

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. CHARLES P. PRAY
CHAIR

REP. DAN A. GWADOWSKY
VICE-CHAIR

STATE OF MAINE

115th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. NANCY RANDALL CLARK
SEN. DENNIS L. DUTREMBLE
SEN. CHARLES M. WEBSTER
SEN. PAMELA L. CAHILL
REP. JOHN L. MARTIN
REP. JOSEPH W. MAYO
REP. WALTER E. WHITCOMB
REP. FRANCIS C. MARSANO

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, January 8, 1991

CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Senator Pray, at 5:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	Sen. Pray, Sen. Clark, Sen. Webster, Sen. Dutremble, Sen. Cahill
Representatives:	Rep. Gwadosky, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Mayo, Rep. Marsano Absent: Rep. Martin
Legislative Officers:	Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council 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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the Legislative Council meeting, which was originally convened on December 21, 1990, and finally adjourned on January 3, 1991, after a recess of several days, was accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Marsano; second by Rep. Gwadosky; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Committee to Review Duplicate Bill Requests

Sen. Pray reported that he had convened the Committee in Sen. Dutremble's absence. The Committee had met twice to review options for handling duplicate and closely-related bills in a manner that would encourage legislators to agree to combine their efforts on these bills but, at the same time, preserve the individual legislator's right to have a bill drafted in the legislator's name.

The Committee had reviewed a draft memo from Sen. Pray as Council Chair to members of the Legislature, which set forth the following changes in policy regarding both duplicate bills and the confidentiality of bill titles. These include:

Duplicate and Closely-Related Bills

- The sponsor who has the first-filed bill will have the bill drafted in the sponsor's name. Any cosponsors already identified by the sponsor will be listed as such; in addition, those sponsors of later-filed bills will be added as cosponsors if they agreed to combine their bills with the original bill, and provided that the sponsor of the first-filed bill has no objection.
- Sponsors of duplicate or closely-related bills may withdraw their bill request; agree to combine their bill with the first-filed bill; or present their version directly to the committee of reference.
- A sponsor of a later-filed bill who does not wish to become a cosponsor on the first-filed bill may pursue having a separate bill drafted, but must notify the Revisor.

Confidentiality of Bill Titles

- Bill titles will be released without sponsor identification to Committee Chairs unless a sponsor specifically requests that the title remain confidential.

Discussion clarified the following points:

- Formal reference of bills would continue to be the function of the Senate and House.
- The Joint Rules would have to be amended to permit more than 3 cosponsors on a bill; however, there was consensus that this waiver should be applicable to duplicate bills only.

- Only the cosponsors of the prime sponsor of the first-filed bill will be listed as cosponsors, along with sponsors of any of the duplicate bills who agree to combine. That is, cosponsors on all of the duplicate bills will not be carried to the "prime bill."

Motion: That the Committee's recommendations be adopted and that the draft memo from the Council Chair outlining the changes be approved as amended. (Motion by Rep. Marsano; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: After Deadline Requests

The Council considered both requests to introduce legislation which had been filed after cloture and requests to introduce Joint Resolutions. The Council's action is summarized on the attached list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. by the Chair, with no objection.