

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

MARCH 20, 1990

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVE MARCH 26, 1990

CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Representative Martin, at 1:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Representatives: Rep. Martin, Rep. Mayo, Rep. Webster, Rep.
Gwadosky, 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
Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the March 12, 1990, Council meeting was accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Pray; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Diamond, Executive Director, brought Council members' attention to two items.

Item #1: Attendance at NCSL Executive Committee, Friday, March 23 - Sunday, March 25, Key Largo, Florida.

Ms. Diamond noted that this was a scheduled meeting of the NCSL Executive Committee, of which she is a member.

Motion: That the travel request be approved.
(Motion by Sen. Pray; second by Sen. Clark; approved 9-1).

Item #2: Revisor's Drafting Status Report

Discussion of the Revisor's Report focussed on the drafting work that was left in the Office. Mr. Kennedy reported that the workload had begun to shift away from initial bill drafts (with the exception of after deadline requests) to committee amendments and floor amendments.

No Council action was required on his report.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Request for Funds for Additional Outside Consultation to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary regarding Malpractice Insurance and Related Tort Issues.
(Tabled at March 12 Council meeting).

Representative Marsano reported that he had had an opportunity to discuss the pending request with both of the Committee Chairs, stressing to them that there were no funds available to engage the services of an outside consultant. He had asked the Chairs whether there might be other, no-cost, options that would assist the Committee in resolving the policy issues raised in the various bills related to medical malpractice liability insurance and reported that the House Chair had indicated that a Council-authorized interim study might be one such option.

Motion: That the Council Chair be authorized to send a letter to the Committee Chairs indicating that no funds were available to respond to the Committee's request. (Motion by Sen. Webster; second by Rep. Webster; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Notification from the Joint Standing Committee on Education of its desire to report out a "Resolve, to Encourage the Study of the Nation's Founding and Related Documents by Maine Students."

Ms. Diamond reported that the Item should be ~~withdrawn~~ at the request of the Committee Chairs.

Item #2: Interim Studies: Announcement to Committee Chairs

Rep. Martin noted that the Council would need to review study requests and make final decisions regarding authorization before the Legislature adjourned. He also recommended that Committees be informed that once the Study Subcommittee had been selected, the Committee's only role would be formal acceptance of the Study report and any accompanying legislation. This recommendation is the result of experience during the past interim where Committees felt that they had the authority to rework both the study report and the accompanying legislation.

Motion: That the Council Chair be authorized to send a memorandum to all Committee Chairs which establishes next Wednesday, March 28, as the deadline for submitting interim study requests; and, further, that these be formulated in recognition that the number of studies will be limited due to reductions in the legislative budget and in accordance with the Drafting Guidelines adopted by the Legislative Council in 1989 as amended to clarify the subcommittee's final authority. (Motion by Sen. Pray; second by Sen. Dutremble; 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m., on the motion of Sen. Pray.