

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Sen. James Hamper, Senate Chair and Rep. Margaret Rotundo, House Chair

Biennial Budget

Public Hearings: February 17th, 18th, 19th, 23rd and 25th

Room 228 State House

Hearings will be held on the referenced dates on those portions of the Biennial Budget under the policy jurisdictions of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

The remaining portions of the Biennial Budget will be heard between March 2nd and March 20th, 2015.
Those schedules will be advertised and posted on the web at a later date.

The LD Number for the Biennial Budget "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017" has not yet been assigned.

The proposed budget initiatives may be viewed on the Bureau of the Budget's website:

<http://www.maine.gov/budget/>. The documents on this site are the ones that committees will be using for the public hearings. Part A contains all departments and their associated programs (each in alphabetical order) with baseline amounts program initiatives changing appropriations and allocations. Part B (which is not part of the public hearings) contains approved reclassifications and range changes. The Final Document contains the language portions. Part H and Part F as seen on the website are two addendums that provide the appropriations and allocations associated with language parts "H" and "F" but were inadvertently omitted from Part A.

The audio portions of public hearings and work sessions held in Room 228 of the State House may be heard over the Internet by addressing:

http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations_committee/audio/index.htm

Below is a detailed schedule by Department or Agency and Program falling under the jurisdiction of the two committees covered by this schedule. Some departments or agencies fall under the jurisdiction of multiple legislative policy committees depending on the program so make sure that you match the program or language part about which you want to testify to the proper hearing segment.

Additional guidance regarding these hearings (sign up times, time limits etc.) will be sent to the interested parties list and posted on the OFPR website at a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact Marianne at the above address or at (207) 287-1635

Tuesday February 17, 2015

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

10:00 AM

DAFS OVERVIEW OF TAX PROPOSALS

ADMINISTRATION, TAX EXPENDITURES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMS

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

- Bureau of Revenue Services Fund
- Maine Board of Tax Appeals
- Revenue Services – Bureau of
- Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund – Finance
- County Tax Reimbursement
- *Language (Part “P” – continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute)*

Property Tax Review, State Board of

- Property Tax Review-State Board of

Treasurer of the State, Office of

- Passamaquoddy Sales Tax Fund

1:00 PM

INCOME AND ESTATE TAXES

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

- *Language (Part “J” – eliminates the estate tax starting in January 2017 and increases the exclusion amount in 2016)*
- *Language (Part “K” – makes numerous changes to personal and corporate tax laws and rate structure - including the property tax fairness and sales tax fairness credits)*

Wednesday February 18, 2015

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

1:00 PM

REVENUE SHARING

Treasurer of the State, Office of

- Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund
- State – Municipal Revenue Sharing

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

- *Language (Part “L” – sets a fixed amount of total revenue sharing transfers in the first year of the biennium and repeals it in the second year)*

Thursday February 19, 2015

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

10:00 AM

BETR/BETE AND TELECOMMUNICATION TAX

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

- Mandate-BETE-Reimburse Municipalities
- *Language (Part “D” – repeals the excise tax on telecommunication and repeals the telecommunications equipment exemption from local property taxation)*
- *Language (Part “G” phases out BETR program and transitions certain properties into the BETE program)*

1:00 PM

PROPERTY TAXES

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

- Elderly Tax Deferral Program
- Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement
- Snow Grooming Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement
- Tree Growth Tax Reimbursement
- Veterans Organization Tax Reimbursement
- Veterans Tax Reimbursement
- Waste Facility Tax Reimbursement
- *Language (Part “E” – removes the full exemption from property taxation on properties owned by certain nonprofits)*
- *Language (Part “F” – replaces current homestead exemption with one limited to those 65 or older)*
- *Language (Part “BB” – amends the Tree Growth Tax Reimbursement program)*

Monday February 23rd

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

10:00 AM

SALES AND SERVICE PROVIDER TAXES

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

- *Language (Part “H” – amends the sales and use tax code: extends current tax rates; extends the application of the sales and use tax; enacts a collection allowance; makes other related changes)*
- *Language (Part “I” – amends the service provider tax code: increases the effective rate; broadens the application; makes other related changes)*

Wednesday February 25th

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

10:00 AM

Baxter State Park Authority

- Baxter State Park Authority

Blueberry Commission of Maine, Wild

- Blueberry Commission

Harness Racing Promotional Board

- Harness Racing Promotional Board

Potato Board, Maine

- Potato Board

University of Maine System, Board of Trustees of the

- University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Department of

- Administration – Forestry *
- Animal Welfare Fund
- Beverage Container Enforcement Fund
- Boating Facilities Fund *
- Certified Seed Fund
- Coastal Island Registry *
- Division of Agricultural Resource Development
- Division of Animal Health and Industry
- Division of Forest Protection *
- Division of Plant Industry
- Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation
- Floodplain Management *
- Food Assistance Program
- Forest Fire Control – Municipal Assistance Grants *
- Forest Health and Monitoring *
- Forest Policy and management – Division of *
- Forest Recreation Resource Fund *
- Geological Survey *
- Harness Racing Commission
- Land for Maine’s Future
- Land Management and Planning *
- Maine Coastal Program
- Maine Conservation Corps *
- Maine Farms for the Future Program
- Maine Land Use Planning Commission *
- Maine Mosquito Management Fund
- Maine State Parks Development Fund *
- Maine State Parks Program *
- Milk Commission
- Municipal Planning Assistance
- Natural Areas Program *
- Office of the Commissioner *
- Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program *
- Parks – General Operations *
- Pesticides Control, Board of
- Potato Quality Control – Reducing Inspection Costs

- Rural Rehabilitation
- Language (Part “V” – changes the classificatin of 2 positions within the department)
- Language (Part “W” – removes a director postion within the department)
- Language (Part “X” – gradually reduces the surcharge on product name commercial feed and home-based manufacturer of pet food over the biennium)
- Language (Part “Y” – creates a new bureau of Conservation and reduces the overall number of bureaus in the department)
- Language (Part “Z” – increases the annual fees paid to appointed fire wardens)
- Language (Part “AA” – expands the Forest Ranger duties and assigns all law enforcement duties with the department to Matral Resources Law Enformcement Officers)
- Language (Part “CC” – reduces the minimum number of field foresters in the Bureau of Forestry)
- Language (Part “BB” – amends the Tree Growth Tax Reimbursement program - also heard in conjunction with the Taxation Committee)
- Language (Part “DD” – eliminates the internal security and public safety training and policy exemption for an agent or representative of the Bureau of Forestry)
- Language (Part “EE” – repeals the firearm restrictions on the former Department of Conservation which is now Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry)
- Language (Part “FF” – authorizes a one-time transfer of funds from unencumberd balance forward of General Fund Personal Services in the Division of Forest Protection for the overhauling of helicopters)
- Language (Part “GG” – renames various departments within the department)

* Programs listed under Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Department transferred from the Department of Conservation as a result of a merger of the two departments.