

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 25, 1987

MEETING SUMMARY

Accepted and Placed on File
April 7, 1987

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Speaker's Office by the Chair, Senator Pray, at 11:11 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 summary of the Council's March 10, 1987, meeting was approved and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

DIRECTOR'S REPORTItem #1: Resignation

Sally Diamond, Executive Director of the Council noted that Thomas P. Collins, Business Manager had resigned as of March 13, 1987.

The resignation was accepted and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Item #2: Insurance Coverage for Legislators

Ms. Diamond informed the Council that both she and the Employees Health Insurance Program had received inquiries from legislators and former legislators about whether their coverage could be extended to a period preceding their enrollment if the premiums were paid. Following brief discussion, Council members expressed unanimous their opinion that legislators' coverage should extend only from their date of enrollment.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Item #1: Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee's report was deferred until all other business had been completed.

OLD BUSINESSItem #1: Public Access to Bill Status System: Status Report

Rep. Diamond, Chair of the Council's Committee on Legislative Automation, reported that the Public Access Pilot Project was underway: two training sessions have been held, and most of those who requested access are successfully using the system. Several subscribers have not yet acquired the necessary equipment. Subscribers will have a full month to determine whether they wish to continue their subscription before they are billed.

Twenty-one organizations who had originally expressed interest in obtaining access and been approved by the Council have not yet completed their application for access, and letters have been sent to determine if they are still interested. Six additional requests have been received since the start of the project. Rep. Diamond recommended that the Council approve the additional applications, provided that the total number of subscribers remains below 50.

Motion: That the request be approved (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Sen. Webster; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Commission on Tort Litigation and Liability
Insurance: Request for Authorization to Hire Staff

Sen. Trafton, Commission Chair, was present and requested that the Commission be authorized to hire Joan Sturmthal to staff the Commission for three months for a total sum of \$6,500. The sum would be paid from the Commission's current budget of \$15,000.

Sen. Trafton also referred to a letter that had been sent to the Council listing those bills that the Commission has recommended be held over until the 2nd Regular Session. Rep. Martin noted that all bills should have Public Hearings and a letter be sent to Committee Chairs encouraging them to do so.

Motion: That the item be tabled until the next Council meeting (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Sen. Webster; unanimous).

Item #2: Joint Select Committee on Economic Development:
Correspondence from Rep. Gregory G. Nadeau, Chair

Rep. Diamond reported that Rep. Nadeau had requested that the item be withdrawn. No further action was taken.

Item #3: Renovation of House Gallery to Provide Handicapped Accessibility

Rep. Martin noted that many requests have been made to have the House Gallery accessible to handicapped persons and presented an estimate from the Bureau of Public Improvements for installation of a lift machine in the amount of \$19,800..

Motion: That the request be approved and that the Appropriations Committee be requested to include this item in the Legislature's Part II Request (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

Item #4: After Deadline Requests

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council moved into Executive Session at 12:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel.

RECONVENE

The Legislative Council reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

Motion: That the Council adopt a policy for legislative employees whose assigned job requires them to spend at least 80% of their time on a regular basis operating a computer terminal, to provide for breaks from continuous work at computer terminals and for annual eye examinations at State expense; and, further that the Executive Director be directed to establish procedures for implementation of this policy in all legislative offices (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).