Ought To Pass As Amended
8 Divided Reports
3 Taken Pursuant to Joint Rule 309
19 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/David C. Burns
Senate Chair

S/Barry J. Hobbins
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1030

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

49 Total Number of Bills and Papers
16 Unanimous Reports
3 Ought Not To Pass
3 Ought To Pass
10 Ought To Pass As Amended
6 Divided Reports
27 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Amy F. Volk
Senate Chair

S/Erin D. Herbig
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1031

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

14 Total Number of Bills and Papers
3 Unanimous Reports
1 Ought Not To Pass
2 Ought To Pass As Amended
2 Divided Reports
9 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Linda L. Baker
Senate Chair

S/Walter A. Kumiega
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1032

[Document was not found.]

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1033

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

26 Total Number of Bills and Papers
22 Unanimous Reports
7 Ought Not To Pass
1 Ought To Pass
13 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred to Another Committee
3 Divided Reports
1 Gubernatorial Nomination

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Earle L. McCormick
Senate Chair

S/Adam A. Goode
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1034

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

18 Total Number of Bills and Papers
15 Unanimous Reports
5 Ought Not To Pass

3 Ought To Pass
7 Ought To Pass As Amended
3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Ronald F. Collins
Senate Chair

S/Andrew J. McLean
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1035

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

May 4, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
127th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

35 Total Number of Bills and Papers
17 Unanimous Reports
4 Ought Not To Pass
3 Ought To Pass
10 Ought To Pass As Amended
11 Divided Reports
7 Gubernatorial Nominations

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Scott W. Cyrway
Senate Chair

S/Louis J. Luchini
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1036

December 5, 2016

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority, I have appointed the following members to serve on boards, committees, commissions and task forces:

Working Group to Study Child Care Background Checks, Joint Order HP 1167

Representative Aaron M. Frey of Bangor, House Chair
Representative Joyce McCreight of Harpswell
Representative Joyce A. Maker of Calais

York County Court House Site Selection Commission, Public Law 2015, Chapter 468

Representative Anne-Marie Mastraccio of Sanford
Representative Robert A. Foley of Wells

The feasibility working group authorized under Public Law 2015, Chapter 484

Honorable Drew M. Gattine of Westbrook
Honorable Paul A. Stearns of Gilford

Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry, Resolves 2015, Chapter 85

Representative Jeff M. McCabe of Skowhegan, House Chair
Representative Deane Rykerson of Kittery
Representative Norman E. Higgins of Dover-Foxcroft
Mr. Thomas Abello of Brunswick
Mr. Ryan McAvoy of Skowhegan
Mr. John Bryant of Holden
Mr. Robert Linkletter of Athens

Task Force on Public-private Partnerships to Support Public Education, Resolves 2015, Chapter 89

Representative Theresa S. Pierce of Falmouth, House Chair
Representative Matthew G. Pouliot of Augusta
Dr. Erika Stump of Gorham
Edmund Cervone of Portland
James Clair of China Village
Jim Geary of Ellsworth

Right to Know Advisory Committee, Title 1, MRSA §411(2)(J) & (K) for reappointment

Judy Meyer of Lewiston
Suzanne Goucher of Augusta

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Title 5, Chapter 731-A MRSA §7030

Cara Courchesne of Hallowell
Rebekah Smith of Union
Sarah Ruef-Lindquist of Camden
Holly Stover of Boothbay
Amy Gallant of Portland

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Title 5, Chapter
731-A MRSA §7030 for reappointment

Holly Stover of Boothbay

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1037

**MAINE HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL
FACILITIES AUTHORITY
127 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04338-2268**

November 3, 2016

Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to MRSA Title 22, Chapter 413, §2069, on behalf of the Board and staff of the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority, I am pleased to provide you with our Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report.

The Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority was established by the legislature in 1972. Since its inception, the Authority has issued in excess of \$4 billion to meet the capital needs of Maine's healthcare and higher educational institutions. During fiscal year 2016, the Authority issued \$35,290,000 under its general tax exempt conduit resolution and \$92,235,000 under its moral obligation reserve fund resolution. These sales were accomplished in 4 series for 4 colleges, 8 hospitals, 2 nursing homes, 1 social service institution, and 1 continuing care retirement community.

In addition, Pursuant to MRSA Title 22, Chapter 413, §2075, paragraph 1C, the Authority certifies that our reserve fund investments exceed the reserve fund requirement at June 30, 2016.

We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continuing our commitment of providing the lowest cost financing to the community we serve.

Sincerely,

S/Michael R. Goodwin
Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1038

**STATE OF MAINE
CITIZEN TRADE POLICY COMMISSION**

October 11, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to 10 MRSA §11, the 2016 Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission is pleased to submit its 2016 Assessment. Copies of the complete document have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others may access the full report online through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at www.maine.gov/legis/opla.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Amy Volk, Co-Chair

S/Representative Robert Saucier, Co-Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1039

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF TAX POLICY
MAINE REVENUE SERVICES
24 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0024**

October 3, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
Members of the 127th Maine Legislature:

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §13070-J, Maine Revenue Services is required to submit a report to the Legislature identifying the revenue foregone as the result of the Jobs and Investment Tax Credit ("JITC"), the Research Expense Tax Credit ("R&D"), the Seed Capital Investment Tax Credit, the Shipbuilding Facility

Credit, the Credit for Maine Fishery Infrastructure Investment, and public funds spent on the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement ("BETR") program. Attached are four reports that provide you with this information.

The first attachment shows the number of individual and corporate JITC, R&D, and Seed Capital credits for tax year 2014, as well as the value of those credits. Tax year 2014 is the last year for which we have full information on both corporate and individual filers. Statutes governing the release of confidential taxpayer information prevent us from reporting the names of the corporations or individuals that benefited from these tax credits. No taxpayer took advantage of the Credit for Maine Fishery Infrastructure Investment in tax year 2014.

The second attachment explains the Shipbuilding Facility credit. As required by statute, the report provides information on the level of employment, yearly investment and the cumulative amount of investment. Since the inception of the credit, the level of employment has been such that the annual cost to the state treasury has been at least \$3 million per year.

The third attachment is a list of BETR recipients. For purposes of this report, businesses that filed for reimbursement during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 are listed. Recipients filed between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 for eligible property taxes paid during calendar year 2014. For that period the state reimbursed \$35,971,807 to 1,420 companies.

Public Law 2009, chapter 337 (LD 1468) amended the definition of "economic development incentive" in §13070-J to include not only the incentives listed above, but "federal and state statutorily defined programs that receive state funds, dedicated revenue funds and tax expenditures as defined by §1666 whose purposes are to create, attract or retain business entities related to business development in the State." The additional incentives identified in this new law can be found in the Maine State Tax Expenditure Report 2016 – 2017 prepared for the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

If you have any questions on this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Michael J. Allen

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1040

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

September 15, 2016

TO: Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
and Democratic and Republican Leaders

FROM: S/Beth Ashcroft, Director

RE: Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

Enclosed please find the Information Brief from the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability on the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA). The Information Brief is also available on our website at <http://legislature.maine.gov/oepga/oepga-reports/9149>.

I wanted to let you know that the public comment period on OPEGA's NNEPRA Information Brief has been scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 220 Cross Building in case you wanted to attend or listen in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1041

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL
SERVICES
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
58 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

September 30, 2016

Honorable Paul R. LePage, Governor
Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
Honorable James M. Harper, Appropriations and Financial Affairs,
Senate Chair
Honorable Margaret R. Rotundo, Appropriations and Financial
Affairs, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs

From: S/Melissa L. Gott, State Budget Officer

Subject: Report on the projection of revenues and forecasted expenditure requirements for the General Fund and the Highway Fund for the 2016-2017 biennium and the 2018-2019 biennium in accordance with Title 5 §1665.

The State of Maine, Bureau of the Budget presents the state budget forecast for the General Fund and the Highway Fund for the 2016-2017 biennium and the 2018-2019 biennium in accordance with Title 5 §1665. This effort was initiated and passed into law by the 117th Legislature as fulfillment of one of the recommendations of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring to provide a platform for long term financial planning.

This state budget forecast is based on the current structure of state revenues and expenditures for both the General Fund and the Highway Fund as required by Title 5 §1665, subsection 7.

This budget forecast should provide the most consistent view of revenue and expenditure trends over the long term as a basis for financial planning and decision making. The forecasts of revenues, appropriations and allocations contained in this report, as constructed under current law and current trends, result in a projected structural gap for the 2018-2019 biennium in the General Fund of \$165,294,114 and in the Highway Fund of \$358,013,227.

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1042

**STATE HOUSE
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**

September 29, 2016

Honorable David C. Burns, Chair
Honorable Barry J. Hobbins, Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
State House Station 115
Augusta, Maine 04333-0007

Dear Senator Burns, Representative Hobbins and Committee Members:

Pursuant to the directive of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 95, I submit the enclosed Revisor's Report for this year, which may be known and cited as RR 2015, Chapter 2. The Revisor's Report is prepared under the authority of Title 1, chapter 4. The corrections made in the report take effect on October 1, 2016, except as otherwise indicated.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about any of the corrections included in this report. I would be pleased to review the report with the members of the committee should you wish me to do so.

S/Suzanne M. Gresser
Revisor of Statutes

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1043

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

July 8, 2016

Honorable Heather J.R. Priest
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Priest:

Please find enclosed certified copies of the final results from the June 14, 2016 Primary Elections.

Tabulations showing the results with municipal and county totals are posted on the Secretary of State's web site here:
http://www.maine.uov/sos/cec/elec/results/results_16-17.html

Sincerely,

S/Matthew Dunlap Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1044

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY BACKGROUND CHECKS
FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS**

November 15, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to House Paper 1167, the Working Group to Study Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers is pleased to submit its final report. Copies of the full report have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others may access the full report on-line through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at www.legislature.maine.gov/opla.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Roger J. Katz
Senate Chair

S/Representative Aaron M. Frey
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1045

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

Date: December 1, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President Maine State
Senate
The Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker Maine House of
Representatives
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

The Following Communication: S.C. 1047

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READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to 3 MRSA, §1000, the Joint Standing Committee on
Taxation is pleased to submit its final report on tax expenditure
review. Copies of the full report have been distributed to
committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have
been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference
Library. Others may access the full report on-line through the
website of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review at weblink.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Earle McCormick
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Adam Goode
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1046

**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
P.O. BOX 949
5 COMMUNITY DRIVE, AUGUSTA, ME 04332-0949**

November 23, 2016

Hon. Michael Thibodeau
President
Maine Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Finance Authority of Maine's
Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report as required by 10 M.R.S.A. §
974.

Please let me know if you have questions or require further
information.

Sincerely,

S/Bruce Wagner
Chief Executive Officer
Encl.

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1048

**STATE OF MAINE
127TH MAINE LEGISLATURE
MAINE STATE SENATE**

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Michael Thibodeau, President of the Maine Senate
Members of the 127th Maine Senate

FROM: Senator David Burns, Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Conduct and Ethics

DATE: October 28, 2016

RE: Senate Standing Committee on Conduct and Ethics, October 27, 2016 meeting

The Senate Standing Committee on Conduct and Ethics met on October 27, 2016 to discuss allegations made against two members of the Senate, Senator Ronald Collins and Senator Andre Cushing. The results of the meeting are as follows:

The Committee voted 5-0 on a motion to find no fraud on behalf of Senator Collins.

The Committee voted 4-1 (Yea - Senator Burns, Senator Katz, Senator Baker, Senator Valentino/ Nay - Senator Haskell) on a motion to find no violation of law, legislative rules, or the legislative Code of Ethics by Senator Collins.

The Committee voted 4-1 (Yea - Senator Katz, Senator Baker, Senator Haskell, Senator Valentino/ Nay - Senator Burns) on a motion to ask the appropriate committee to look at various rules discussed during the meeting.

The Committee voted 5-0 to table action on the claim made against Senator Cushing until further work is completed by the Maine Ethics Commission.

For any additional information regarding the actions of the Senate Standing Committee on Conduct and Ethics, please contact the Senate Secretary's Office.