

REP. RYAN D. FECTEAU  
CHAIR

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VICE-CHAIR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



132<sup>nd</sup> MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. TERESA S. PIERCE  
SEN. JILL DUSON  
SEN. HAROLD "TREY" STEWART, III  
SEN. MATTHEW HARRINGTON  
REP. MATTHEW MOONEN  
REP. LORI GRAMLICH  
REP. BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM  
REP. KATRINA SMITH

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
February 27, 2025  
Approved April 24, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Speaker Fecteau called the February 27, 2025 meeting of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Council to order at 10:17 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

**ROLL CALL**

**Senators:** President Daughtry (arrived after roll called), Senator Pierce, Senator Duson, Senator Stewart (arrived after roll called) and Senator Harrington

**Representatives:** Speaker Fecteau, Representative Moonen, Representative Gramlich, Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Smith

**Legislative Officers:** Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate  
Robert Hunt, Clerk of the House  
Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
Ed Charbonneau, Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Nolan, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Nik Rende, Director, Office of Legislative Information Technology

Speaker Fecteau convened the meeting at 10:17 a.m. with a quorum of members present.

**SUMMARIES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2024 & JANUARY 9, 2025 MEETINGS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Motion:** That the Meeting Summaries for December 10, 2024 and the January 9, 2025 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Representative Moonen. Second by Representative Pierce. **Motion passed (8-0-0-2,** with President Daughtry and Senator Stewart recorded as 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.

## **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

#### **LR 2434      An Act Regarding Access to Certain Probate Records**

Submitted by: Representative Matthew Moonen

Date: February 7, 2025

Vote: 6-0-0-4 Passed (with Senator Stewart, Senator Harrington, Representative Faulkingham, Representative Smith recorded as absent)

Speaker Fecteau announced his intention to take items out of order, and hearing no objection, the Chair then moved on to Item #2 under **New Business**.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item #2      Acceptance of Report of Criminal Records Review Committee**

The Criminal Records Review Committee submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

Senator Stewart inquired whether it would be permissible to accept with one motion all of the reports listed under Item #2 to Item #7; Director Gresser answered in the affirmative.

### **Item #3      Acceptance of the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Right to Know Advisory Committee**

The Right to Know Advisory Committee submitted its nineteenth annual report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

### **Item #4      Acceptance of the Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services**

The Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services submitted its report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Item #5 Acceptance of the Loring Development Authority Annual Report**

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

**Item #6 Acceptance of the Washington County Development Authority Annual Report**

The Washington County Development Authority submitted its annual report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Item #7 Acceptance of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority Annual Report**

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority submitted its annual report for acceptance by the Legislative Council.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council accept and place on file the reports of:

- The Criminal Records Review Committee;
- The Right to Know Advisory Committee;
- The Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services;
- The Loring Development Authority;
- The Washington County Development Authority; and
- The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Representative Moonen. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with President Daughtry recorded as absent).**

**Item #8. Request from the YMCA Youth and Government Program to Hold the Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex**

The Council reviewed the request from the YMCA Youth and Government Program to hold the 2025 Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex over the weekend preceding Veterans Day, beginning Friday, November 7, 2025, and concluding Sunday, November 9, 2025.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council authorize the YMCA Youth and Government Program to hold the 2025 Youth and Government Program in the State House Complex on November 7-9, 2025. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Representative Moonen. Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Daughtry recorded as absent).

**Item #9. Legislative Council Appointment to Revenue Forecasting Committee**

Director Gresser informed the Council that the recent retirement of OFPR Principal Analyst Marc Cyr resulted in a vacancy on the Revenue Forecasting Committee. The law requires this position be filled by a nonpartisan legislative staff member familiar with revenue estimating issues, appointed by the Legislative Council. Director Gresser drew members' attention to OFPR Director Chris Nolan's recommendation that the Legislative Council appoint OFPR Principal Analyst Luke R. Lazure to fill this slot on the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council appoint OFPR Principal Analyst Luke R. Lazure to fill the vacancy on the Revenue Forecasting Committee as the nonpartisan legislative staff member

familiar with revenue estimating issues. Motion by Senator Pierce. Second by Representative Moonen. Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Daughtry recorded as absent).

**Item #10. Review of the *Legislative Council Policy on Use of the State House Welcome Center***

Director Gresser noted that there has been a sharp increase in requests to reserve committee rooms for organized events designed to provide information, briefings and educational forums to Legislators, and that these requests are usually accompanied by requests to serve food, which requires specific authorization from the Presiding Officers. Director Gresser noted that it will become increasingly difficult as session continues to accommodate such requests without adversely affecting the functioning of the legislative committees. As described in the memorandum included the Council packet, one potential solution might be to alter the *Legislative Council Policy on Use of the State House Welcome Center* to allow the consumption of food in the limited circumstance when that space is being used to provide information to Legislators. Rep. Moonen confirmed that the proposed change in the policy allowing food would be limited to informational forums and briefings provided to legislators. Speaker Fecteau acknowledged that proposals to alter the use of space in the State House are usually referred to the State House Facilities Committee, but in this instance, he is comfortable with the Legislative Council voting on the matter without reference first to the State House Facilities Committee. Speaker Fecteau also noted his hope that those who organize the briefings and forums for Legislators will ensure that the space is cleaned up and restored to its original state following the events involving food, and expressed his intent that legislative staff not be placed in the position of having to clean up after such events. Senator Harrington asked whether Capitol Police had been consulted on the proposal. At Speaker Fecteau's invitation to weigh in, Chief Clancy said that currently, when larger groups are in the Welcome Center, its proximity to security screening can lead to some congestion; however, once the security screening redesign is completed, that will completely negate any potential for congestion.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council amend the *Legislative Council Policy on Use of the State House Welcome Center* to allow the consumption of food in the limited circumstance when that space is being used to provide information to legislators. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by Representative Moonen. Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Daughtry recorded as absent).

Speaker Fecteau turned next to Item #1 under **New Business**.

**Item #1 Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests**

The Legislative Council proceeded to consider and vote on eight (8) after-deadline bill requests, and one request for a Joint Resolution. Of the eight (8) after-deadline bill requests, the Legislative Council accepted six (6) requests, rejected one (1) request, and tabled one (1) request. The Legislative Council tabled the one request for a Joint Resolution. The Legislative Council's action on the requests is attached to this meeting summary.

Speaker Fecteau turned next to Item #2 under **Old Business**.

**Item #2 Establishment of staff positions.**

Speaker Fecteau drew members' attention to Old Business Item #2 concerning the establishment of additional staff positions, which was tabled at the Council's December 10, 2024 meeting, and was later discussed in part at the Legislative Council meeting held on January 9, 2025. Speaker Fecteau inquired of the members whether there was any additional discussion, questions, or comments as it related to the issue of establishing

additional staff positions. Senator Stewart asked about the process for the Legislative Council to consider the staffing needs of the Legislature. Director Gresser responded that the usual process is that personnel and staffing needs would first be reviewed by the Personnel Committee, which would provide its recommendations to the full Legislative Council. The Legislative Council's decisions would be transmitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs for incorporation into the budget bill. Speaker Fecteau indicated that additional discussions about staffing would be taken up in the Personnel Committee.

Speaker Fecteau stated that the Council would take up the final agenda item, which is Item #11 under **New Business**, in executive session, and that the Legislative Council would not take up any additional public matters afterwards.

**Item #11 State House Complex Security Briefing**

**Motion:** That, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 405, subsection 6, and Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph L, the Legislative Council enter into an executive session for the purpose of receiving information related to security plans and security procedures. Motion by Senator Pierce. Second by Representative Gramlich. Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).

With no other public business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council entered into executive session at 11:21 am.