

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. CHARLES P. PRAY
CHAIRMAN

REP. JOHN L. MARTIN
VICE-CHAIRMAN



STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

SEN. NANCY RANDALL CLARK
SEN. DENNIS L. DUTREMBLE
SEN. THOMAS R. PERKINS
SEN. CHARLES M. WEBSTER
REP. JOHN N. DIAMOND
REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY
REP. THOMAS W. MURPHY, JR.
REP. EUGENE J. PARADIS

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January 16, 1987

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chairman, Charles P. Pray, at 9:38 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Clark, Sen. Dutremble, Sen. Perkins, Sen. Pray, Sen. Webster

Representatives: Rep. Diamond, Rep. Gwadosky, Rep. Martin, Rep. Murphy, Rep. Paradis

Legislative Officers:

Sally Diamond	Executive Director, Legislative Council
Peter Siegel	Law Librarian
Bent Schlosser	Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Helen Ginder	Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
David Silsby	Revisor of Statutes

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the Council's December 18, 1987, meeting were approved and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Perkins; unanimous).

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Diamond, Executive Director, reported the following personnel actions:

Newly-Hired Employees

- Legal Proofreaders in the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, effective January 5.

Kathryn W. Riley (Step A)
Mary Lou Smith (Step A)
Judy P. Blaisdell (Step A)

(These are session positions, and they are in Range 3 of the Non-Partisan Salary Scale).

- Legal Proofreader in the Office of the Revisor, Engrossing Division, effective January 12: Edythe J. Hampson (Range 3 Step A).
- Secretary in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, effective January 27: Janet L. Jean (Range 3, Step A).
- Legislative Indexer, Office of Executive Director, Information Services, effective January 5, 1987: Allison Brown (Range 8, Step A). Ms. Diamond pointed out that this position had been transferred to her office from the Revisor's Office in December, 1985 in conjunction with the Legislative Council's study of legislative staffing and organization. The functions of this position have been one of the items under review by an interoffice indexing committee which has worked during the interim. The committee has identified several ways to use the legislative computer system in the indexing process; as a result, the position is now a part-time position.
- Secretary, Office of the Executive Director, effective January 7: Etta Begin (Range 4, Step C).

Approved Step Increases

John Bailey, Director of Information Services, from Step B to Step C, effective January 1, 1987.

Jacqueline Calcagni, Administrative Secretary (Salary Range 6) from Step B to Step C, effective January 14, 1987.

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Teen Lerette, Administrative Coordinator (Salary Range 7) from Step B to Step C, effective January 1, 1987.

Jennifer Locke, Office Assistant (Salary Range 2) from Step A to Step B, January 1, 1987.

Margaret Reinsch, Legislative Analyst (Salary Range 10) from Step B to Step C, effective January 14, 1987.

Motion: That the Executive Director's report be accepted and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Diamond, second by Rep. Martin).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee

Item #1: Reappointment of Bent Schlosser

Mr. Schlosser's first three year appointment to the position of Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review had expired in December. Rep. Martin reported that the Committee had met for the purpose of reviewing his performance and presented the committee's unanimous recommendation that he be appointed for a second three-year term and be commended for his work during his previous term.

Motion: That Bent Schlosser be reappointed to the position of Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review for a 3-year term of appointment pursuant to statute (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep Murphy; unanimous).

Item #2: Conversion of Committee Clerk Position

Rep. Martin recommended that the position of Clerk for the Committee on Audit and Program Review be converted to a full-year, permanent non-partisan position in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. He noted that similar action had been taken by the Council with regard to the Clerk to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by the 112th Legislative Council.

Rep. Gwadosky asked whether this action had been discussed in advance with the Committee Chairs and was assured that this had been done.

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Motion: That the recommendation to convert the position of the Clerk to the Audit and Program Review Committee to a full-year, permanent position in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review be effective immediately. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Perkins; unanimous).

Committee on Legislative Automation

Item #1: Equipment in Leadership Offices

Rep. Diamond, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee had met to review requests from the leadership offices for additional equipment.

Motion: That the request be approved as presented with the addition of one work station to be assigned to the Speaker's Office. (Motion by Rep. Diamond, second by Rep. Paradis, unanimous).

Item #2: Public Access to Bill Status System

Ms. Diamond drew members' attention to the list of organizations that had expressed interest in participating in the pilot project to provide access to the Legislature's bill status system to the public. She noted that the Council's direction to actively solicit municipal and non-profit participation had had the desired effect on broadening the types of groups that will be participating in the project. Fifty organizations have indicated interest - the maximum number that can be supported during the pilot project. Council members agreed that they would consider additional requests that may come in during the Session. They further stressed that all participants in the pilot project should be notified that the approval of their participation is for the period of the pilot project only.

Motion: That the implementation of the pilot project proceed for a one-year period, and that it be evaluated at the end of that time. (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Rep. Gwadosky; unanimous).

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OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Salary Adjustments for Constitutional Officers

This item had previously been tabled. Council members had received a chart showing the current salary of each of the Constitutional Officers and the effect of a step increase. Ms. Diamond pointed out that the statute prohibits the Council from assigning the Secretary of State to a step higher than G, his current step. Sen. Webster inquired whether these annual step increases, which are authorized by statute, should be awarded automatically; and it was suggested that he express his concern to the State Compensation Commission, which is charged by statute with reviewing these salaries biennially.

Motion: That each of the Constitutional Officers be awarded a 4% cost-of-living lump sum payment for the period December 3, 1986 - January 4, 1987, and that the Attorney General, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor be awarded a one-step increase in their assigned salary ranges, effective on their respective anniversary dates, and finally, that the 4% cost-of-living increase be applied to the Secretary of State, effective January 5. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Diamond; 9-1).

Item #2: Request from the Special Commission to Study Teacher Training in the University System

(Tabled at the previous meeting pending receipt of additional information).

Rep. Bost, Chair of the Special Commission had previously requested that the Council authorize the Commission to contract for a survey in conjunction with the Commission's study of Teacher Training in the University System. Rep. Bost noted that the law creating the Commission had specifically authorized the Commission to conduct a survey; the omission of language in the appropriations section earmarking funds for this purpose had been unintentional. He further noted that the original appropriation was sufficient to conduct the survey.

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Motion: That the Commission's request to conduct the survey through an outside contract be approved. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Submission of Reports:

Legislative Veto of Agency Rules from the Joint Standing Committee on State Government (Study Report Authorized by the Legislative Council)

Driver Education Evaluation Program from the Joint Standing Committee on Education (Study Report authorized by the Legislative Council)

Substitute Teacher Compensation from the Joint Standing Committee on Education (Study Report authorized by the Legislative Council)

Final Report from the Joint Select Committee on Learning Disabled Children

Final Report from the Maine Commission to Examine Chemical Testing of Employees

Annual Report on the Regional Fuel Tax Agreement

Motion: That the these reports be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Martin, second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).

Item #2: Welcome Back Day

Ms. Diamond reported the biannual Welcome Back Day program had tentatively been scheduled for Wednesday, April 8.

Motion: That the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House and the Executive Director be authorized to proceed with plans for Welcome Back Day. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Item #3: After Deadline Requests (Preliminary List attached)

Motion: That these requests be tabled until the next Council meeting. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Perkins; unanimous).

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ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.
(Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Perkins; unanimous).