

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

APRIL 14, 1988

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED APRIL 21, 1988

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Senator Pray, at 4:23 p.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
Cheryl Ring	Principal Analyst, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Helen Ginder	Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
David Silsby	Revisor of Statutes
John H. Bailey	Information Systems Director

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The summary of the Council's April 5, 1988, meeting was approved and placed on file (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep. Murphy; unanimous).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The report submitted by Sally Diamond, Executive Director of the Legislative Council, included the following:

Item #1: Approved Step Increases

On the recommendation of Helen Ginder, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, Ms. Diamond has approved a Step increase for Gro Flatebo, Legislative Analyst (Salary Range 10) from Step C to Step D, effective April 28.

Item #2: Resignation

Audrey Delphendahl, Attorney in the Revisor's Office, has submitted her resignation, effective May 27, 1988.

Retirement

Mary Harding, Senior Legal Proofreader in the Revisor's Office, has announced that she will be retiring at the end of the legislative session, after 16 years of legislative service.

Motion: That the Director's report be accepted and placed on file and that appropriate letters of appreciation be sent to Ms. Delphendahl and Ms. Harding. (Motion by Rep. Martin, second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Request from Joint Select Committee on Corrections to Extend its Study of Corrections Issues through December 31, 1988.

The letter from Sen. Bustin and Rep. Baker, Committee Chairs, requested Council authorization for the Joint Select Committee to continue its study of corrections issues through December and to have 10 Committee meetings for this purpose. The Committee had submitted a similar request in January, and the Council approved continuation through June 30 at that time.

Discussion centered on Council members' concern that since this is an election year, legislators will have even more competing demands for their time. Sen. Bustin, who was present, pointed out that the Committee's work with the Department of Corrections had attracted national attention: the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation is considering awarding a grant to Maine to support its work in developing and implementing a long range corrections plan; and the National Institute for Sentencing Alternatives is continuing to provide the consultative services of its director, Mark Corrigan, at no charge and has further committed to performing a detailed analysis of Maine's records for the purpose of developing risk assessment standards and a plan. Sen. Bustin noted that this is not a project that can be compressed into a shorter period of time, but agreed that the Committee could meet less frequently without compromising the quality of the end product.

Motion: That the Joint Select Committee be authorized to extend its work and to convene 5 meetings before October 1, with the understanding that the Committee could meet during the Pre-Legislative Conference in December to review its final report. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Motion: That the Executive Director prepare an estimated budget to support the extension for presentation at the next Council meeting. (Motion by Sen. Webster; second by Rep. Murphy; unanimous).

Item #2: Letter from Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review Regarding Review Schedule for Coming Year.

The letter from Sen. Bustin and Rep. Rolde, Committee Chairs, set forth the Committee's schedule for the coming year, including those sunset reviews which were scheduled by statute and those reviews which the Committee wished to extend beyond the initial year in order to complete.

Sen. Pray inquired whether it made sense to review the Workers' Compensation Commission at this time: legislation passed during the Second Special Session in November, 1988 had affected both the organization and procedures of the Commission, which had not yet had time to "settle."

Sen. Pray also asked the Chairs to give further explanation regarding the need to continue the Committee's review of child welfare services into a fourth year. Rep. Rolde responded that the Committee had been presented with "an avalanche" of protective services cases which people felt the Department has handled poorly and which the Committee needed to pursue. Rep. Martin inquired whether the creation of a Child Welfare Ombudsman proposed by the Committee and currently on the Appropriations Table was not a more appropriate vehicle for investigating individual cases.

Motion: That the Audit and Program Review Committee postpone its further review of child welfare services until the Child Welfare Ombudsman position has been established and the program implemented. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Pray; unanimous).

Item #3: Requests from Joint Standing Committees to Conduct Interim Studies

Council members had received copies of the letters from Joint Standing Committees which described their proposals for interim studies and a list summarizing these requests. In discussion of the first study request, Rep. Gwadosky expressed concern that, coupled with the study commissions proposed in pending legislation, the Council could easily be committing to a level of staff effort that would require hiring additional staff. Rep. Murphy noted that interim studies were becoming the vehicle for supporting a full-time legislature by virtue of their sheer number.

Motion: That the interim study requests be tabled pending further information regarding the availability of existing staff. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Rep. Diamond; unanimous).

Item #4: After Deadline Requests

After deadline requests were considered by the Legislative Council. The Council's action on these requests is included on the attached list.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. (Motion by Sen. Pray; second by Rep. Martin; unanimous).