

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

March 10, 1987

MEETING SUMMARY

(Approved and Placed on File
March 24, 1987)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Charles P. Pray, at 1:37 p.m..

ROLL CALL

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

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

Legislative Officers:

Sally Diamond	Executive Director, Legislative Council
Peter Siegel	Law Librarian
Richard Sawyer	Deputy 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 24, 1987, meeting was approved and placed on file (Motion by Sen. Perkins; second by Rep. Gwadosky; unanimous).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approved Step Increases

Elizabeth Bartlett, Administrative Secretary (Salary Range 6),
from Step E to Step F, effective March 23, 1987

Elaine Choate, Senior Secretary (Salary Range 4), from Step D
to Step E, effective March 7, 1987

Robert Michaud, Associate Law Librarian (Salary Range 10), from
Step C to Step D, effective March 5, 1987

Kathleen Kaloustian, Sr. Legislative Technician (Salary Range
5), from Step F to Step G, effective March 29, 1987

Haven Whiteside, Deputy Director (Salary Range 13), from
Step D to Step E, effective March 23, 1987

Out-of-State Travel

Lars Rydell, to attend meeting of NCSL Task Force on Education
in Montgomery, Alabama, March 12-14. (Participation on Task
Force was previously authorized).

Sally Diamond, to attend NCSL Assembly on the Legislature in
Montgomery, Alabama, March 12-14.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

RECESS

The Legislative Council recessed at 2:03 p.m. for the purpose of
relocating the meeting.

RECONVENE

The Legislative Council reconvened at 2:08 p.m. in the Speaker's
Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Commission to Examine Problems of Tort Litigation and Liability Insurance in Maine: Report from Richard Trafton, Commission Chair

Former Senator Richard Trafton, Commission Chair, was present to share with the Council information about the Commission's work. He reported that the Commission was not requesting Council action, but wanted to make the Council aware of a process the Commission had initiated with respect to bills introduced during the current session. Briefly, the Commission has been divided into 3 subcommittees, one of which is responsible for reviewing bills that appear to fall within the scope of the Commission's charge. The subcommittee has met with the Chairs of the Committees on Banking and Insurance, Legal Affairs, Judiciary and Business Legislation and reached tentative agreement with them that any bills that appear to affect issues under consideration by the Commission would be held over until the Commission has submitted its report in January, 1988 to avoid dealing with complex issues in a piecemeal manner. Of the 20 bills the Committee has reviewed to date, the Commission is recommending that 17 be held over. Mr. Trafton reported that the Chairs had generally been very receptive to this approach.

Council discussion focussed on whether all bills that were held over would have public hearings this session. Mr. Trafton reported that several already had. Council members expressed agreement on two issues: 1) that they would support having public hearings on those bills held over to the Second Regular Session and 2) that they would commit to taking action to hold these bills over as the session progresses so that neither sponsors nor the committees would be in doubt.

No Council action necessary.

Item #2: Joint Select Committee on Corrections: Request for Authorization to Organize a 2-Day Seminar

Senator Bustin, Senate Chair, requested permission for the Committee to hold a one day seminar at the Augusta Civic Center. The proposed program involves a budget of \$1800, \$600 of which has been donated from the Department of Corrections. Senator Bustin stated that they would hold the seminar on a non-legislative day to insure good attendance by legislative members. She also asked that legislators be reimbursed for their expenses.

Motion: That the request be approved with a budget of \$2500 to fund the seminar (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Murphy; unanimous).

Item #3: 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 2:35 p.m.
(Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Murphy; unanimous).