

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. CHARLES P. PRAY
CHAIR

REP. DAIN 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

AUGUST 22, 1991

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 12, 1991

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Sen. Pray, at 9:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Legislative Officers: Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director,
Legislative Council
John Wakefield, Director, Office of
Fiscal and Program Review
Martha Freeman, Director, Office of
Policy and Legal Analysis
David Kennedy, Revisor of Statutes

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the July 9, 1991, Council meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Rep. Marsano; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, presented the following items for the Council's review and consideration:

Item #1: Interim Studies: Staffing Assignments

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to the list of staffing assignments for interim studies.

No Council action was required.

Item #2: Repairs to State House Roof: Status Report

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to a copy of a memo that she had sent to members of the State House and Capitol Park Commission, which described the process that had been used to pre-qualify contractors. She reported that firms had submitted pre-qualification statements and that, following review of those statements and interviews with each firm, a selection committee had selected 3 firms to submit complete bids for the work. The bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, and the contract will be executed as soon thereafter as possible. Since the September Council meeting had not yet been scheduled, Ms. Tubbesing requested Council authorization to sign a contractual agreement with the successful bidder, with the understanding that the bid price was within the funds currently available.

Motion: That the Executive Director be authorized to award a contract for repairs to the State House roof. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

Item #3: Out of State Travel for Legislative Staff

Ms. Tubbesing noted that the finally passed budget for the Legislature includes \$175,000 for out-of-state travel in FY 92 and expressed her hope that non-partisan staff would be able to attend meetings and conferences on a very selective basis. She used the annual meeting of the Eastern States Fiscal Officers Association, scheduled in mid-September in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as an example of a meeting that provides an invaluable opportunity to learn from the experience of legislatures in other states during the past year when virtually all of the states had made significant budget cuts.

Motion: That the non-partisan staff offices be allotted the same percentage of the total out-of-state travel budget as they have been in prior years and, further, that the Executive Director be authorized to approve out-of-state travel by non-partisan staff in accordance with procedures previously adopted by the Legislative Council. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Rep. Marsano; approved 7-1).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Item #1: Proposed Procedures for Council Review and Approval of Applications to Use Capitol Park

The Chair, Sen. Pray, noted that the proposed procedures had been drafted by the Executive Director at his request. Ms. Tubbesing pointed out that these procedures were designed to amend the permit application process currently administered by the Department of Public Safety, noting that it would be important to administer the amended process in cooperation with the Department, as well as the Bureau of Public Improvements.

Motion: That the procedures be approved. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Dutremble).

Discussion focussed on what the current process is (Rep. Whitcomb) and whether the intent of the proposed amendment was to allow camping in Capitol Park (Sen. Cahill). Sen. Pray responded that the intent was to adopt revised procedures to reflect the Council's previous action with no reference to camping; Sen. Cahill then asked whether the proposal could be amended to prohibit camping. Finally, Rep. Marsano expressed concern that the procedure did not define any time frames.

Motion: That the item be tabled. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Rep. Marsano; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

- Item #1: Primary Care Residency Commission (ch. 545, P.L. 1991): Proposed Funding from the Bingham Betterment Fund

Council members had received material prior to the meeting that provided information about the Bingham Betterment Fund, a private family foundation established specifically to support education and public health programs in Maine. The Fund has awarded a \$15,000 grant to support the work of the Primary Care Residency Commission, pending the Council's approval. Ms. Tubbesing noted that her research indicated that the funding source did not appear to present any conflict of interest issues for either the Council or legislative members of the Commission.

Motion: That the grant from the Bingham Betterment Fund and the budget proposed for the Commission's work be approved. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

Item #2 Study of the Feasibility of a Universal Health Care Program

Speaker Martin requested that the Council authorize the establishment of the Joint Select Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Statewide Health Insurance Program as described in L.D. 1727, a bill passed by both Houses of the Legislature but not signed by the Governor. He pointed out that the funds to support the Commission had been included in the budget which was finally passed and are, therefore, available.

Motion: That the Joint Select Committee be established as described in L.D. 1727. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Rep. Mayo; approved 7-1).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned on the motion of the Chair at 9:32 a.m.