

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

May 29, 1991

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED JUNE 5, 1991

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order by the Chair, Senator Pray, at 9:50 a.m., in the Taxation Committee Hearing Room.

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, 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 May 16, 1991, Council meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, reported that the focus of the staff offices continued to be on completing drafting of committee amendments and the related fiscal notes. David Kennedy noted that his Office was still drafting 5 original bills -- all after deadline requests -- but that the bulk of the Office's workload was committee amendments.

No Council action required.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: 3% Cost-of-Living Increase for Legislative Employees.
(Request of Sen. Clark)

Motion: That the 3% cost-of-living increase originally due on April 1, 1991, be awarded to all legislative employees. (Motion by Speaker Martin, second by Sen. Clark).

Discussion: Rep. Marsano stated that he had discussed the 3% increase with the Governor at length the previous day in order to clarify which executive department employees had not received this increase. He further reported that those executive department employees over whom the Governor has direct authority had not received any pay increase during the past 2 years.

Rep. Gwadosky expressed his concern that this item had been put on the agenda with no reference to the legislative budget as a whole and suggested that it was better to continue to deal with this item in its proper context.

Speaker Martin withdrew his motion, but stated that if the Council chose to withhold the cost-of-living increase, it was his expectation that no step increases would be granted either in the interest of consistency. Rep. Mayo responded that cost-of-living increases and step increases were distinct and should be treated separately.

Sharon Miller then appeared at the Council's invitation, to clarify the policy with regard to both cost-of-living increases and step increases for executive branch employees. She reported that the Governor's appointees (numbering between 70-75 and listed in 2 MRSA § 6) had received neither the 3% increase in October nor the 3% increase awarded in April and that none had received a step increase since January, 1990. In response to a question from Rep. Mayo, she acknowledged that 4 of the 19 Commissioners were at the top of their scales and, thus, would not have been eligible for step increases.

With regard to the Governor's personal staff -- 22 in all -- Ms. Miller reported that, of the 22, 12 employees earned less than \$30,000/year and that these 12 had been awarded the October 3% increase but not the additional 3% due in April.

Motion: That this item be referred to the Council's Budget Committee. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Whitcomb; unanimous).

The Chair, Senator Pray, expressed appreciation to Ms. Miller for sharing the information.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Correspondence from David Silsby, Director, State House and Capitol Park Commission.

Sen. Pray drew Council members' attention to the letter from Mr. Silsby and his response to Sen. Pray. Ms. Tubbesing reported that the State House and Capitol Park Commission had now scheduled a meeting on June 26.

Motion: That this item be tabled pending a report and recommendations from the Commission. (Motion by Rep. Gwadosky; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Item #2: Requests to Carry Over Legislation to the Second Regular Session.

Motion: That all requests be approved. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Rep. Marsano; unanimously approved by the 6 members present at the time the vote was taken).

Note: A list of the carryover requests included in this motion is attached to these minutes.

Item #3: After Deadline Bill Requests.

A summary of the Council's action on After Deadline Requests is attached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Senator Pray announced that the Budget Committee would meet in his office the following day, Thursday, May 30, at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m., on the motion of the Chair.