

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

REP. JOHN L. MARTIN
CHAIR

SEN. DENNIS L. DUTREMBLE
VICE-CHAIR



STATE OF MAINE

114th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. CHARLES P. PRAY
SEN. NANCY RANDALL CLARK
SEN. CHARLES M. WEBSTER
SEN. PAMELA L. CAHILL
REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY
REP. JOSEPH W. MAYO
REP. MARY CLARK WEBSTER
REP. FRANCIS C. MARSANO

SARAH C. DIAMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JANUARY 12, 1989

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED JANUARY 19, 1989

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Council Chair, Speaker Martin, at 12:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Clark, Sen. Dutremble, Sen. Webster, Sen. Cahill
Absent: Sen. Pray

Representatives: Rep. Mayo, Rep. Gwadosky, Rep. Martin, Rep. Marsano, Rep. Webster

Legislative Officers:

Sally Diamond	Executive Director, Legislative Council
Lynn Randall	State Law Librarian
Bent Schlosser	Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Martha Freeman	Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
David Kennedy	Revisor of Statutes
John H. Bailey	Information Systems Director
David Silsby	Director, State Capitol Commission
Helen Ginder	Director, Legislative Oversight

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The summary of the Council's January 3, 1989, meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Rep. Marsano; unanimous).

SPECIAL GUESTS

Speaker Martin recognized the Honorable Samuel Shapiro, State Treasurer, who, in turn, introduced Ms. Claire Cohen, Vice-President and Managing Director for State Ratings, Moody's Investment Services. Ms. Cohen was accompanied by two associates who work with bond ratings for local communities in Maine and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Cohen addressed the Council briefly. She noted that Maine had succeeded in returning its rating to AA-1 which puts Maine "at the top of the rating spectrum." Only 13 states that issue general obligation bonds have ratings of AA-1 or higher (AAA). Questions from Council members focused on whether the State of Maine could take specific steps to improve Maine's rating. Ms. Cohen replied in the negative, noting that Moody's tracks economic and other indicators in Maine on a continual basis. She reported that the next formal review of Maine's rating would be at the time of the state's next issue of bonds under its existing bonding authority, which will occur in March, 1989.

Speaker Martin expressed appreciation to Ms. Cohen and her associates on behalf of the entire Council for meeting with the Council.

(No Council action required).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Diamond reported that she had approved the following:

Item #1: New Employees to Fill Positions in the Revisor's Office

Angela Hallett, Augusta, Maine, to the position of Office Assistant II (Salary Range 2), Step A, effective January 9, 1989.

Andrew A. Newman, Portland, Maine, to the position of Legal Proofreader I (Salary Range 3), Step A, effective January 17, 1989.

Steven C. Sandford, Winthrop, Maine, to the position of Legislative Technician I (Salary Range 4), Step B, effective January 23, 1989.

Linda Schopman, Gardiner, Maine, to the position of Legislative Technician I (Salary Range 4), Step B, effective January 23, 1989.

Dotty Shaw, Augusta, Maine, to the position of Legal Proofreader I (Salary Range 3), Step A, effective January 17, 1989.

Robin A. Switzer, Mechanic Falls, Maine, to the position of Legal Proofreader (Salary Range 3), Step B, (Starting date still being negotiated).

Motion: That this report be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Mayo, unanimous).

Item #2: Approved Out-of-State Travel

Bent Schlosser, to attend CSG/ERC's annual Economic Outlook Seminar, February 8 - 10, Washington, D.C.

Motion: That this report be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Webster; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Speaker Martin drew members' attention to the list of his appointments to Council Committees that had been distributed. He asked that the Committee on Legislative Automation meet immediately to review pending requests for work stations.

John Bailey, Information Systems Director, reported that, in consultation with Sally Diamond, an order had already been placed in anticipation of requests in order to shorten the delivery schedules.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**Item #1: After Deadline Requests**

David Kennedy, Revisor of Statutes reported that 4 requests had been filed, but that his office had not had an opportunity to notify the sponsors of the Council meeting. Council members agreed to consider one of the 4 requests in the absence of the sponsor and to defer the others to the next Council meeting.

SPONSOR: Sen. Whitmore

**AN ACT to Make Participation in the
Legislative Retirement System Optional**

ACCEPTED

Item #2: Legislative Confirmation Process

Senator Clark requested that Council members discuss an issue that had been raised during the meeting of Committee Chairs earlier in the day. She noted that the Governor's letters of nomination are often received by the Senate on Fridays late in the afternoon. The effect of this is to reduce the 20-day statutory period that the Legislature has to convene a public hearing on the nomination to 17 or 18 days. She asked if those Council members who were of the Governor's party would be willing to convey this concern to the Governor. Rep. Webster reported that she would be happy to do this.

(No Council action required)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m., upon the motion of Sen. Dutremble.