

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 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
December 10, 2024
Approved February 27, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

President Daughtry called the December 10, 2024 organizational meeting of the 132nd Legislative Council to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Daughtry, Senator Pierce, Senator Duson, Senator Stewart (arrived via Zoom after roll was 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

President Daughtry convened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

President Daughtry, declaring that a quorum was present and pursuant to the Rules of Procedure adopted by the 131st Legislative Council, called the first meeting of the 132nd Legislative Council to order for the purposes of electing a Chair and a Vice-chair of the Legislative Council, adoption of rules of procedures and such other matters of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council's Rules of Procedure prescribe the following with regard to the election of Legislative Council Officers:

Rule #2 provides that the position of Chair alternate in succeeding biennial sessions between a member from the Senate and a member from the House of Representatives. Thus, pursuant to these Rules, the Chair for this new Legislative Council should be a Legislative Council member who serves in the House.

Rule #3 provides that the Vice-chair not be a member of the same body of the Legislature as the Chair. Thus, the Vice-chair for the 131st Legislative Council should be a member who serves in the Senate.

President Daughtry stated that unless there was objection, the Legislative Council would continue its long-standing practice of conducting the vote by a showing of hands. Upon the election of a chair, the chair will preside over the remainder of this meeting.

Hearing no objection, President Daughtry opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Legislative Council.

Nomination: That Speaker Ryan Fecteau serve as Chair of the Legislative Council for the 132nd Legislature. (Nominated by President Daughtry, seconded by Senator Pierce).

With no further nominations or discussion, President Daughtry closed the nominations. The vote for Legislative Council Chair was taken. Speaker Fecteau was elected to serve as Chair of the Legislative Council for the 132nd Legislature.

Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0-0)

President Daughtry turned the meeting over to Speaker Fecteau, who opened the floor for nominations for Vice-chair of the Legislative Council.

Nomination: That President Matthea Daughtry serve as Vice-chair of the Legislative Council for the 132nd Legislature. (Nominated by Representative Moonen, seconded by Senator Pierce)

With no further nominations or discussion, Speaker Fecteau closed the nominations. The vote for Legislative Council Vice-chair was taken. President Daughtry was elected to serve as Vice-chair of the Legislative Council for the 132nd Legislature. **Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0-0)**

ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

Proposed Rules of Procedure for Legislative Council Adoption

Motion: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Legislative Council of the 131st Legislature. Motion by Senator Pierce. Second by Rep. Gramlich. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1,** with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).

[Note: A copy of the Rules of Procedure as adopted by the Legislative Council is attached.]

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 17, 2024 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for October 17, 2024 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Representative Moonen. Second by Senator Duson. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1,** with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Summary of Legislative Council Authority and Duties

Director Gresser informed the members that the information regarding the authority and duties of the Legislative Council would be retained for their reference in their Council notebooks. No action by the Legislative Council was required.

Item #2: Establishment of Salaries for Constitutional Officers

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorize a one-step increase in salary for the State Treasurer, for the Attorney General, and for the Secretary of State, in accordance with State law. Motion by Rep. Moonen. Second by President Daughtry. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

Item #3: Establishment of Salaries for Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House

Both the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House were re-elected to their positions. The Clerk of the House, having reached the top step within the applicable range is no longer eligible for a step increase. The Secretary of the Senate is eligible for a one-step increase from the step to which the Secretary was last assigned.

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorize a one-step increase in salary for the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with State law. Motion by Senator Pierce. Second by Representative Moonen. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

Item #4: Legislative Council meeting schedule for 2025

Speaker Fecteau suggested changing the date of the January meeting from Thursday, January 23rd to Tuesday, January 21st, since the Legislature would be in session on the 21st.

Motion: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed Legislative Council meeting schedule for 2025, with the exception that the meeting date in January be changed to January 21, 2025. Motion by Representative Moonen. Second by Representative Gramlich. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

Item #5: Proposed Document Service Fee Schedule for 132nd Legislature, First Regular Session

Motion: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed document service fee schedule for the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. Motion by President Daughtry. Second by Senator Pierce. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

Item #6: Legislative Council Policy on Processing Closely Related Legislator Bill Requests

The Revisor of Statutes, Edward Charbonneau, drew the Council members' attention to the memorandum in the packet outlining the history of, and process for, addressing closely-related legislator bills. Because cloture this session is scheduled for January 10th, and because more than 100 bills had already been sent out to Legislators for signature, Mr. Charbonneau pointed out that employing the full-scale duplicate resolution process that had been employed in previous sessions would serve to delay the processing, printing and referral of bills. The Council requested that the Revisor's Office, on a rolling basis as bills are filed, make an effort to identify closely related bills, notify sponsors of later-filed bills of the earlier filing of a closely-related bill, and allow sponsors the opportunity to combine their bills.

Motion: That the Legislative Council adopt a policy on processing of closely-related legislator bill requests for the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature under which the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, on a rolling basis as bills are filed, make an effort to identify closely related bills, notify sponsors of later-filed bills of the earlier filing of a closely-related bill, and allow sponsors the opportunity to combine their bills. Motion by Senator Harrington. Second by Senator Pierce. **Motion passed (9-0-0-1, with Senator Stewart recorded as absent).**

Speaker Fecteau, as chair of the Legislative Council, inquired whether there were additional items to take up, and President Daughtry indicated that she had one additional item to add to the agenda, which Speaker Fecteau allowed. President Daughtry stated that, in comparing staff counts across the offices, President Daughtry concluded that there is a clear need for additional positions on the Senate side in order to the Senate to carry out its work load in a fair and equitable manner. President Daughtry expressed her wish to create one additional position in each of the four Senate Offices—the Senate Republican Office, the Senate Democratic Office, the Office of the President and the Secretary of the Senate’s Office, and made a motion to authorize such staffing. Senator Stewart seconded the motion, and pointed out the Senate Republican Office in particular has been placed at a disproportionate disadvantage, and indicated that he welcomes continuing the conversation about Senate Republican Office staffing in the coming weeks. President Daughtry reiterated her commitment to continuing the discussion and ensuring the ability of the Legislature and its staff to carry out its functions in service to the people of the State.

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorize the establishment of one limited period Grade 6 positions, one limited period Grade 8 position, and two limited period Grade 9 positions to be implemented by allotting unspent balances in the Legislative General Fund account during fiscal year 2025; and further, that the Legislative Council direct the Executive Director to prepare and submit implementing documentation reflecting this decision of the Legislative Council to the Bureau of the Budget; and further, that the Legislative Council establish one legislative position count for one Legislative Aide position; two legislative position counts for two Legislative Policy positions; and one legislative position count for one Calendar Clerk Assistant position; and further,

That the Legislative Council direct the Executive Director to prepare and submit implementing language reflecting the decisions of the Legislative Council to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on behalf of the Legislative Council for inclusion in the committee amendment to the Governor’s unified budget bill for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027. **Motion by President Daughtry. Second by Senator Stewart. Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).**

Speaker Fecteau recognized Representative Faulkingham, who made a motion that two Grade 8 positions be added to the House Republican Office. The motion was seconded by Rep. Smith. After a brief discussion, Rep. Faulkingham moved to table his request, President Daughtry seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.