

**Apportionment Commission
Draft Minutes of First Meeting
May 27, 2021, 12:00 pm**

1. The first meeting of the Apportionment Commission, authorized by Art. IV, pt. 3, § 1-A of the Maine Constitution, was convened by the Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, Ryan Fecteau, shortly after noon on May 27, 2021. In accordance with COVID-19 protocols, the meeting was conducted remotely.

2. The members of the Commission were introduced, all members present.

3. On motion of public member Josh Tardy, the Commission voted to elect public member Donald Alexander Permanent Chair of the Commission, all members concurring.

4. The Commission considered rules of procedure and determined that: (1) Commission action will require a quorum of 8 members participating; and (2) Robert's Rules of Order will govern Commission proceedings.

5. The Commission discussed its constitutional and statutory responsibilities and the potential timing for the Commission's work in light of the announced delays in the release of the Bureau of the Census data from the 2020 Census that will be the basis for the Commission's work. As part of this discussion, the Commission received a presentation from Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Bolton. Bolton described the Petition to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court filed by Legislative Leadership seeking an order for extension of the deadlines set in the Maine Constitution for action on a reapportionment plan by the Commission, the Legislature and the Court. Each of these deadlines is set to expire before the anticipated availability of the Census Bureau data.

6. The Commission then discussed with Assistant Attorney General Bolton whether the Commission should seek to join the Petition before the Supreme Judicial Court. Following the discussion, the Commission voted to file a motion to join the Petition, all members concurring. [The Commission's Motion to Join was filed on June 4, 2021 and granted by the Court on June 7,

2021. The Commission's Motion and the Court's Order appear on the Commission's website.]

7. Prior to the meeting, a proposed Budget to support the 2021 activities of the Commission and the party caucuses working with the Commission was distributed to the Commission. The Commission considered the proposed Budget based on a Legislative appropriation of \$280,000 approved for FY 2021. The Commission approved the Budget as proposed, all members concurring. [In discussion with the Legislative Finance Director on June 9, 2021, the Chair was advised that a Financial Order will be drafted to authorize the Commission to use the funds appropriated for FY 2021 to support the Commission's activities which, because of the Census Bureau reporting delay, will occur and require expenditures in FY 2022.]

8. The Commission briefly discussed the anticipated actions of the Commission and the staff support that may be needed by the Commission to support its activities. Any action on these issues was deferred until a future meeting when the resources of the Commission and the related caucus activity, the extent to which some of these resources may be shared, and the extent of direct Commission activity, including potential hearings, in light of available budget resources, may be addressed.

9. The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for June 30, beginning at 9:30 am. Whether the meeting will be in person, or remote, or a hybrid of in person or remote, remained to be determined.

10. There being no other business to come before the Commission, the Commission adjourned shortly before 1:00 pm.