

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, February 4, 1992

MEETING SUMMARY

Approved March 2, 1992

CALL TO ORDER

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

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 January 28, 1992, Council meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Representative Mayo; second by Sen. Clark; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, suggested that David Kennedy and Martha Freeman provide Council members with a brief report of the status of bills both in drafting and in committee. Mr. Kennedy reported that, prior to the Council's action on After Deadline Requests at this meeting (the item had been taken out of order), his Office had only 11 bills yet to draft. He noted that the additional drafting workload was not an issue in his office at this point, but that it was an issue for Committees, who are working to meet final deadlines for completing work on all bills by February 14 (small workload committees) and February 28 (large workload committees). Ms. Freeman reaffirmed Mr. Kennedy's remarks, noting that Committees were also working, at the request of the Appropriations Committee, on their portions of the Governor's budget in addition to trying to complete their work on bills referred within the established deadlines.

Council members engaged in some general discussion at this point about how to handle after deadline requests from here on, given the fast-approaching deadlines.

No formal Council action was required.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Request from the Maine Nordic Ski Council for Use of Capitol Park on March 3 (Tourism Day)

Council members had received copies of the letter from Wende Gray, President of the Maine Nordic Ski Council, requesting use of Capitol Park on March 3 in conjunction with Tourism Day. The Ski Council proposes to give legislators and other state employees an opportunity to try cross country skiing.

Motion: That the Council approve the request and that the Nordic Ski Council be directed to proceed to work out the specific arrangements with the Capitol Police. (Motion by Sen. Clark; second by Sen. Cahill).

Discussion centered on the following issues:

1. Whether this was an appropriate use of the Park (Speaker Martin). Other Council members expressed concerns related to this issue, including what Workers' Comp issues this activity raised. (Rep. Marsano)
2. Whether it was appropriate for the Council to essentially endorse the activity given the current budget situation. (Speaker Martin)
3. The importance of acknowledging the tourism industry, the third largest industry in Maine. (Sen. Pray; Sen. Clark).

The Motion was adopted 6-4.

Item #2: 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

Guests from Council of State Government/Eastern Regional Conference

The Chair, Sen. Pray introduced Representative Bob Wertz, a member of the New York Assembly and Chair of the Eastern Regional Conference; Senator Paul White (Massachusetts), former ERC Chair and currently the Chair of the national Council of State Governments; Alan Sokolow, Director of the Eastern Regional Office; and Dan Sprague, Executive Director of the national organization. Both Senator White and Representative Wertz addressed the Council briefly, stressing the importance of Maine's continued participation in CSG -- at both the regional and national levels -- and noting some of the activities CSG has undertaken to support state legislatures. Finally, they both expressed hope that Maine's economic circumstances would improve, allowing the Legislature to consider full financial participation in CSG.

The Chair extended his appreciation to the group for taking the time to visit Maine.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

In response to an inquiry from Senator Clark, the Chair, Sen. Pray, announced that the next meeting of the Budget Subcommittee was Thursday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m. Sen. Pray reported that the Subcommittee appeared to have reached agreement that it would seek to achieve a 6.6% reduction in the Legislature's FY 93 budget, or \$1,192,896, and that it had tentatively approved cuts totalling more than half of this amount. He further noted that he had requested that the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House and the non-partisan directors develop recommendations for reducing administrative costs by 10% pursuant to Chapter 622, P.L. 1991.

No Council action was required.

ADJOURNMENT

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