



Maine Permanent Commission on  
**THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**MePCSW Policy and Legislation Committee (PLC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 1, 2025**

**9:00-10:00 A.M.**

**MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance:** Dania Bowie, Maulian Bryant, Chris Hastedt, Karen Keim

**MePCSW Committee Members Absent:** Kate Elmes, Jill Barkley Roy

**Staff and Guests:** Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED), Destie Hohman Sprague (Maine Women's Lobby ED), Emily Cook (Deputy Secretary of State, Senior Policy Director)

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**Facilitator:** Dania Bowie, PLC Chair

**Welcome**

**Old Business and Public Comment**

1. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes
  - a. No members of the public present

**New Business**

1. Overview of PLC goals and purpose
2. Legislative update from the Maine Women's Lobby
  - a. Destie presented a legislative report highlighting key issues affecting women and girls across the gender justice priorities of the MWL. Talked about collaborative approach and focus on areas such as government systems, care infrastructure, workplace equity, reproductive health care, and gender-based violence. Noted deepening partisanship in the Maine legislature and spikes in public engagement.
  - b. Discussion:
    - i. Update on LD 522, study bill directing MePCSW to investigate disparities across gender-segregated industries – passed both chambers and made it off the appropriations table but has been held by the Governor. Maulian noted that two key Wabanaki Alliance priority bills were carried over.
    - ii. Plan to investigate why LD 522 was held, with Commissioners expressing concerns about the bill being held without any discussion
3. Discussed an upcoming MePCSW issue brief on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

- a. Walked through policy recommendations in the issue brief
- b. Discussed strategies for getting support from the Governor's office about the need for continued PRAMS funding

**Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

- 1. Finalize a cadence and meeting time that works for the group
  - a. Plan to poll for a time in October
  - b. Note that cloture date is at the end of September