

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

February 24, 1987

MEETING SUMMARY

(Approved and placed on file
March 10, 1987)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chairman, Charles P. Pray, at 2:40 p.m..

ROLL CALL

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

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

Legislative Officers:

Sally Diamond	Executive Director, Legislative Council
Peter Siegel	Law Librarian
Richard Sawyer	Ass't. 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 summary of the Council's February 10, 1987, meeting was approved and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Rep. Murphy; unanimous).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item #1: New Employees

Sally Diamond, Executive Director, reported her approval of the recommendation of David Silsby, Revisor of Statutes, to hire Ms. Deborah S. Clark, Augusta, Maine, as a Paralegal Assistant, effective February 9. This is the second Paralegal position in the Revisor's Office which was authorized by the Legislative Council in December, 1985, following its study of organization and staffing.

Item #2: Approved Step Increases

Ms. Diamond also reported her approval of the following step increases in the month of February:

John Selser, Legislative Analyst, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, from Step Q to Step X, effective February 7, 1987.

Audrey R. Delphendahl, Legislative Attorney, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, from Step A to Step B, effective February 10.

Item #3: Lease-Purchase of Computer Equipment

Ms. Diamond reported that she and John Bailey, Information Systems Director, had explored both the administrative and financial aspects of converting the existing rental agreements for portions of the legislative computer system to lease-purchase agreements. They have concluded that such an arrangement would reduce both the Legislature's monthly costs and total outlay for any single item involved in the agreement and recommended that the Council authorize entering into a lease-purchase agreement.

Discussion focussed on two issues:

- Maintenance of system components: while vendor service is rolled into the rental cost, it becomes the owner's responsibility at the point of purchase. Mr. Bailey noted that the Legislature already has a separate maintenance agreement with Wang for core system components, which it would be necessary to continue.

- The advisability of purchasing items whose technological life cycle is limited. Both Ms. Diamond and Mr. Bailey noted that the decision to upgrade certain parts of the system in the future to take advantage of technology was inevitable, but essentially independent of the lease-purchase issue, where the primary objective is to build equity with the Legislature's cash outlay, and, in the process, reduce monthly total outlays. In addition, some parts of the system will be useful to the Legislature well beyond their "life" in terms of state-of-the-art technology.

Motion: That the Legislature enter into a Lease-Purchase agreement and request the Appropriations Committee to take the necessary steps to authorize this in law (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports. Sen. Pray noted that the Personnel and Legislative Space Committees needed to meet before the next scheduled Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: MRSA Pocket Parts: Legislature's Role in Subsidizing and Distribution

The Council had voted to terminate the tradition of subsidizing the cost of pocket parts for the Maine Revised Statutes to approximately 1100 subscribers at its November 24, 1986 meeting, due to the escalating cost of this service. A review of this decision had been requested by several legislators, who had been contacted by local public libraries

Sally Diamond reported that Peter Siegel, State Law Librarian, had done additional research into the policies of other State legislatures regarding subsidy and distribution, to assist the Council in reviewing its earlier action. Based on that review, she and Mr. Siegel had prepared a summary of the types of subscribers the Legislature has been subsidizing and a recommendation for each.

Motion: That the Council adopt the following policy with regard to subsidy and distribution of pocket parts:

Local Governments: Continue to bill for 50% of the full subscription price (no change in policy).

Other State agencies: Bill for the full subscription cost and inform the Appropriations Committee of this action to facilitate the additional budget request. (Legislature had provided at no charge).

Judiciary: Bill for the full subscription cost and inform the Appropriations Committee of this action. (Legislature had provided at no charge)

Public libraries: Continue to bill for 50% of the full subscription price (no change in policy).

Academic libraries: Bill for full subscription cost (had been billed for 50% of total cost).

Out-of-State (Congressional delegation; Library of Congress, etc.): Continue to provide at no charge.

(Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Submission of Study Report: Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Study of the Farm and Open Space Law

Motion: That the report be accepted and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Rep. Murphy; unanimous).

Item #2: After Deadline Requests

A list of After Deadline Requests considered by the Council and a summary of the Council's action is attached.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 3:38 P.M. (Motion by Sen. Pray; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).