

REP. RYAN D. FECTEAU
CHAIR

SEN. MATTHEA E.L. DAUGHTRY
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

September 24, 2026

9:00 AM

AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 14, 2026 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	Decision
	REPORTS FROM STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
9	Fiscal Report (Acting Director Lazure)	Information
15	Legislative Studies Report (Director Fox)	Information
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
18	- Personnel Committee - Appointment of Director, Office of Fiscal & Program Review	Decision
19	Appointment of Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library	Decision
	OLD BUSINESS	
20	Council Actions Taken by Ballot (No Action Required)	Information
	NEW BUSINESS	
21	Item #1 Staffing of Informal Caucuses	Discussion
	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS	
	ADJOURNMENT	

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132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
April 14, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Fecteau called the April 14, 2026 meeting of the 132nd Legislative Council to order at 12:19 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Daughtry, Senator Pierce, Senator Duson, and Senator Harrington
Representatives:	Speaker Fecteau, Representative Moonen, Representative Gramlich, Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Smith
Absent:	Senator Stewart
Legislative Officers:	Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate Rob Hunt, Clerk of the House Ed 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

Speaker Fecteau convened the meeting at 12:19 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 22, 2026 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for January 22, 2026 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Duson. Second by Representative Moonen. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1**, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).

REPORTS FROM STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS

None

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: That the Legislative Council approve the Maine YMCA Youth and Government Program's request to hold the 2026 Youth and Government Program in legislative space in the State House Complex from November 6, 2026 to November 8, 2026

Motion by: Speaker Ryan D. Fecteau

Date: March 3, 2026

Vote: 9-0-0-1 Passed (with Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

Requests for Introduction of Legislation:

LR 3004 **Resolve, to Confirm and Finalize the Boundary Between the Town of Kittery and the Town of York.**

Submitted by: Representative Kristi Mathieson

Date: January 28, 2026

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

LR 3055 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 348: Exemption for On-farm Raising, Slaughter, and Processing of Less than 1,000 Ready-to-cook Whole Poultry Carcasses, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.**

Date: February 27, 2026

Vote: 6-1-0-3 Passed (with Representative Smith opposed and Senator Stewart, Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Gramlich recorded as absent)

LR 3085 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 10: Significant Wildlife Habitat, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife – which is a major substantive rule submitted by IFW**

Date: February 27, 2026

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

LR 3089 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Standards Relating to Prescriptive Authorities and Collaborative Relationship, a Late-filed Major Substantive rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation**

Date: February 27, 2026

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2: Provision to Legislators of Personal Information Protection Services

At the request of the chair, Director Gresser informed the Council that the National Conference of State Legislatures (“NSCL”) has established the NCSL Legislator Security Fund intended to help state legislatures address rising threats to legislator’s personal safety. Director Gresser met with representatives of NCSL to acquire details regarding eligible projects and reported that it would qualify as an eligible project for purposes of the NCSL grant for the Maine Legislature to contract with DeleteMe, a digital security and privacy service, and allow every Legislator an opportunity to enroll in the program. Speaker Fecteau voiced his support for accepting the grant from the NCSL Legislator Security Fund, authorizing the additional funding necessary to allow each Legislator the opportunity to enroll in DeleteMe, establishing this as a one-year pilot project whose continuation would be reviewed and decided by the next Legislative Council. Rep. Faulkingham acknowledged the increase in threatening behaviors aimed at Legislators and expressed his support of the initiative.

Motion: That the Legislature accept the grant funds available from the NCSL Legislator Security Fund, authorize the use of available balances to provide additional funding necessary to allow each Legislator the opportunity to enroll in DeleteMe, establish this as a one-year Legislator Security Pilot Project whose continuation will be reviewed and decided by the next Legislative Council. Motion by Representative Faulkingham. Second by President Daughtry. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

Item #1: Consideration of Legislative Study Requests

Speaker Fecteau drew the members attention to the suggested protocol for reviewing and approving legislative studies that was included in the separate Studies Notebook and the Legislative Council voted to approve the protocol. (Motion by Senator Pierce. Second by President Daughtry. Motion passed (6-0-0-4, with Senator Stewart, Senator Harrington, Representative Faulkingham, and Representative Smith recorded as absent).

The Legislative Council considered and voted on the legislative study requests in accordance with the approved protocol. Of the 32 items listed, the council authorized 8 studies, and rejected 24 studies. The Legislative Council’s actions on the legislative studies are included on the attached list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Legislative Council
Actions Taken on Legislative Studies
April 14, 2026

LD 2244 (amends LD 1770 from 132nd First Special Session)	Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 364	Transition of Responsibility for Regulating Manufactured Housing Communities and the Construction and Installation of Manufactured Homes from the Manufactured Housing Board to the Maine Office of Community Affairs (recodification)	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 374	Commission to Make Recommendations for Equity in the Compensation of Prosecutors and Public Defenders in the State	Failed 3-3-0-4 (with President Daughtry, Sen. Pierce, and Sen. Duson voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 395	Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to Wabanaki Nations	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 838	Commission to Study Options for Public Financing of Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure, Generation Projects and Energy Storage Projects	Failed 3-3-0-4 (with President Daughtry, Sen. Pierce, and Sen. Duson voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 847	Commission to Improve Tenant- Landlord Relationships and Increase the Use of Housing Vouchers	Failed 3-3-0-4 (with Speaker Fecteau, Rep. Moonen and Rep. Gramlich voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)

LD 877	Commission to Study the Employment Practices and Operations of Transportation Network Companies Operating in the State	Failed 3-3-0-4 (with President Daughtry, Speaker Fecteau, and Rep. Moonen voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1416	Commission to Study the Placement of Certain Individuals Committed to the Custody of the Commissioner of Health and Human Services for Observation Upon a Finding of Incompetence to Stand Trial	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1921	Commission to Study Pathways to Increase Efficiency in Resolving Legal Disputes Involving Housing Development Projects	Failed 3-3-0-4 (with Speaker Fecteau, Rep. Moonen and Rep. Gramlich voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1941	Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1893	Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 2121	Working Group to Study Methods for Enhancing the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials	Failed 1-5-0-4 (with Rep. Moonen voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 169	Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)

LD 634	Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 646	Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 760	Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 793	Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1107	Incentive Data Task Force	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1286	Commission to Study the Impact of Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency on Maine's Economy and the Risks of Fraud and Theft to Maine Consumers	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1297	Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1347	Commission to Study the Maine Tort Claims Act	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)

LD 1420	Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1618	Study Group to Research the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine	Failed 5-1-0-4 (with President Daughtry, Sen. Pierce, Sen. Duson, Speaker Fecteau, and Rep. Gramlich voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1640	Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission	Passed 6-0-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1649	Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing and Improving the Effectiveness of the Legislature	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1696	Commission to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights	Failed 3-3-0-4 (with Speaker Fecteau, Rep. Moonen and Rep. Gramlich voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1810	Commission to Study the Judicial Disciplinary Process	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1894	Commission to Study Consumer Grocery Pricing Fairness	Failed 1-5-0-4 (with Rep. Moonen voting in favor and Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)

LD 1943	Commission to Study the Role of Private Equity in Maine's Economy and in Key Economic Sectors	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 624	Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1449	Working Group on Modernizing State Grants, Contracts and Procurement	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)
LD 1673	Economic Impact Statement Pilot Project	Failed 0-6-0-4 (with Sen. Stewart, Sen. Harrington, Rep. Faulkingham, and Rep. Smith absent)

Fiscal Briefing

September 24, 2026

Prepared by the Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total General Fund Revenue - FY 2027 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Change
August	\$523.1	\$518.7	(\$4.4)	-0.8%	\$507.8	2.2%
FYTD	\$936.9	\$942.3	\$5.4	0.6%	\$895.2	5.3%

General Fund revenue was below budget by \$4.4 million (-0.8%) for August and was \$5.4 million above budget for the fiscal year to date. General Fund revenue for August of 2026 was 5.3% greater than General Fund revenue for August of 2025.

Individual income tax revenue was \$35.7 million (-14.4%) below budget. Individual income tax withholding accounted for \$23.6 million of the negative variance, while final and estimated payments were \$3.4 million below budget. Individual income tax refunds were \$9.8 million greater than budgeted for August (a negative impact on the General Fund). Corporate income tax revenue was \$12.8 million above budget for August. Sales and use tax revenue for August (July sales) was \$11.4 million (4.7%) above budget for the month.

2. Highway Fund Revenue Update (see attached)

Total Highway Fund Revenue - FY 2027 (\$'s in Millions)

	Budget	Actual	Var.	% Var.	Prior Year	% Change
August	\$34.3	\$39.3	\$5.0	14.6%	\$38.6	1.8%
FYTD	\$105.8	\$113.8	\$8.0	7.6%	\$116.0	-1.9%

Highway Fund revenue was above budget by \$5.0 million (14.6%) for August and \$8.0 million for the fiscal year to date. Highway Fund revenue for August of 2027 was 1.8% greater than Highway Fund revenue for August of 2026.

Fuel taxes revenue was \$0.3 million (-1.1%) below budget for August. Motor vehicle registration and fees were above budget by \$2.7 million (29.17%) for August. The Liquor Operations Fund (LOF) Transfer to the Highway Fund was above budget by \$1.6 million (50.9%) for August. The first \$7.0 million of profit in the LOF are transferred to the General Fund and all remaining profits for the year are transferred into the Highway Fund for Roads and Bridges. August is the first month to receive this transfer and the amount transferred was greater than budgeted.

3. Cash Balances Update

The average daily balance in the cash pool for August was \$3,318.3 million, a decrease of \$108.6 million from July's average daily balance. Decreases in the General Fund, Highway Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds – Retaining Interest and Other State Funds-Interest to GF were offset by increases in the Other Special Revenue Funds – Interest to GF and Independent Agency Funds. The Highway Fund average daily balance for July was \$80.6 million, a decrease of \$29.3 million from July.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027 (FY 2027)

Updated 9/14/26

August 2027 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2027 Budgeted Totals
	August '26 Budget	August '26 Actual	August '26 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Sales and Use Tax ¹	245,415,390	256,837,191	11,421,801	487,888,850	500,417,153	12,528,303	2.6%	7.1%	2,440,468,050
Service Provider Tax	0	16,278	16,278	0	38,511	38,511	N/A	-99.6%	0
Individual Income Tax	247,227,664	211,561,001	(35,666,663)	449,189,281	434,165,569	(15,023,712)	-3.3%	0.2%	2,662,257,056
Corporate Income Tax	(911,296)	11,857,338	12,768,634	24,523,835	38,411,201	13,887,366	56.6%	56.6%	365,552,998
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax ²	20,220,451	18,490,631	(1,729,820)	41,166,838	39,948,084	(1,218,754)	-3.0%	41.3%	216,866,603
Insurance Companies Tax	11,332	45,560	34,228	549,947	1,061,672	511,725	93.0%	218.8%	139,494,000
Estate Tax	4,250,000	4,515,128	265,128	8,500,000	4,463,728	(4,036,272)	-47.5%	-43.3%	50,200,000
Other Taxes and Fees *	16,682,120	20,403,582	3,721,462	29,979,658	35,431,256	5,451,598	18.2%	22.6%	151,385,893
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	196,600	1,649,351	1,452,751	4,111,228	2,652,769	(1,458,459)	-35.5%	-13.3%	16,311,150
Income from Investments	3,839,673	3,891,558	51,885	3,839,673	3,891,558	51,885	1.4%	-17.8%	34,138,748
Transfer from Lottery Commission	7,201,094	8,240,014	1,038,920	12,961,969	14,336,409	1,374,440	10.6%	-7.9%	74,891,377
Transfer from Liquor Commission	2,089,710	2,324,758	235,048	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	0.0%	0.0%	7,000,000
Transfers to Tax Relief Programs *	(1,304,206)	(464,428)	839,778	(958,915)	(470,301)	488,614	51.0%	49.9%	(86,950,000)
Transfers for Municipal Revenue Sharing	(23,826,850)	(24,637,797)	(810,947)	(51,225,669)	(54,291,179)	(3,065,510)	-6.0%	-7.5%	(293,348,913)
Highway Fund Sales Tax Transfer	0	(2,832)	(2,832)	(57,330,019)	(59,388,161)	(2,058,142)	-3.6%	0.9%	208,676,177
Other Revenue *	1,977,913	3,986,286	2,008,373	(23,337,202)	(25,368,622)	(2,031,420)	-8.7%	-8.0%	(4,916,289)
Totals	523,069,595	518,713,619	(4,355,976)	936,859,474	942,299,646	5,440,172	0.6%	5.3%	5,982,026,850

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

1 / Includes revenue from adult-use cannabis sales taxes of \$3.2 million for August and \$6.1 million for the fiscal year to date.

2 / Includes revenue from adult-use cannabis excise taxes of \$1.2 million for August and \$2.4 million for the fiscal year to date.

General Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027 (FY 2027)

Updated 9/14/26

August 2027 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2027 Budgeted Totals
	August '26 Budget	August '26 Actual	August '26 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	3,524,668	4,264,563	739,895	4,489,878	5,990,071	1,500,193	33.4%	454.0%	18,317,333
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	1,841,147	2,514,135	672,988	3,682,294	4,809,512	1,127,218	30.6%	7.6%	22,093,824
- Corporation Fees and Licenses	500,406	932,043	431,637	2,494,984	1,592,146	(902,839)	-36.2%	-48.7%	12,643,649
- Telecommunication Excise Tax	4,372,000	6,851,824	2,479,824	4,979,000	7,936,760	2,957,760	59.4%	43.9%	8,050,000
- Finance Industry Fees	1,981,666	2,028,950	47,284	3,963,332	3,846,450	(116,882)	-2.9%	-1.1%	24,355,000
- Milk Handling Fee	66,891	79,282	12,391	121,959	150,080	28,121	23.1%	-0.2%	816,000
- Racino Revenue	1,021,442	1,058,077	36,635	2,283,407	2,268,004	(15,403)	-0.7%	1.8%	11,916,577
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	320,948	303,832	(17,116)	947,017	1,019,263	72,246	7.6%	-1.9%	4,559,561
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	2,422,491	1,720,419	(702,072)	4,496,437	5,554,540	1,058,103	23.5%	9.4%	17,470,984
- Other Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees	630,461	650,458	19,997	2,521,350	2,264,431	(256,919)	-10.2%	-3.7%	16,279,742
Subtotal - Other Taxes and Fees	16,682,120	20,403,582	3,721,462	29,979,658	35,431,256	5,451,598	18.2%	22.6%	151,385,893
Detail of Other Revenue:									
- Targeted Case Management (DHHS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
- State Cost Allocation Program	2,794,592	3,292,907	498,315	5,695,967	6,933,754	1,237,787	21.7%	10.7%	32,437,104
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	12,000,000
- Tourism Transfer	0	0	0	(15,793,065)	(16,943,710)	(1,150,645)	-7.3%	-4.6%	(27,143,962)
- Transfer to Maine Milk Pool	(2,118,821)	(999,308)	1,119,513	(5,017,251)	(1,794,616)	3,222,635	64.2%	41.2%	(20,016,075)
- Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund	0	0	0	(12,127,222)	(13,524,465)	(1,397,243)	-11.5%	-6.4%	(18,485,254)
- Transfer to Adult-Use Cannabis Fund	(377,043)	(370,360)	6,683	(720,443)	(713,609)	6,834	0.9%	18.8%	(4,400,445)
- Other Miscellaneous Revenue	1,679,185	2,063,048	383,863	4,624,812	674,022	(3,950,790)	-85.4%	-78.1%	20,692,343
Subtotal - Other Revenue	1,977,913	3,986,286	2,008,373	(23,337,202)	(25,368,622)	(2,031,420)	-8.7%	-8.0%	(4,916,289)
Detail of Transfers to Tax Relief Programs:									
- Me. Resident Prop. Tax Program (Circuitbreaker)	0	0	0	0	(4,695)	(4,695)	N/A	N/A	0
- BETR - Business Equipment Tax Reimb.	(1,304,206)	(463,840)	840,366	(958,915)	(465,018)	493,897	51.5%	50.5%	(16,025,000)
- BETE - Municipal Bus. Equip. Tax Reimb.	0	(588)	(588)	0	(588)	(588)	N/A	N/A	(70,925,000)
Subtotal - Tax Relief Transfers	(1,304,206)	(464,428)	839,778	(958,915)	(470,301)	488,614	51.0%	49.9%	(86,950,000)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue - Total	2,818,470	2,225,791	(592,679)	5,574,334	6,854,043	1,279,709	23.0%	9.9%	22,987,422

Highway Fund Revenue

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027 (FY 2027)

Updated 9/14/2026

August 2027 Revenue Variance Report

Revenue Category				Fiscal Year-To-Date					FY 2027 Budgeted Totals
	August '26 Budget	August '26 Actual	August '26 Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance %	% Change from Prior Year	
Fuel Taxes:									
- Gasoline Tax	19,495,171	19,421,815	(73,356)	37,083,214	36,974,039	(109,175)	-0.3%	-0.4%	200,636,549
- Special Fuel and Road Use Taxes	4,365,726	4,171,770	(193,956)	7,728,043	8,214,008	485,965	6.3%	-10.7%	48,736,633
- Transcap Transfers - Fuel Taxes	(2,361,441)	(2,360,339)	1,102	(4,516,187)	(4,521,421)	(5,234)	-0.1%	3.1%	(24,962,344)
- Other Fund Gasoline Tax Distributions	(567,271)	(565,114)	2,157	(1,079,048)	(1,075,848)	3,200	0.3%	0.9%	(5,838,123)
Subtotal - Fuel Taxes	20,932,185	20,668,132	(264,053)	39,216,022	39,590,777	374,755	1.0%	-2.4%	218,572,715
Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees:									
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	6,182,998	8,250,420	2,067,422	11,011,765	13,837,904	2,826,139	25.7%	-10.4%	71,419,954
- License Plate Fees	227,683	666,092	438,409	458,841	885,390	426,549	93.0%	-32.4%	3,801,205
- Long-term Trailer Registration Fees	1,021,039	763,180	(257,859)	1,744,113	1,083,112	(661,001)	-37.9%	-33.5%	15,034,523
- Title Fees	750,308	1,199,066	448,758	1,369,399	2,240,443	871,044	63.6%	-15.5%	14,227,449
- Motor Vehicle Operator License Fees	1,084,366	1,091,008	6,642	2,173,455	2,299,997	126,542	5.8%	-0.6%	10,983,098
- Transcap Transfers - Motor Vehicle Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Reg. & Fees	9,266,394	11,969,766	2,703,372	16,757,573	20,346,845	3,589,272	21.4%	-12.8%	115,466,229
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	266,874	164,303	(102,571)	533,748	423,402	(110,346)	-20.7%	112.8%	3,202,500
Other Highway Fund Taxes and Fees	152,988	157,907	4,919	306,773	367,172	60,399	19.7%	17.2%	1,417,720
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	0	123,544	123,544	151,603	232,103	80,500	53.1%	10.6%	606,412
Interest Earnings	104,418	374,048	269,630	208,841	374,048	165,207	79.1%	-18.1%	1,253,021
Highway Fund Sales Tax Transfer	0	0	0	57,330,019	59,385,328	2,055,309	3.6%	27.1%	115,295,972
Auto Sales Tax Transfer to Transcap	0	0		(12,612,604)	(13,064,772)	0	0.0%	0.0%	(25,365,114)
Liquor Operations Fund Transfer	3,228,176	4,872,724	1,644,548	3,228,176	4,872,724	1,644,548	50.9%	76.2%	55,000,000
Other Highway Fund Revenue	356,058	976,065	620,007	662,565	1,254,492	591,927	89.3%	-12.4%	12,404,465
Totals	34,307,093	39,306,491	4,999,398	105,782,716	113,782,120	7,999,404	7.6%	-1.9%	497,853,920

OFPR 8/27/26 Fiscal Briefing - Fiscal Year 2026 Closing

General Fund

The FY26 closing General Fund balance totaled \$378.1 million, \$229.7 million of which was budgeted and \$148.4 million was unbudgeted. The unbudgeted \$148.4 million surplus was comprised of \$119.1 million in General Fund revenue surplus, \$20.3 million in unbudgeted lapsed program balances and \$9.0 million in lapsed encumbrances and prior period adjustments. Transfers under what is known as the “cascade” are made from the unbudgeted surplus only. That surplus was sufficient to make all \$6.5 million required FY26 fixed dollar transfers provided for under current law. Under current law, 80% of the remainder of the unbudgeted surplus would be distributed to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund (MBSF) and 20% to the Highway and Bridge Capital program until the MBSF gets to its statutory cap. The \$26.2 million transferred to the MBSF in the FY26 closing is only 18.4% of the unbudgeted surplus in order to stay within that statutory limit of \$1,056.2 million. The remaining FY26 81.3% of the unbudgeted surplus (\$115.7 million) was distributed to the Highway and Bridge Capital program. The table below summarizes the sources and uses of FY26 unbudgeted unappropriated surplus funds.

FY 2026 General Fund Year-End Summary

Sources of General Fund Year-end Surplus:		
General Fund Revenue Variance		\$119,064,429
Unbudgeted Lapsed Balances		\$20,276,427
Lapsed Encumbrances and Prior Period Adjustments		\$9,039,264
Total Increase in Unbudgeted Unappropriated Surplus		\$148,380,120
Uses of General Fund Year-end Surplus:		
Fixed Dollar Transfers		
Contingent Account Title 5, S. 1507		(\$1,000,000)
Loan Insurance Reserve Title 5, S. 1511		(\$1,000,000)
Retiree Health ISF UAL (flat \$2 m) Title 5, S. 1519		(\$2,000,000)
General Fund Operating Capital (flat \$2.5 m) Title 5, S. 1536		(\$2,500,000)
Total Fixed Dollar Transfers		(\$6,500,000)
Percentage Transfers - Remaining Surplus after Fixed Dollar Transfers		\$141,880,120
Maine Budget Stabilization Fund (80% if below MBSF cap)	18.4%	(\$26,157,810)
Highway and Bridge Capital (20% if below MBSF cap)	81.6%	(\$115,722,310)
Total Closing Transfers		(\$148,380,120)

Highway Fund

The Highway Fund also has a statutory year-end provision that transfers all but \$100,000 of the unbudgeted unallocated surplus to the Department of Transportation for highway and bridge improvement projects in the following fiscal year. The amount that will transfer for FY26 is \$20.3 million. In addition to a \$17.8 million revenue surplus, unexpended Highway Fund allocations that lapsed back to the unallocated surplus totaled \$2.3 million and lapsed encumbrances and prior period adjustments totaled \$0.22 million.

FY 2026 Highway Fund Year-End Summary

Sources of Highway Fund Year-end Surplus:

Highway Fund Revenue Variance	\$17,815,058
Unbudgeted Lapsed Balances	\$2,329,147
Lapsed Encumbrances and Prior Period Adjustments	\$218,951

Total Increase in Unbudgeted Unallocated Surplus**\$20,363,156****Uses of Highway Fund Year-end Surplus:**

Required Increase to Budgeted Balance	\$100,000
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Net Unallocated Transferred to Transportation**\$20,263,156**

132nd Legislature – 2026 Approved Interim Legislative Studies and Committee Meetings (9/21/26)
Meeting of Legislative Council - September 23, 2026

Legislative Study	Legislative Council Staff	Meetings scheduled or held	Report Date	Chairs	Status or comment
<u>LD 1770</u> (Aff. by <u>LD 2244</u>) Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force	Rachel Olson Lindsay Laxon Steven Langlin Jessica Griswold	<i>Monday, May 18, 2026 @ 10:00a</i> <i>Wednesday, June 10, 2026 @ 10:00a</i> <i>Tuesday, June 30, 2026 @ 10:00a</i> <i>Tuesday, September 15, 2026 @ 10:00a</i> <i>Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ 10:00a</i>	12/15/2026 (interim report completed January 2026)	Sen. Nicole Grohoski Rep. Ann Matlack	No more than 8 meetings in 2026 (excludes subcommittees)
<u>LD 395</u> Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to Wabanaki Nations	Janet Stocco Samuel Senft	Thursday, September 24, 2026 @ 10:00a Tuesday, November 17, 2026 @ 8:00a	12/02/2026	Sen. Rachel Talbot Ross Rep. Amy Kuhn	4 meetings authorized
<u>LD 1640</u> Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission	Melanie Furman Elias Murphy	<i>Friday, September 18, 2026 @ noon</i> Friday, October 2, 2026 @ noon Friday, October 16, 2026 @ noon Friday, October 30, 2026 @ noon	11/4/2026	Sen. Craig Hickman Rep. Samuel Zager	4 meetings authorized
<u>LD 1941</u> Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices	Elias Murphy Will Tew	Monday, September 21, 2026 @ 10:00a Wednesday, October 26, 2026 @ 10:00a Thursday, October 29, 2026 @ 10:00a	11/4/2026	Sen. Rachel Talbot Ross Rep. Adam Lee	4 meetings authorized
<u>LD 646</u> Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution	Karen Nadeau Sophia Paddon	<i>Wednesday, September 9, 2026 @ 10:00a.</i> Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 10:00a Wednesday, October 7, 2026 @ 10:00a Wednesday, October 21, 2026 @ 10:00a	12/01/2026	Sen. Denise Tepler Rep. Daniel Ankeles	4 meetings authorized
<u>LD 760</u> Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act	Lynne Westphal Steven Langlin	Wednesday, September 30, 2026 @ 1:00p	12/01/2026	Sen. Glenn “Chip” Curry Rep. Marc Malon	4 meetings authorized (outside funding)

132nd Legislature – 2026 Approved Interim Legislative Studies and Committee Meetings (9/21/26)
Meeting of Legislative Council - September 23, 2026

Legislative Study	Legislative Council Staff	Meetings scheduled or <i>held</i>	Report Date	Chairs	Status or comment
<u>LD 364</u> Resolve, Directing the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Submit Legislation and Take Other Actions to Effectuate the Transition of Responsibility for Regulating Manufactured Housing Communities and the Construction and Installation of Manufactured Homes from the Manufactured Housing Board to the Maine Office of Community Affairs	Kristin Bishop Lindsay Laxon Mark Swanson (ROS)	N/A	01/01/2027 (Draft legislation/no report)		Drafting assistance from OPLA and ROS (no meetings)
Statutory (ongoing) Legislative Studies – Legislative Council Staff					
Right to Know Advisory Committee <u>T 1 §411</u>	Elena Roig Kristin Bishop Will Tew Jessica Griswold	Tuesday, September 22, 2026 @ 1:00p	Annually January	Sen. Anne Carney	No fewer than 4 meetings

Joint Standing Committees - Approved Interim Meetings (other than confirmation hearings)			
Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry	Karen Nadeau		
Appropriations and Financial Affairs	Lucia Nixon		
Criminal Justice and Public Safety	William Tew		
Education and Cultural Affairs	Elena Roig Karen Nadeau		
Environment and Natural Resources	Daniel Tartakoff		
Energy, Utilities and Technology	Lindsay Laxon		
Health and Human Services	Anna Broome Sam Senft	<i>Tuesday, June 23, 2026 @ 10:00a</i>	Quarterly report on child protection
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services	Colleen McCarthy Reid	<i>Thursday, August 27, 2026 @ 10:00a</i> <i>Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ 10:00a</i>	Briefings
Housing and Economic Development	Lynne Westphal Sophia Paddon		
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife			
Judiciary	Janet Stocco Elias Murphy		
Labor	Steven Langlin Sophia Paddon		
Marine Resources			
State and Local Government	Kristin Bishop		
Taxation	Jessica Griswold Steve Langlin		
Transportation	Melanie Furman		
Veteran and Legal Affairs	Rachel Olson		

REP. RYAN D. FECTEAU
CHAIR

SEN. MATTHEA E.L. DAUGHTRY
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

To: Members, 132nd Legislative Council

From: Speaker Ryan Fecteau, Chair, Personnel Committee of the 132nd Legislative Council

RF

Date: September 21, 2026

Re: Recommendation for the Appointment of Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review

The Personnel Committee met on August 18th to interview and conclude its review of candidates for the position of Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review (OFPR), and we are pleased to say that we have reached consensus on the best candidate for this opening. We are recommending that Luke Lazure, a Principal Analyst in OFPR, be appointed as the Director of OFPR.

We received eight applications for this position after advertising and reaching out nationally. A group of senior-level staff reviewed and discussed the applications and narrowed the pool of candidates down to three candidates that received preliminary first-round interviews. After conducting first-round interviews, the preliminary interview team recommended two individuals to the Personnel Committee for interviews. The Personnel Committee, after interviewing the two finalist candidates on August 18th, reached a consensus recommendation that Luke Lazure be appointed as Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. Luke's long experience in both OFPR and the Executive Branch, his dedication to the Legislature and its mission, his focus on collaboration and innovation, as well as his leadership skills and abilities, informed the Personnel Committee's recommendation that Luke is the right person to lead OFPR into the coming years.

The Personnel Committee hopes that you will agree with our consensus assessment that Luke's experience and management style is the best fit for OFPR. Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

REP. RYAN D. FECTEAU
CHAIR

SEN. MATTHEA E.L. DAUGHTRY
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUZANNE M. GRESSER



132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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REP. BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM
REP. KATRINA SMITH

To: Members, 132nd Legislative Council

From: Speaker Ryan Fecteau, Chair, Personnel Committee of the 132nd Legislative Council

RF

Date: September 21, 2026

Re: Recommendation for the Appointment of Director of the Law & Legislative Reference Library

The Personnel Committee met on August 18th to interview and conclude its review of candidates for the position of Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library, and we are pleased to say that we have reached consensus on the best candidate for this opening. We are recommending that Alex Burnett, the Deputy Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library, be appointed as the Library's Director.

We received four applications for this position after advertising and reaching out nationally. A group of senior-level staff reviewed and discussed the applications and narrowed the pool of candidates to two candidates that received preliminary first-round interviews. After conducting first-round interviews, the preliminary interview team recommended two individuals to the Personnel Committee for interviews. The Personnel Committee, after interviewing the two finalist candidates on August 18th, reached a consensus recommendation that Alex Burnett be appointed as Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Alex's dedication to the Legislature and public service, as well as his experience, skills, and leadership style informed the Personnel Committee's recommendation that Alex is the right person to lead the Law and Legislative Reference Library into the coming years.

The Personnel Committee hopes that you will agree with our consensus assessment that Alex's experience is the best fit for the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

**Legislative Council Actions
Taken by Ballot Since the
April 14, 2026 Council Meeting**

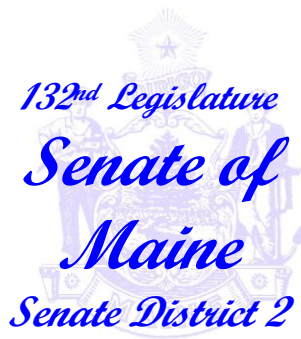
Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: **That the Legislative Council accept the funds contributed for the Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act.**

Motion by: Speaker Ryan D. Fecteau

Date: May 19, 2026

Vote: 6-1-0-3 Passed (with Representative Smith opposed, and Senator Stewart, Senator Harrington, & Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)



Senator Harold 'Trey' Stewart, III
Senate Republican Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

August 5, 2026

Honorable Ryan Fecteau, Speaker of the House
Honorable Matthea Daughtry, President of the Senate
Members, Legislative Council
c/o Office of the Executive Director
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

Dear Speaker Fecteau, President Daughtry and Legislative Council members:

Last week, [the Bangor Daily News reported](#) that a group of lawmakers plans to use private funding to hire its own staff member. This group, self-described as the Legislature's Progressive Caucus, has since reportedly declined to share the source or sources of funding for this position. The concept of a privately-funded legislative staffer raises serious ethical concerns.

Although representatives of the Progressive Caucus said they worked with the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to craft guidelines for the position, the group's refusal to identify the position's funders goes against the very ideal of governmental transparency. Furthermore, their statement that this position is not a lobbyist position simply does not pass the straight face test. The statute on lobbying is very clear. 3 MRS §312-A (9) defines lobbying as the following:

“‘Lobbying’ means to communicate directly with any official in the legislative branch or any official in the executive branch or with a constitutional officer for the purpose of influencing any legislative action or with the Governor or the Governor's cabinet and staff for the purpose of influencing the approval or veto of a legislative action when reimbursement for expenditures or compensation is made for those activities. ‘Lobbying’ includes the time spent to prepare and submit to the Governor, an official in the legislative branch, an official in the executive branch, a constitutional officer or a legislative committee oral and written proposals for, or testimony or analyses concerning, a legislative action.”

The publicly-posted job description for the position includes responsibilities such as “working with members to develop policy priorities” and “helping caucus members effectively articulate policy positions.” A privately-funded position designed to influence policy at this level cannot credibly be characterized as one that will not engage in efforts to influence legislative action.

I respectfully request that the presiding officers hold a meeting of the Legislative Council, which has not met in months, to address the clear gaps in legislative policy highlighted by the news of

this “staff” position and to conduct fact-finding to determine whether this position complies with existing law and our longstanding employee policies and practices.

We should seek answers to the following questions raised by this unorthodox job posting:

1. Will the hired individual have building access?
2. Will they have access to IT services, secure internet services, etc.?
3. Will they be given an office or a dedicated workspace?
4. Will their work correspondence be subject to Maine’s Freedom of Access Act?
5. What rules will govern the individual’s handling, storage and retention of legislative records?
6. Will they be subject to the rules prescribed in the Legislature’s Personnel Policy Handbook?
7. Will their salary be a matter of public record as is the case for all legislative branch employees?
8. Will the individual be required to complete the same statutorily required workplace conduct/sexual harassment training as legislative employees?
9. Will the individual be authorized to communicate with nonpartisan legislative staff on behalf of caucus members?
10. What insurance, workers’ compensation and liability protections will apply to the individual?
11. Will the legislators receiving professional services from the hired individual be required to report these services as in-kind gifts on their personal financial disclosure forms?
12. If this individual is not going to be treated as a legislative staff member, what is the exact mechanism by which they would not be required to register as a lobbyist?
13. Did the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices issue a formal opinion regarding the position? If so, will that opinion and all materials submitted for its review be made public?
14. What safeguards will prevent the undisclosed funders of the position from using the position to advance their own legislative interests?

These questions are not exhaustive, but they underscore the serious legal, ethical and administrative issues raised by this unprecedented arrangement. The Legislative Council should meet without further delay to address this urgent matter and protect the integrity and transparency of the legislative process, our institution and the body politic of Maine’s government and its people.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Stewart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harold “Trey” Stewart III
Senate Republican Leader



Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

State of Maine
132nd Maine Legislature

Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

August 6, 2026

Senator Trey Stewart
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Stewart:

We are writing to confirm receipt of your letter.

We appreciate your questions. As you may already be aware, the process undertaken by the lawmakers to whom you refer did not include legislative leadership. We are not aware of the details, funding, or other plans involved in the decision to create and hire for the position.

We agree that the questions you raise are important and merit discussion by the Legislative Council.

We will add this topic to the agenda of the next meeting of the Legislative Council, which will be scheduled as soon as the personnel committee has made a recommendation regarding hiring for the Director positions of the Law and Legislative Reference Library and the Office of Fiscal and Program Review.

We look forward to discussing this further.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ry Fecteau".

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mattie Daughtry".

House Speaker Ryan Fecteau

Senate President Mattie Daughtry