

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

April 8, 1991

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED APRIL 17, 1991

CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order by the Chair, Senator Pray at 2:11 p.m., in Room 221, the Taxation Committee Room.

ROLL CALL

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|------------------------------|---|
| 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 Richard N. Sawyer, Administrative Services Director Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate Ed Pert, Clerk of the House |

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the March 12, 1991, Council meeting was accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Cahill; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Letter from Jon S. Oxman, Chair, Special Committee on the New Capitol Area Master Plan.

Motion: That the letter be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Cahill; second by Rep. Mayo; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Mackworth Island Management Plan, pursuant to Ch. 113, P & S 1989. (Copies of Executive Summary distributed previously).

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

Item #2: Requests to Relocate from Currently-Assigned Space in the Press Area to the Office formerly occupied by UPI

Sen. Pray reported that he had received letters from both WGME - TV and Mike Brown, Ellsworth American, expressing interest in moving into the space that had previously been occupied by United Press International.

Motion: That the requests be referred to a subcommittee to be appointed by the Chair. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Marsano; approved 7-2).

Item #3: After Deadline Requests

The item was tabled by consent.

Item #4: Review of Legislative Department's Budget Request for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993

Sen. Pray opened the discussion with some general comments, noting that the Council's charge was to re-examine the budget request that had originally been submitted for the next fiscal biennium - - FY 1992 and FY 1993 - - and to assess whether the Governor's reduction target of 15.2% can be met, while still maintaining the Legislature's independence as a branch of government. He observed that the Council, like every other agency of state government, had a responsibility to re-evaluate priorities and to assess where changes could be made without compromising the character of the Maine Legislature. Finally, he noted that the Council had done several studies of itself - the Peat Marwick study being the most recent - and had made a variety of changes as a result of these studies which were directed at both improving the efficiency of legislative operations and ensuring that the Legislature was able to recruit and retain staff who are critical to support the quality of the Legislature's work.

He then opened the floor for general discussion, during which the following themes recurred:

- What savings could be achieved by reducing the length of the legislative session.
- The growth in the Legislative branch over the past 10 years must be evaluated in the context of what has happened to the other two branches of government during that same period.
- The Legislature is experiencing a shift in priorities, and legislators will only feel more and stronger demands, particularly from municipalities.

Sen. Pray then asked the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, and each of the staff directors to review the operations for which they are responsible, identifying potential cuts and discussing their implications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: That the Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

The Council proceeded to go into Executive Session at 3:28 p.m.

RECONVENE

Sen. Pray reconvened the regular Council meeting at 4:50 p.m. The Council took up two other business items at this time.

Item #5: Legislative Staff Management Institute, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Sen. Clark, referring to a memo that Sally Tubbesing had sent to all Council members, offered the following motion:

Motion: That the Legislative Council support the application of one candidate from the non-partisan staff, with the understanding that attendance would be contingent upon receipt of a scholarship through the Institute. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Mayo; unanimous).

Item #6: After Deadline Bill

Motion: That the Council approve introduction of an errors bill for the purpose of correcting technical errors in the Supplemental Appropriations Act, Chapter 9, P.L. 1991. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Rep. Marsano; approved 7-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned on the motion of the Chair, at 4:55 p.m.