

# 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**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1988**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chamber by the Chair, Senator Pray, at 3:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

Legislative Officers:

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Summaries of the Council's January 6, 7, 19 and 25 meetings were approved and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Webster; unanimous).

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item #1: Request For Additional Staff Assistance For  
Committee On Audit And Program Review.

The letter from Senator Bustin, Senate Chair of the Committee on Audit and Program Review, requested that additional staff be assigned to the Committee to assist in a special study of enforcement within the Department of Environmental Protection.

Brief discussion regarding the request reflected consensus among the members that it was impossible during the legislative session to free any member of the non-partisan staff from other assigned responsibilities for projects such as that proposed by the Audit Committee.

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

Speaker Martin then suggested that the presiding officers meet with both Chairs of the Committee to further discuss the request. (No Council action necessary).

Item #2: Legislature's Supplemental Budget Request.

Ms. Diamond reported that she had just been notified that the Legislature's request for supplemental funds for the current fiscal year had been scheduled for public hearing on Thursday, February 11, at 1 p.m.

In response to a question from Sen. Pray regarding the current status of the request, Ms. Diamond noted that the original request for \$865,000 which the Council had reviewed at its December 22 meeting, was in the Governor's budget. This request will have to be adjusted to reflect any Council action since December that has fiscal implications, and Ms. Diamond reported that she would provide Council members with a revised budget prior to the next Council meeting. (No Council action necessary).

Item #3: Anniversary

Ms. Diamond noted that John Selser, Analyst in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, had completed his eleventh year of legislative service.

Item #4: New Hire

Ms. Diamond reported that she had approved the hiring of Charlene Brann for the position of Secretary (Salary Range 3) in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis to fill a vacant position. Ms. Brann will assume her duties on February 8, 1988.

Motion: That Items 2-4 in the Director's Report be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Request from Joint Select Committee on Corrections.

A letter from Sen. Bustin and Rep. Baker, Committee Chairs, requested Council authorization to extend both the Committee's study through December 31, 1988, and the contract with Annika Lane to provide staff assistance to the Committee throughout that period.

Motion: That the request be approved. (Motion by Rep. Martin; WITHDRAWN).

Motion: That the request be approved through June 30, 1988. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Martin, unanimous).

Item #2: Request from the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Regulation of Health Care Expenditures.

A letter from Sen. Gauvreau, Commission Chair, requested Council authorization to hire Annika Lane to provide staff assistance to the Commission on a half-time basis through December, 1988. Ms. Diamond noted that Ms. Lane had been working with John Selser to staff the Commission throughout the interim, and that Mr. Selser's staff assignments during the Regular Session would conflict with the Commission's schedule. Sen. Pray noted that the Legislature was fortunate to have someone with Ms. Lane's experience and skills available to assist with both of these important studies.

Motion: That the Commission's request be approved. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Item #3: Requests to Extend Reporting Dates.

- Commission on Sport Fisheries, to December 1, 1988.

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

Motion: That the Executive Director be directed to work with the Commission Chair and staff to determine the potential that the extension would incur costs in excess of the Commission's FY 88 budget. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).

- Special Commission To Study School Entrance Age and Preschool Services, to 114th Legislature, First Regular Session.

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

Discussion: Rep. Martin raised the issue of authorizing the extension of studies so that the commissions would be reporting to a new Legislature: he noted that the potential turnover in legislative membership on any Commission might diminish the follow-up on studies and any accompanying legislation. In addition, history suggests that a new Legislature which has not been involved in either approving or conducting the study often prefers to restudy the issue.

Rep. Murphy observed that the body of research regarding school entrance age was complete, and that no new information would surface between now and December. Rep. Handy, Commission Co-Chair, noted that the Commission had moved from the issue of entrance age to the broader issue of early childhood and preschool education and felt that the programmatic issues were tied to entrance age.

Rep. Diamond amended his original motion:

Motion: That the Commission be authorized to extend its work until the end of the Session, with a preliminary report due on April 1, and a final report deadline of June 15, 1988. (Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

- Joint Standing Committee On Utilities, to February 29, 1988.

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

Item #4: Submission of Interim Study Report.

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:  
Study of Paralytic Shellfish Monitoring

Motion: That the report be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Webster; unanimous).

Item #5: Request from the Joint Standing Committee on Education

A letter from Sen. Estes and Rep. Bost, Committee Chairs, requested Council authorization to conduct two additional site visits to school districts: one to a school in the Unorganized Territory and one to an island school. The Council had previously authorized the Committee to conduct a series of visits to schools throughout the State during the interim.

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

Amended Motion: Rep. Diamond requested Sen. Clark's approval to amend the motion:

Motion: That the Education Committee Chairs be authorized to appoint two subcommittees of no more than 5 members each to conduct each visit and, further, that these visits be conducted on a Friday.

(Motion by Rep. Diamond; second by Rep. Martin; approved 6-4).

Item #6: After Deadline Requests

The Legislative Council considered After Deadline Requests. A summary of the Council's action is attached.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. (Motion by Sen. Perkins; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous)