

SEN. TROY D. JACKSON  
CHAIR  
  
REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS  
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



131<sup>st</sup> 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

**January 9, 2024**

**2:00 P.M.**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

<b><u>Page</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	
	<b>ROLL CALL</b>	
1	<b>SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b>	<b>Decision</b>
	<b>REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS</b>	
	None	
	<b>REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State House Facilities Committee</li></ul>	
	<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	
	<b>Item #1:</b> Council Actions Taken by Ballot	<b>Information</b>
	None	
	<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
7	<b>Item #1:</b> Consideration of Requests for After-Deadline Bills and Certain Joint Resolutions	<b>Roll Call Vote</b>
	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS</b>	
	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
December 21, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jackson called the December 21, 2023 meeting of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislative Council to order at 1:15 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

**ROLL CALL**

Senators: President Jackson, Senator Vitelli, and Senator Stewart (arrived late, via Zoom)

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

Absent: Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim

Legislative Officers: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate  
Michelle Dunphy, 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 1:15 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

**SUMMARIES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023 & NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETINGS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Motion:** That the Meeting Summaries for November 9, 2023 and November 16, 2023 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Vitelli. Second by Representative Terry.  
**Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-3, with Senator Daughtry, Senator Stewart and Senator Keim absent).**

## **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**

### **Personnel Committee**

President Jackson reported that the Personnel Committee met earlier today, Thursday, December 21, 2023, to consider the following matters:

#### **1. Step Increases for the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House**

The committee voted to approve step increases for both the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

#### **2. Step Increases for Eligible Constitutional Officers and State Auditor**

The committee reviewed and approved step increases for the 3 eligible Officers.

#### **3. Step Increases for Eligible Nonpartisan Office Directors**

The committee voted to approve step increases for Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis; Christopher Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review; and Jessica Lundgren, Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library.

#### **4. Collective Bargaining**

Executive Director Gresser provided the committee with an update on the status of collective bargaining.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot**

#### **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: 7-0-0-3 Passed (with Senator Harold Stewart, Senator Lisa Keim, and Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham recorded as absent)

**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: 7-0-0-3 Passed (with Senator Harold Stewart, Senator Lisa Keim, and Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham recorded as absent)

**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: 7-0-0-3 Passed (with Senator Matthea Daughtry, Senator Lisa Keim, and Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham recorded as absent)

**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: 6-1-0-3 Passed (with Senator Lisa Keim recorded as opposed, and Senator Harold Stewart and Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham, and Representative Amy Arata recorded as absent)

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

Submitted by: Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross  
Date: November 20, 2023  
Vote: 6-1-0-3 Passed (with Senator Lisa Keim recorded as opposed, and Senator Matthea Daughtry, Senator Harold Stewart, and Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham recorded as absent)

**Item #2: Acceptance of the Annual Report of the Loring Development Authority of Maine**

The Loring Development Authority of Maine submitted its annual report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council accepts the Annual Report of the Loring Development Authority of Maine and will place it on file. Motion by Speaker Talbot Ross. Second by Representative Arata. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2)** with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item #1: Funding of dues shortfalls for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) in State fiscal years 2024**

The Council discussed funding the dues shortfalls for NCSL and CSG in State fiscal years 2024, and expressed interest in hearing additional information regarding funding from the Executive Director on the issue. **Motion:** That the Legislative Council table the proposed funding of the dues shortfalls for NCSL and CSG in State fiscal years 2024. Motion by Representative Terry. Second by Speaker Talbot Ross. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

**Item #2: Request to authorize transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation & Maintenance to the Blaine House Renovation & Repairs Fund**

Elaine Clark, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, presented Commissioner Kirsten Figueroa's request to the Legislative Council to transfer \$100,000 from the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation & Maintenance to the Blaine House Renovation & Repairs Fund, and described to the Council the types of projects for which the requested funds would be used. **Motion:** That the Legislative Council authorize the transfer of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the State House Preservation & Maintenance Fund to the Blaine House Renovation & Repairs Fund to address one-time needs at the Blaine House. Motion by President Jackson. Second by Speaker Talbot Ross. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

**Item #3: Request from the Maine District of the National Speech and Debate Association to hold the 2024 Dale Denno Memorial NSDA Qualifying Tournament in the State House**

The Council reviewed the request from the Maine District of the National Speech and Debate Association to hold the annual High School Debate Qualifying Tournament in the State House in January. **Motion:** That the Legislative Council authorize the District of the National Speech and Debate Association to hold the

2024 Dale Denno Memorial NSDA Qualifying Tournament in the State House on Saturday, January 27, 2024. Motion by Senator Vitelli. Second by Representative Terry. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

**Item #4: Request from the YMCA Youth and Government Program to Hold the 2024 Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex**

The Council reviewed the request from the YMCA Youth and Government Program to Hold the 2024 Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex over the Veterans Day weekend in 2024. **Motion:** That the Legislative Council authorize the YMCA Youth and Government Program to Hold the 2024 Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex on November 8-10, 2024. Motion by Representative Terry. Second by Representative Cloutier. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

**Item #5: Request to Commission Portraits of Former United States Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen**

The Council reviewed the request from former Senate President Kevin Raye for the Council to authorize the commissioning of official portraits of former U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen for display in the State House. Speaker Talbot Ross inquired about the making of decisions about whose portraits are commissioned and hung in the State House. Executive Director Gresser responded that the Legislative Council Policy on the Maine State House Portrait Collection outlines both how portraits are commissioned and how determinations about placement in the State House are made. Speaker Talbot Ross expressed interest in involving the Secretary of State, and suggested that the Maine State Museum, which holds title to the portraits, forward a list of the contents of the State House Portrait Collection to both the Secretary of State and the State House Facilities Committee. **Motion:** That the request to commission portraits of former U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and William Cohen be referred to the State House Facilities Committee Meeting for review and recommendation to the full Legislative Council; and further, that the Maine State Museum be requested to forward to both the State House Facilities Committee and the Maine Secretary of State a list of the holdings in the Maine State House Portrait Collection; and further, that the State House Facilities Committee review those portions of the Legislative Council Policy on the Maine State House Portrait Collection that outline how portraits are commissioned and decisions are made regarding which portraits are hung in the State House. Motion by Speaker Talbot Ross. Second by Representative Terry. **Motion passed unanimously (8-0-0-2, with Senator Daughtry and Senator Keim absent).**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS**

President Jackson suggested moving the January Legislative Council meeting, originally scheduled for January 18, 2024, in order to take up after-deadline bill

requests. President Jackson suggested meeting instead on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 1:00 pm, or following the legislative session, whichever occurs later. The other members of the Legislative Council concurred with the President's suggestion.

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

**131st Maine State Legislature  
Legislative Council  
Requests to Introduce Legislation & Memorials  
Second Regular Session**

As of: 1/4/2024 3:09:31 PM

**AFTER DEADLINE BILL REQUESTS**

**SPONSOR: Rep. John Andrews**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2990	An Act to Notify Firearms Dealers of Statewide Police Alerts	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Poppy Arford**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3018	An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Contraceptives	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Richard A. Bennett**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3000	An Act to Provide Assistance to Maine Households for the Costs of Home Heating	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Eric Brakey**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2979	An Act to Create a Lewiston Strong License Plate	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Dick Campbell**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3015	An Act to Change the Types of Rules That Are Subject to the Petition Process	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Nathan Michael Carlow**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2976	An Act to Address Violations of Confidentiality by School Board Members	



**SPONSOR: Rep. Kristen Sarah Cloutier**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2991	An Act to Ensure That Donations Received by Victims of the Mass Shooting in Lewiston Are Not Taxable	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Scott Wynn Cyrway**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3013	An Act to Require a Feasibility Study to Consider Alternative Transmission Technology for the Aroostook Renewable Gateway	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2992	An Act to Protect Small Businesses from Fraudulent or Predatory Financial Settlements by Allowing Those Businesses Opportunities to Remove Barriers Associated with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	

2999      Resolve, to Rename the I-295 Overpass in the Town of Freeport the Matthew MacMillan Memorial Bridge

**SPONSOR: Rep. Jack Ducharme**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2968	An Act to Ensure Collection of Damages by Increasing the Required Amount of Personal Liability Coverage	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Brad Farrin**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2977	Resolve, to Correct the Designation of a Bridge in Canaan to Be Named After Staff Sergeant Richard Gerald Salsbury	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Matthew A. Harrington**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3007	An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Wireless Communications	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Craig V. Hickman**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3012	An Act to Provide Relief to Retail Businesses Affected by the December 2023 Storm	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Henry Ingwersen**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3011	An Act to Implement Protections Against Deed Fraud	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Lisa Keim**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3010	An Act to Exempt from the State Income Tax Wages Earned by Hourly Law Enforcement Officers	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Laurel Libby**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2975	An Act to Increase Availability of Mental Health Care Facilities in Maine by Eliminating Certificate of Need Requirements for Mental Health Care Facilities	

**SPONSOR: Sen. James D. Libby**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2980	An Act Regarding the Use of Portable Toilets	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Reagan L. Paul**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2986	An Act to Require the Determination of Whether a Discriminatory Act Was Motivated by Antisemitic Intent	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Bill Pluecker**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3009	An Act to Relieve the Tax Burden of Wild Blueberry Growers Affected by Inflation	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Katrina Smith**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2987	An Act to Prohibit the Acquisition of Title to Real Property by Certain Aliens or Foreign Entities	

**SPONSOR: Rep. Mike A. Soboleski**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3019	An Act Regarding Major Substantive Rules and Routine Technical Rules	
3020	An Act Regarding Automobile Emissions Rules	

**SPONSOR: Sen. Trey Stewart**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2969	An Act to Create the Savings Account Program for Small Businesses	
2981	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Rates for Outpatient Psychiatry	
2982	An Act to Attract and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians	
2994	An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be Dispatched by an Authorized Guide	
3002	Resolve, to Allow Ireland Farms to Sue the State	

**SPONSOR: Spkr. Rachel Talbot Ross**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2989	An Act to Enact Protections to Prevent Children from Accessing Pornography	
2998	An Act to Require Background Checks Prior to Certain Sales, Transfers or Exchanges of Firearms	
3005	An Act to Strengthen the Health, Well-being and Academic Success of Children and Their Families Through Community Support	
3006	Resolve, to Require the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to Arrange the Constitution of Maine to Incorporate Amendments Approved in the November 2023 Referendum	

**SPONSOR: Rep. James L. White**

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2988	An Act Relating to Prohibitions on Certain Firearms	

## JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Sally Jeane Cluchey

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3004	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PUBLISH AND AFFIRM THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT	

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Reagan L. Paul

<u>LR #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
2984	JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO USE DECISIVE FORCE IN DEFENDING ITS CITIZENS AND ELIMINATING TERRORIST THREATS, REAFFIRMING MAINE'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL	