

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, November 5, 2015
Room 228 State House**

DRAFT AGENDA

*Audio of the AFA proceedings may be found on the following website:
http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations_committee/audio/index.htm*

Scheduled Start Time: 10:00 am

Summary of “Drug Summit” and Related Issues

- Janet Mills, Attorney General

Update on Establishment of a Cold Case Homicide Unit

- Janet Mills, Attorney General
- Lara Nomani, Assistant Attorney General

Issues Related to the Department of Health and Human Services (See attached list of questions)*

- TBD, Department of Health and Human Services

Issues Related to the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (See attached list of questions)*

- TBD, Department of Labor

Work Session: LD 1032 (An Act To Implement the Combination Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Retirement Plan Described in a Report Submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in March 2012)

Establishment of December Meeting Date

Scheduled Start Time: 2:00 pm

Confirmation Hearing

Brian Noyes: Board of Trustees, Maine Public Employees Retirement System

**** Item tentative or incomplete pending information on availability of presenter(s)***

Questions Posed by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
For the Interim Meeting on
November 5, 2015

For the **Department of Health and Human Services**

- Regarding the RFPs for Crisis Mobile Resolution and Stabilization Unit Services and Statewide Crisis Telephone Response:
 - Does the department have a backup plan or the ability to revert to the old system should the new system encounter service disruption as occurred when the transportation system was centralized?
 - Does the RFP reflect on what the Department knows to be “best practices” and what specific areas of the RFP reflect that understanding?
 - From the Department’s point of view, what circumstances would or should trigger a notification to the legislature that an RFP of this size or scope will be issued?
- What is the status of the rate studies required by PL 2015 c. 267 Part AA?
- What is the status of the implementation of the lead standard changes contained in PL 2015 c. 267 Part LLLL?
- PL 2015 c. 267 also includes a 4% increase for PNMI’s. We have been told that the increase has only been applied to Appendix C of Section 97 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual. Why is it not being applied to Appendices C, E and F as was stated in the Department’s testimony on the Change Package (May 7, 2015)?
- In response to a previous question as to whether the Department intends to accept recently available federal grant funding for colorectal screening, the Department responded that it is in receipt of a notice of award for a grant. Does the Department intend to accept the grant funding?

For the **Department of Labor**

- Regarding the severe cost containment efforts in the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired:
 - What is the scope and cause of the funding shortfall that led to the expenditure reductions?
 - What does the Department see as its responsibility under Title 26 §1416-D and how will this responsibility be fulfilled in light of the funding shortfalls and restructuring?
 - What does the Department see as its responsibility to continue funding independent living services for the blind and visually impaired?
 - What input has the Department solicited and received from the State Rehabilitation Council and other providers about mitigating the funding shortfall?

Additional Questions Posed by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

For the **Department of Labor**

- When did the Department find out about the federal changes related to the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the loss of funding?
- What is the Administration doing to work with our congressional delegation to try to restore funding?