

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

Augusta, Maine 04333

115th LEGISLATURE

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 5, 1990
MEETING SUMMARY**

APPROVED DECEMBER 21, 1990

CALL TO ORDER

The first meeting of the 115th Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Senate President, Charles P. Pray, at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Legislative Officers: Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director
Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian
John Wakefield, 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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Senator Pray opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Legislative Council, noting that the position would be occupied by a member of the Senate in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Motion: That Senator Pray be nominated for the position of Chair and Representative Gwadosky be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Webster). There being no further nominations, Sen. Pray closed the nominations and requested a vote, which was unanimous.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the November 30, 1990, Council meeting was meeting accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Reconsideration of Council's Previous Action on the Appointment of Non-Partisan Staff

Sen. Pray informed Council members that the motion at the November 30 meeting to approve the appointments of individuals to specific vacant positions had been inappropriate: the Council had previously given the Executive Director explicit authority to fill these positions at the earliest possible dates.

Motion: That the Council reconsider its action regarding the appointment of persons to certain positions in the non-partisan offices. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Rep. Martin; unanimous).

Motion: That the Council accept the Executive Director's recommendations to fill vacant positions in the non-partisan offices in accordance with the authority previously granted to her. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Rep. Martin; unanimous).

Discussion: Sen. Webster noted that while he had voted affirmatively on both of the motions, he questioned the decision to employ one individual whom he understood had played an active role in one of the recent state legislative campaigns. Ms. Tubbesing indicated that she was not aware of this, but would follow up and discuss the results of her inquiry with Senator Webster. She noted that she and the Office Directors routinely quizzed candidates for positions on the non-partisan staff about their prior political activity and made sure that they understood that Council policy expressly prohibits partisan, political activity once they were appointed.

No Council action was required on this discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Rules of Procedure

Copies of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the 114th Council had been distributed with the meeting notice. After brief discussion, there was consensus that action on this item would be deferred until the next Council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Sen. Pray asked members of the Council to join him in expressing their appreciation to Speaker Martin for his able leadership of the 114th Legislative Council. He noted that the Council had achieved significant progress in improving the efficiency of the legislative process through its bi-partisan efforts to enforce cloture, to refine the rules regarding bill signing and co-sponsorship, and to work in concert with Committee Chairs to smooth the flow of bills through the committee process. Finally, he expressed his hope that the 115th Council would work together constructively in the difficult months ahead, noting that it will be particularly important, given the deteriorating budget situation, for the Council to scrutinize its own budget and operations to determine where additional reductions can be made while still ensuring that the Legislature has the resources required to carry out its work.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m., on the motion of Sen. Clark.