

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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 4, 1990

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED JANUARY 11, 1990

CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Representative Martin, at 3:55 p.m..

ROLL CALL

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

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

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
David Silsby, Director, State House and
Capitol Park Commission

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The summary of the December 20, 1989, Council meeting was accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item #1: Revisor's Status Report

The report, prepared by David Kennedy, Revisor of Statutes, indicated that the office had released 322 bills for reference and printing to date. Mr. Kennedy reported that the Office had received 10 Governor's bills to date and, based on conversations with the Governor's Office, expected to receive an additional 5-10 bills. Finally, he estimated that of the approximately 150 bills remaining in his office, only 45 are still being drafted; the remainder are at various stages in the production "pipeline."

No Council action required.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

• Committee on the Legislative Budget

Speaker Martin reported that, pursuant to the Council's action at its December 20, meeting, he had appointed the following Council members to serve on this Committee: Senators Dutremble and Cahill, Representatives Gwadosky and Webster, and himself. He noted that the Committee had met twice to review the appropriateness of the reduction targets set by the Budget Office and to examine areas where the Legislature could reduce costs during the remainder of the current fiscal year without adversely affecting the legislative process. He then presented the Committee's recommendations for reductions:

Personal Services:

Salaries	\$277,781
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Reductions to be achieved through keeping some currently vacant positions unfilled through the remainder of the fiscal year; a reduction in the length of time session employees would remain on the payroll; and the estimated variance between the original budget and projected actual expenditures through June 30 due to staff turnover, etc.

Retirement	\$ 54,140
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Retirement benefits associated with the above salaries.

All Other:

Professional Services Provided
by Other State Agencies \$105,000

Reduction in the amount originally budgeted is possible because the Legislature has been able to significantly reduce its on-line time on the state's mainframe computers through development of its own computer system.

In-State Travel \$ 55,000

Reduction of length of the Second Regular Session by 1 week.

Postage and Printing \$105,000

Reduction in the number of copies printed and distributed of the daily Legislative Record, the Laws of Maine, and the History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents; changes in the format of both the Weekly Legislative Report, published by the Clerk's Office, and the Weekly Notice of Public Hearings, which is published by the President's Office; and, finally, changes in selected bill drafting protocols with the objective of reducing the number of pages in certain LD's.

Advertising \$ 14,000

Reduction possible through reducing the number of newspapers in which the Legislative Notices are published on a weekly basis.

Total amount of reductions: \$610,921

Motion: That the Committee's recommendations regarding both the reduction targets for Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 and the specific reductions in line items for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1990 be approved. (Motion by Sen. Cahill; second by Rep. Mayo; unanimous).

Sen. Pray noted that the Senate had also decided to hire 3 fewer pages for the Second Session. The Speaker reported that the House is currently operating with 3 fewer pages than last session, but hopes eventually to fill 2 of these.

State-Municipal Conference to be Co-sponsored by the Legislature and the Maine Municipal Association

Sen. Pray reminded Council members that, following prior Council approval, he had been working with representatives from MMA to plan a conference on issues of common concern to states and municipalities. The total estimated cost of the conference is \$12,900, and Sen. Pray had tentatively agreed that the Legislature could assume responsibility for that portion of the cost entailed in bringing in a keynote speaker (\$3,658 estimate for travel and a token honorarium).

Sen. Pray requested clarification from the Council about whether he could proceed with this tentative commitment in light of the budget reductions that had just been approved.

Motion: That the expenditure for the keynote speaker be authorized out of the legislative account. (Motion by Rep. Webster; second by Rep. Mayo; unanimous).

- Committee on Legislative Automation

Rep. Mayo, Committee Chair, reported that he and Rep. Webster had met on behalf of the entire Committee to review the Committee's work as the Second Regular Session convenes.

He observed that the Council had attained all of the objectives that had been initially set for the computer system, including: eliminating duplication of effort wherever possible; supporting closer coordination among all of the staff offices; and reducing the cost of legislative operations, with particular focus on the Legislature's printing and use of the state's mainframe computers.

Virtually every full-time staff member now has a work station: the legislative system today includes approximately 190 work stations and 30 printers. The cost of the system currently is approximately \$40,000/month in lease payments and service contracts; but this should be compared to the Legislature's payments to the Central Computer Bureau to support only bill drafting in the Revisor's Office and the bill status system, which had been in excess of \$50,000/month during the session.

Rep. Mayo noted that the Committee's recommendation to the Council recognizes the maturity of the system in a sense - acknowledging that access to a work station has become a necessity, comparable to a desk and a telephone.

Motion: That the Council authorize the Executive Director and her staff to provide a computer work station to any member of legislative leadership upon request and to all legislative employees upon the request of their respective office directors, with the following exceptions: chamber staff; committee clerks and staff assigned to the Legislative Post Office and Legislative Document Room. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Rep. Webster; unanimous).

Note: This motion was presented and approved based on the understanding that the pending requests could be filled with no additional cost to the Legislature this year.

OLD BUSINESS

- Item #1: Letter from the Commissioner of Administration, Charles A. Morrison, regarding "Howard Hill" Property.

Council members had received a letter from Charles A. Morrison, Commissioner of Administration, reporting that he had completed the research on two parcels of land, known locally as "Howard Hill", in accordance with language included in Chapter 60, Resolves of 1989, regarding the development of a new master plan for the Capitol Area. Based on his research, Commissioner Morrison has determined that there is a significant disparity between the land's appraised value and the owner's asking price for the land. Given this disparity and the State's current financial situation, Commissioner Morrison suggested that the Legislature might not wish to proceed any further at this time, but offered to provide further assistance upon the Council's request.

Speaker Martin recognized David Silsby, Director of the State House and Capitol Park Commission, for his reaction to the letter. Mr. Silsby indicated that he thought it would be important to see the actual report before he could comment on the substance of the letter.

Motion: That the letter be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Rep. Gwadosky; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

- Item #1: Report on Estimates of Corporate Income Tax Receipts for the State of Maine 1989 - 1992 from KMPG Peat Marwick (pursuant to contract).

Ms. Diamond noted that this report concluded the work of KMPG Peat-Marwick under the contract awarded by the Council last spring to Analyze Maine's Tax Revenues.

Motion: That the Report be accepted and referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. (Motion by Rep. Webster; second by Rep. Mayo; unanimous).

- Item #2: Submission of Study Reports

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

- Study of the Office of the Public Advocate

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture:

- Study of Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act

Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance:

- Study of Current Operation of Insurance Guaranty Funds
- Study of the Feasibility of a State Fund to Provide Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage to Employees
- Study of Uninsured Motorist Accidents

Joint Standing Committee on Business Legislation:

- Study of Cost Containment for Prescription Drugs

Joint Standing Committee on Education:

- Study of Issues Related to Enhancement of the Use of Instructional Time in Schools

Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

- Study of the Subcommittee to Evaluate the Board of Environmental Protection

Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

- Study of the Obstacles to Affordable Housing in Maine

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

- Study of Termination of Medical Care

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

- Study of the Structure of Substance Abuse Assistance and Services in the State

Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

- Study of Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Motion: That all of these reports be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Pray; unanimous).

Item #3: 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: That the Legislative Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the disposition of certain properties. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Pray; unanimous).

The Council went into Executive Session at 4:40 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Council reconvened on the motion of the Chair at 4:46 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on the motion of the Chair.