

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

Tuesday, January 28, 1992

MEETING SUMMARY

Approved February 4, 1992

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair convened the Council meeting at 5:32 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	Sen. Pray, Sen. Clark, Sen. Dutremble, Sen. Cahill Absent: Sen. Webster
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 January 14, 1992, Council meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Marsano; second by Rep. Mayo; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Item #1: Request for Authorization to Award Contracts for the Printing of Amendments.

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to a memo in the agenda packet that summarized the results of the bids for printing amendments. She reported that the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House and she concurred in the recommendation that the primary contract be awarded to the low bidder, the Copy Center, and a contract for back-up service be awarded to Letter Systems.

Motion: That the Council authorize the Executive Director to enter into contractual agreements for printing amendments as recommended. (Motion by Rep. Mayo; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Item #2: Resignation of Kathryn Van Note, Office of Fiscal & Program Review.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, John Wakefield, Director of the Office of Fiscal & Program Review, noted that Ms. Van Note had been employed by the Legislature for a little more than 5 years, having been hired initially as a Research Assistant in the Office of Policy & Legal Analysis and then transferring to his office about 3 1/2 years ago to work as an Analyst providing staff support to the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review.

Motion: That Ms. Van Note's resignation be accepted with regret. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Rep. Gwadosky; unanimous).

Item #3: Drafting and Committee Status Report.

The Chair, Sen. Pray, asked both Martha Freeman and David Kennedy to provide a status report on the flow of bills through the process. Ms. Freeman reported that Committees had finally disposed of 125 of the 151 carryover bills by the January 24 deadline and that they should complete their work on the remaining 26 bills in this category by this Friday, January 31. She further noted that committees had completed their work on approximately 30% of the total bills accepted for introduction to date.

Mr. Kennedy stated that of a total of 482 bill requests, 304 had been sent up for introduction, 85 had been withdrawn, about 50 were still in drafting, and 45 were out for sponsor review and signature. The Chair expressed some concern about the number of bills still in the process, given the goal of adjourning early; and Mr. Kennedy replied that his staff were pursuing sponsors much more aggressively to supply needed information.

No Council action was required.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Staffing for Special Commission to Study the Insurance Industry and Special Commission to Study the Workers' Compensation Commission. (Item tabled at January 14 Council meeting by Sen. Dutremble).

The Chair asked Ms. Freeman to report on the current status of the two commissions. Ms. Freeman stated that both commissions were in the process of drafting letters to request extensions of their reporting deadlines to November or December of this year. She further noted that the Commission to Study the Insurance Industry had already agreed to suspend its activity until after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session and that, although the Commission to Study the Workers' Compensation Commission had scheduled two more meetings over the next few weeks, the Commission Chair felt that the Commission could handle these particular meetings, whose primary purpose is to hear testimony from outside parties, without staff assistance.

Rep. Marsano then reported that he had talked with the Governor after the last Council meeting about the availability of staff from the executive branch and that no staff are available.

Motion: That both commissions be notified that no staff will be available to them for the balance of the Second Regular Session. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Rep. Whitcomb; unanimous).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Recommendations from the Department of Corrections Related to Maine's Juvenile Code (submitted pursuant to statute, 15 MRSA, § 3006).

Ms. Tubbesing noted that the report had also been submitted to the Joint Select Committee on Corrections pursuant to law.

Motion: That the recommendations be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

Item #2: Request from Commission to Study a Long-Term Disability Program for the Maine State Retirement System (ch. 48, Resolves of 1991) for an Extension of the Reporting Deadline.

Motion: That the Revisor be directed to draft a bill to extend the Commission's reporting deadline. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

Item #3: After Deadline Bill Requests.

Requests to introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session were considered by the Legislative Council. A summary of the Council's action on these requests is attached to this meeting summary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

The Chair, Senator Pray, announced the following:

- The next meeting of the Legislative Council will be next Tuesday, February 4, following adjournment of both houses.
- Following next Tuesday's meeting, the Council will meet every Tuesday morning until the end of the session.
- That he would be convening a Subcommittee on the Legislative Budget and that the Committee would convene the following day (January 29) at 1 p.m. in his office. He then proceeded to appoint Speaker Martin, Senator Cahill, and Representative Marsano to join him as members of the Subcommittee.

Having made the appointments, Senator Pray noted that the Administration had established a reduction target of 12.7% for the Legislature, but one of only 6.6% for the Governor's office. He advocated that the Legislature should go as far as possible to meet the reduction target without compromising its constitutional responsibilities, but that the 12.7% target was too high.

Motion: That the staff be directed to prepare an analysis of the percentage of time they have spent drafting and analyzing Governor's bills in the past year. (Motion by Speaker Martin)

The Speaker subsequently withdrew the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m., on the motion of Sen. Cahill.