

## **Appointment Process for the 16 “Youth Members” of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council**

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 168-A, details the appointment process for the members of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (“LYAC” or “council”). LYAC is a permanent, ongoing council consisting of 20 members appointed by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appointments to the LYAC are made by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Both youth and legislative members are appointed for a two-year term on the council, (although a one-year appointment may be made in order to fulfill a vacancy).

The Senate President and House Speaker, (the “appointing authorities”), are required to appoint LYAC youth members who are Maine residents and are at least 16 years old. The appointing authorities are required to consider geographic distribution in appointing youth members to the council. Appointing authorities shall select youth members from youths recommended by principals, guidance counselors or administrative heads of secondary or postsecondary school systems, representatives of equivalent instruction programs or other organizations having an interest in youth activities.

The following describes how the 16 youth members of the council are appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker:

### LYAC youth members appointed by the Senate President (8):

- Seven youth who are enrolled in secondary schools, (including programs that lead to a secondary school diploma or its equivalent), or who are enrolled in a postsecondary institution; and
- One youth who is enrolled in an equivalent instruction program (such as a student who is receiving home-school instruction).

### LYAC youth members appointed by the Speaker of the House (8):

- Seven youth who are enrolled in secondary schools, (including programs that lead to a secondary school diploma or its equivalent), or who are enrolled in a postsecondary institution; and
- One youth who is enrolled in an equivalent instruction program (such as a student who is receiving home-school instruction).

Maine youth who meet the appointment criteria described above and who wish to be appointed should contact the legislative staff of the Senate President or the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Tiffany Leonard in the Senate President’s Office, (287-1500), and Ken Hardy in the House Speaker’s Office, (287-1300), provide staffing assistance on legislative appointments made by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively. Interested youth should also feel free to consult with their respective state legislators as legislators may be willing and able to communicate their support for the prospective youth member to the Senate President or House Speaker.

Thank you for your interest in LYAC. Please feel free to contact Patrick Norton, Director, or Brenna Byrne, Legislative Researcher, with the Legislature’s Office of Policy Analysis at 287-1670, should you have any questions about the appointment process or wish to discuss other aspects of serving as a youth member of the council. Further information on the Legislature and LYAC statutory provisions can be accessed at the Maine Legislature’s website by clicking on the following link: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/legyouth.htm>.