

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. MICHAEL V. SAXL  
CHAIR

SEN. RICHARD A. BENNETT  
VICE-CHAIR

SEN. BEVERLY C. DAGGETT  
SEN. MARY E. SMALL  
SEN. PAUL T. DAVIS, SR.  
SEN. SHARON ANGLIN TREAT  
REP. PATRICK COLWELL  
REP. JOSEPH BRUNO  
REP. WILLIAM S. NORBERT  
REP. WILLIAM J. SCHNEIDER

JAMES A. CLAIR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

120<sup>th</sup> MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2001**

**APPROVED FEBRUARY 21, 2001**

## CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Saxl called the Council meeting to order at 1:12 p.m., in the Legislative Council Chamber.

## ROLL CALL

Senators:	Sen. Bennett, Sen. Daggett, Sen. Small, Sen. Davis, Sen. Treat
Representatives:	Speaker Saxl, Rep. Colwell, Rep. Bruno, Rep. Norbert, Absent: Rep. Schneider
Legislative Officers:	Pamela Cahill, Assistant Secretary of the Senate David Shiah, Assistant Clerk of the House James A. Clair, Executive Director, Legislative Council Grant Pennoyer, Acting Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian Paul Mayotte, Director, Legislative Information Services

## REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS

James Clair asked if he could defer so Stan Fairservice, who has another appointment, could give an update on the Connector.

- **Renovations: Status Report**

Mr. Fairservice said that the last time the Council met, the date for the completion of the Connector was discussed: one date being April 30<sup>th</sup> without the inclusion of the Percent for Art, the second date was approximately May 15<sup>th</sup>, which includes the inclusion of Percent for Art work. One item needed direction on was how the Council wanted to proceed and do

the Percent for Art installation and extend the opening date to the Connector. The dates projected by Granger for the opening of the Connector was April 30<sup>th</sup> without the Percent for Art installed, or May 15<sup>th</sup> with art installed, a 2 1/2 week extension.

Council members had discussion about whether they needed to walk through the Connector in April or if it would be warm enough to walk outside so that the Percent for Art could be installed while session was still in. Rep. Norbert said he would like to get the job done right, and Rep. Colwell concurred. Mr. Fairservice said that he would encourage the May 15<sup>th</sup> date.

**Motion:** The Connector work be done with the Percent for Art work approved at the January 31, 2001 meeting be installed such that it will be done by May 15<sup>th</sup> as opposed to without the Art work on April 30<sup>th</sup>. (Motion by Rep. Norbert, second by Rep. Bruno, 9-0 unanimous).

- **Executive Director's Report ("security card" policy)**

Mr. Clair told members they had before them an interim security card policy which grants to the Senate President the authority to sign off on security for Senators and Senate staff, it grants to the Speaker of the House the authority to sign off on security access for Representatives and House staff. It grants to the Chair of the Legislative Council the authority to sign off on access to Legislative Council employees. It is done on an interim basis because there are more details to be worked out.

Speaker Saxl asked if this was an item that the Council needed to act on and Mr. Clair said that it is put before them as something they would adopt. Were they to adopt it, we will have a subsequent presentation, hopefully by the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting that talks about how we are going to handle lost cards, some of the details that the members have not yet been discussed. Speaker Saxl asked if there were comments from the Secretary or Clerk's Office? There were none. It was explained that this would be an interim policy, for the purpose of getting cards into everyone's hands. It will be a two-part process, getting the cards out with the most basic access and then the further refinement of presenting to those decision makers what kind of access they want a certain person to have.

**Motion:** That the Council adopt the interim security card policy. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Treat, 9-0 unanimous)

Mr. Clair informed the Council that he did attend the public hearing on LD 169 and the staff from the State and Local Government Committee said that they were planning a work session on that LD for February 21<sup>st</sup>, the next date the Council meets. Speaker Saxl asked Mr. Clair if he had prepared the proposed Rule change for the Legislative Council and Mr. Clair answered in the affirmative.

- **Fiscal Update**

Grant Pennoyer gave members an update on fiscal items, but said that he did need to research some items further, particular individual income tax, it seemed to be way up for the month of January. He had a conversation with Mike Allen from the Maine Revenue Services, and he said other states were experiencing a revenue bump up in January, 2001. Mr. Pennoyer said that he would keep the Council informed, particularly as they get closer to February 26 Revenue Forecasting Committee meeting.

Speaker Saxl asked Mr. Pennoyer if things were going well with the transmission of information of the Part II Budget and Mr. Pennoyer said that there was a concern by the Executive Department. They wanted to include certain highway fund allocations in the Part II for information purposes. That was unusual, it had not been done in the past and he was still trying to resolve that issue with the Budget Office. They wanted to present it all together so it might appear in the Highway Fund "Part 2" bill, and would also appear in the General Fund "Part 2" bill. They were trying to qualify it as for informational purposes only. The Committee will decide, what appears to be duplicate allocations presented. Speaker Saxl asked Mr. Pennoyer to keep the Council informed of how it is resolved.

No Council action required.

- **Migration Project Status**

Paul Mayotte referred members to material in their packets. First item is bill drafting implementation update. Shortly he said he would go over with the Council members the \$300,000 proposed scope reduction and a proposal back from Compaq. Note that Compaq understands and the Legislature is holding their progress payments until this item is resolved. Mr. Mayotte said that there is an ongoing list of tasks for the Migration Project, it remains on track for an April implementation of the software. The actual development of the software may be completed within the next 3 to 4 weeks and will go into a testing phase. Lastly, his office is providing technical and direct support to International Roll Call on their implementation of the Legislative Management System, started last week.

Mr. Mayotte said that the 119th Legislative Council directed the Executive Director and him to go back to Compaq and reduce the contract value \$4.5 million to \$4.2 million. The negotiation level has reached the components of a \$300,000 scope reduction, which includes \$35,000 in damages that Compaq will absorb. At this point, we would like to ask the Council's permission to proceed with the actual negotiation of a change order, which would be brought back to the Council for its final approval before having signatures and proceeding.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council grant permission for Paul Mayotte to proceed with the negotiation of a change order with Compaq. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Treat, 9-0 unanimous).

Mr. Mayotte said the last item was just an update from either the December or January Council meeting, where action was taken to begin preparing a draft "service level agreement" between the Legislative Council, the Legislature and InformMe. We have started work on that and it is their intent to provide a draft of the service level agreement to Sen. Treat's Technology Committee meeting and let the Technology Committee review it.

No Council action was required.

- **Interim Studies: Status Report**

David Boulter said there was no action required of the Council today, it was just to bring the Council up to date on the Studies. There are 5 studies that remain, one of which has been granted an extension to February 26, 2001, the Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Lands in Maine. There are 4 other multi year studies, anticipate that

all 4 will be suspended during the session, from now until the end of the session, so legislators can focus on the more pressing matters of session and staff can support them in their work.

Sen. Bennett asked if the Environmental Leadership Program ever convened and Mr. Boulter said that it had never convened. Speaker Saxl asked if it was ever appointed? Mr. Boulter said that some appointments were made, and then was asked who were the Chairs. He said he believed Sen. Michaud, but did not recall who else. Sen. Bennett asked if they were to have a report by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001? Speaker Saxl asked if they wanted to continue the study and Mr. Boulter said that it has not lapsed. Speaker Saxl again said, it has never convened, but didn't have a full membership and then asked what the goal of the Committee was? Speaker Saxl asked what the balance was in the Special Studies table. Mr. Clair said \$80,000 to \$90,000. Speaker Saxl said that has not been expended, can it be carried into the Part 2 Budget? Mr. Clair said that \$85,000 carried over. Speaker Saxl asked if it was carried into the Emergency Budget that was just passed, the next Legislature, to convene studies during the next summer. Mr. Clair said that the balance that was taken in the Emergency Budget was from previous years, because this is a carrying account. The amount that is left over now is from all the studies that received appropriations for which they were not fully expended, that is the \$85,000 from FY 01.

Speaker Saxl asked if there was consensus of the Council about whether they should continue or not continue this Study. Mr. Boulter said it was passed in the form of a Resolve as opposed to a joint order, so it is something the Council may not want to act on. Sen. Bennett said the matter should be tabled and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Council meet with the two Presiding Officers to discuss it before the next Council meeting.

Speaker Saxl moved to Table, second by Sen. Bennett, 9-0 unanimous.

## REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- **Personnel Committee**

Speaker Saxl said that the Personnel Committee met prior to the last Council meeting and agreed to start a Search Committee. The Committee would be the Directors of the individual offices, unless they were applicants for the position, a representative from the Clerk and Secretary's Office, and the Executive Director, who will go through the resumes. The members of the Personnel Committee would separately go through the resumes and the Executive Director, who is going to help with the process, will also go through the resumes. The Committee adopted the time line of April 28, 2001 to hire a new, permanent Director for the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. They also adopted a time line for interviews and advertising and discussed advertising to gain national attention. It was brought to the Speaker's attention that the Wall Street Journal, is the end all and be all of national advertising menus for issues with people dealing with fiscal matters, and had asked Mr. Clair to explore less expensive manners, so would not have to spend \$2,000 - \$5,000 to advertise it. The search for the Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review is well underway with a process, advertising and a time line adopted.

Also agreed that during the summer, the Committee would review the personnel policies of the Legislature and try to modernize that booklet, but recognize that there may be challenges to doing it during the Legislative session.

No Council action required.

- **Space Committee**

Rep. Colwell said that the Space Committee met and had a thorough discussion of a multitude of issues, but have come forward today to the Council with 3 recommendations. The first being the sound broadcast over the LAN Network broadcast points. The Committee voted unanimously for the following broadcast points: House Chamber; Senate Chamber; State House Room 228, Appropriations Committee Room; State House Room 126, Transportation Committee Room; State House Room 127, Taxation Committee Room; State House Room 334, Legislative Council Chamber; State House Hall of Flags; CSOB Room 208, Business and Economic Development Committee Room; and CSOB Room 209, Utilities and Energy Committee Room.

**Motion:** That the Legislative Council approve the Space Committee's recommendations regarding the LAN Network Broadcast Points. (Motion by Sen. Treat, second by Sen. Bennett, 8-0 unanimous).

The second item that the Committee recommended was that the Lobbyist Services be located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the State House. Rep. Colwell said they had researched the prior Legislative Council's minutes and it seemed clear that that is where they intended it to go. This was also a unanimous recommendation from the Committee.

**Motion:** That the Lobbyist Services be located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the State House. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Treat - no vote taken)

**Discussion:** Speaker Saxl asked if that was the access point to the members' retiring room. Rep. Colwell said that he was located toward the back of the Clerk's Office, well removed from the doorway, the access is not restrictive to either of the areas. Speaker Saxl asked if anyone investigated the possibilities of having it located on either side before the porch. If computers, fax machines and phone lines could be hooked up for the use of the general public, as well as the use of the Lobbyist Service provider. Mr. Clair said that the 119<sup>th</sup> Space Committee did review that, but that renovation work will be part of the North Wing scope of work, and never came to any kind of consensus. The Lobbyist Service Provider may be in a different place in the future, but for this session, for data, phone, and power hookup, one of the spots, as they discussed it and ultimately agreed on is in the West Wing and is probably the best place they could find. Speaker Saxl said that they could reserve that judgment for the future, after those renovations had been done.

Rep. Bruno asked if the Provider was charged rent? Mr. Clair said Mr. Melendy paid his own phone service, which included the phone fax, and believed that everything else was provided gratis. Rep. Colwell said it was now even more inconvenient, given the fact the phones had been taken out. Speaker Saxl said for recent historic perspective, there was extensive discussions in the last Space Committee, and his recommendation was that there is going to be a new Legislative Interpreter Center in the former Labor Committee Room, in which it was their recommendation that photo copying, fax, etc. would be available. He said that the Council should revisit where the Lobbyist Service provider should be placed, perhaps there would be a temporary space there available either for the new office of that individual and that person, given a fee, paying a fee, from the

individual members of the private lobby and any member of the public who is here for the day, could receive and forward messages and that there be some kind of a messaging system on one of the computers. He said the Space Committee upon the renovations becoming complete, could look at that policy again and make further recommendations. He said he did share some of the reservations, but did know there is a long historical support for the individual being there. The Secretary and Clerk's Offices felt that if there was not some sort of alternative that they would be asked to forward messages and to provide services, so it would be better to have this alternative. Given the state of renovations, that the Council adopt this policy but ask the Space Committee to continue to review it and to see what kind of broader alternatives there are.

**Motion:** That Item 2 the Lobbyist Services location on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor be moved but also charge the Space Committee with continuing to look at the long term location of the lobbyist service and whether there should be some kind of fee rent proposal and have a report back from the Space Committee. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Treat, 9-0 unanimous).

Rep. Colwell said the third item is the food and beverages policy. The Committee felt it was important to have at least 2 large rooms available in the State House for use for caucuses where food could be available and also those rooms would be available for groups interested in holding public meetings with food or beverages, with the permission of the Chair of the Legislative Council in advance. The other issue of food and drink in the other Committee Rooms, the Committee felt was already addressed in the model rules of procedure that all the Committees operate under, which essentially meant that if the Co-Chairs of those Committees approved the use of food and beverages during work sessions, fine, but the public would not be able to eat in the Committee Rooms, although water would be appropriate. Rep. Colwell said that the Committee felt that that left some flexibility as the session goes further, and it would be difficult to do business without members being able to eat in Committee Rooms.

Speaker Saxl asked if Rep. Colwell had spoken with Charles Jacobs about access to the meeting room in the cafeteria, could it be used for legislative meetings requiring food. Rep. Colwell said the Executive Director was looking into that and asked Mr. Clair to respond. Mr. Clair said he has had one conversation with Mr. Jacobs and he is actually trying to find two sites in the Cross Office Building. One is as the Speaker mentioned, but they were reluctant to give it out during breakfast and lunch hours because they open it up. He is going to get back to us with a way to use it, especially in off hours. He also thinks there is another room there, that will not be used a lot and that could be reserved for those kinds of functions. It is in the works.

**Motion:** That the Council adopt the recommendations of the Space Committee in respect to food and beverages in Committee Rooms. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Davis, 8-0 unanimous).

Rep. Colwell said regarding the hanging of art work and other items on the walls in space controlled by the Legislative Council there are two areas. One area is the historical significance, fine arts, which the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Museum are working on. That is not available for the Council at this time. The other piece that was discussed and recommended on was if Committees wanted to display art work, get permission from the Chair of the Legislative Council. Once that had been approved, all requests should be forward to the Executive Director's Office to be scheduled for installation. Rep. Colwell said that there is a lot of wiring and infrastructure in the walls, so the Committee wanted to make it clear to everyone that it was not a good idea to pound nails into the walls.

**Motion:** That the Council adopt the recommendations of the Space Committee in regarding to Hanging Art Work and Other Items on the Walls in space controlled by the Legislative Council. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Bruno, 8-0 unanimous).

Pamela Cahill, Assistant Secretary of the Senate made the comment that maybe the permission to display art work should be given from both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Council and then all requests forward to the Executive Director.

**Motion:** The Council moved to accept the amendment. 8-0 unanimous.

There was discussion on exactly what was being approved, content of what could be hung or who would do the actually hanging. Rep. Colwell said that there was some level of appropriateness and the Committee was not sure how to decide. The discussion was more informal than requiring action. It has been moved and seconded, 8-0 unanimous.

- **Technology and Migration Committee**

Sen. Treat said that the Technology and Migration Committee is scheduled to meet February 14, 2001.

- **Time and Attendance Subcommittee**

Sen. Treat said the goal was better record keeping, better keeping track of the time and attendance as one moves from job to job, better reporting for management purposes. Questions are whether it will be kept confidential, etc. Mr. Clair and other staff are going to be looking into how other Legislatures handle it, what would be appropriate for us.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Item #1: 120<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislative Council Rules of Procedure**

Speaker Saxl said during the first organizational meeting of the Legislative Council, we adopted rules by which we would conduct the Legislative Council's meetings. During the last meeting, we discussed Rep. Julie O'Brien's legislation regarding Capitol Park and about formalizing an Advisory Committee from our host community the Capitol Area Advisory Committee. The Rules of Procedures are identical as the ones adopted at the first meeting. Items 16 and 17 are new proposed rules. He said the first is to formalize the Capitol Area Advisory Committee to include members of the Council in a formal way to get recommendations and input from the Capitol area so that we are in constant formal communication with our host city. The second part is to formalize within the Council rules whether any action, whether it be temporary or permanent, which changes the nature of Capitol Park, must require a vote of the entire Legislative Council.

Rep. Colwell asked for clarification on entire Legislative Council, would it be a quorum from the members in attendance. Speaker Saxl said that it would require a vote of six members of the Legislative Council in order to take action, whether it be by ballot or in person, but that one member or one branch of the Legislative Council could not take action that might temporarily or permanently change the nature of Capitol Park.

Sen. Daggett asked how many votes would it take? Speaker Saxl said "I believe the words consistent with these rules would indicate that it needs to be the entire Council and that a vote of at least 6 to take any action of the Council".

Sen. Daggett asked if that was clear. Speaker Saxl inquired if any action of the Council requires the affirmative votes of not less than 6 members is not sufficiently clear? Sen. Daggett said she did not think it was clear that it needed to be an affirmative vote.

Sen. Bennett asked if he could suggest that instead any proposal that would be temporary or permanent change must require action by the Legislative Council. Speaker Saxl asked, requires an act by? Sen. Bennett said then it refers back to its conduct of business and any action under Rule 4 requires affirmative vote by at least 6 members. He said that there may be things the Council would want to consider that will not require action, but anything impacting the Park ought to take action upon which would require a vote. Speaker Saxl said a friendly amendment would be to change the word "consider" to "requires an act by". Rep. Norbert said why not just say "must be approved by". Sen. Bennett said that once it has been approved it is no longer a proposal, the substance of that sentence should be any action in fact in Capitol Park, a temporary or permanent change, must be approved by the Legislative Council. This will only apply to this Council, hopefully it will set a precedent, we should try to word it correctly, but we are the final arbiters of whether or not this is consistent. Sen. Daggett said she would appreciate not having to make a decision at this time.

Sen. Bennett moved to table, second by Sen. Davis, 8-0 unanimous.

Speaker Saxl said it was his intention to circulate by ballot at the end of this week a opportunity to vote on this. He said he would circulate a ballot by the end of the week, would like to take action quickly on this matter, but respected the Senator's need for reflection.

Sen. Bennett asked if that would require a 2/3 vote and Speaker Saxl answered in the affirmative. He said revisions of rules, the Council may amend these rules with the exception of Rule 4, upon a two-thirds vote of the Council members present and voting, provided that the vote to amend is by at least six affirmative votes. So if circulated by a ballot it would require two-thirds of the entire Council, which would be 7 votes.

Sen. Daggett inquired about the draft for review. Speaker Saxl asked if there was motion to remove from the Table and Colwell made the motion, Sen. Bennett seconded, 8-0 unanimous.

Speaker Saxl said Mr. Clair had drafted this yesterday evening and he saw it for the first time today too. He asked Mr. Clair to address the members on the Rules. It was asked how the old Capitol Advisory Committee was made up. Mr. Clair said it was a 13 member group, Sen. Daggett may have been on it. In response to the new draft, it seemed like a big group, so a proposal of 7 was put forth to the Speaker. Speaker Saxl asked if there were questions or concerns from the members of the Council from the Capital area. Rep. Colwell said that if you looked at the makeup there are 4 public members, so they would have a controlling vote on the Advisory Council, he thinks that is probably appropriate. They would be local input, the Mayor would appoint 2 and the County Commissioners 2, if you go to the final line of the Rule 17 under Capitol Park, the Council must first receive a recommendation on any proposal from this Advisory Committee prior to a final vote. That is what we are after, being a local legislator living through what occurred, it is important to have that input and that is

what was lacking before. He commended Mr. Clair on his attempt to get at that, because it is a serious issue and by formalizing this it is, on the right track. The local piece, 4 representatives, they do have a controlling vote, he was sure that the Mayor and County Commissioners would take that seriously. Speaker Saxl asked if there were questions or comments before we entertain a motion to table the motion, or any other friendly amendments that would like see made before we circulate a ballot. Speaker Saxl asked that Sen. Daggett either go see him or Mr. Clair by the end of the business day tomorrow with any changes that she would like to see and we will have the motion prepared.

Rep. Bruno said the 4 members of the public, should it be specified that they need to be in the Augusta area or residents of Augusta. Speaker Saxl said 2 residents of Augusta, appointed by the Mayor of Augusta. Rep. Colwell said his constituents were very concerned about what happened in Capitol Park and perhaps they should say the Commissioners had to appoint residents of Kennebec County. Mr. Clair asked for a clarification - was that 4 members of the public who are residents of Kennebe County? Speaker Saxl said, 4 members of the public, 2 of them residents of Augusta and 2 are to be residents of the Capital area Kennebec County.

**Motion:** The Speaker entertained a motion to table, tabled by Sen. Davis, second by Rep. Colwell, 8-0 unanimous.

## **Item #2: Legislature's FY 2002-2003 "Part I" Budget Request**

Mr. Clair gave a summary on the FY 2002-2003 budget. The public hearing was at 9:00 a.m. that day and that Sen. Davis and Speaker Saxl had attended parts of the hearing. The Committee had asked a lot of follow up questions and we are providing that information. We promised them the updated organizational charts, which are still under review in some offices. They want information on how the 120<sup>th</sup> organized itself and other questions that are fairly standard for the Committee to ask of an agency.

Sen. Small asked why the budget data referred to Senate Minority and Senate Majority. Mr. Clair answered that was the way the Appropriations Committee asks for the data, to support what was submitted back in September and what was submitted in September, was the organization of the 119<sup>th</sup>. That data is an example of why they have asked to provide updates.

Mr. Clair said just as a reminder that the Joint Rules speak to sending a report back time and Appropriations set one for the Legislative Council of February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Appropriations Committee Room. He and Rose will be working on that updated package of information, the various questions they have asked and then we will put that forth to you so you can review it at some amount and then make some kind of decision. Speaker Saxl asked Mr. Clair that before that February 15 meeting does it require action by the Council, an endorsement of the Legislative Budget or is that left to the last Council? Mr. Clair said that he thought it would be something that they would want to support the amount as it goes forward. Technically, they will be asking you to make a recommendation to them on the funding level for FY 02 and FY 03. Speaker Saxl said it may be appropriate to have a brief meeting next week before the February 15 Appropriations hearing so the Council could review any changes due to the new organizational structure of the Legislature that will occur in this budget and to take a vote if we are not successful in circulating a ballot.

No Council action required.

**Item #3: Establishing An Early Deadline for Submission of Major Substantive Rules**

David Boulter said the question he was posing to the Council was whether the Council would like to establish an early deadline for the filing of major substantive rules by State agencies. The rules require legislative review. It is relevant only if the Legislature anticipates an adjournment earlier than the statutory date of June 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Boulter knew there has been discussion of an early adjournment, sometime around the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and if that was the case, or you anticipate that to be case, than you may want to entertain an earlier deadline for agencies. By way of background, certain rules have been designated by the Legislature as major substantive, in which case before they can be implemented they have to be presented to the Legislature for review and it is particularly significant because if it is presented and not acted upon by the Legislature, then the rules can go into effect without further action by the Legislature. It is unlike any other proposal, if the Legislature does not act, it does not go into effect, this is just the opposite. If it is an early adjournment, of around 3 weeks, that would cut the minimum review time for the Legislature from 45 to 28 days, which in his estimation is significant when you think about advertising. Virtually all of the proposals get a public hearing and the public has an opportunity to comment on them. Given the waning days of the session it seems very busy with a lot of session time, it would really potentially crimp the amount of time agencies could look at those rules, particularly if they were complex. The Council has two choices, one is to leave the deadline as it is now, which is May 4 or you could accelerate that deadline and set any time between, by statute, April 6 and May 4.

Speaker Saxl said clearly an earlier deadline needs to be set but asked Mr. Boulter to speak to the Executive Branch to find out what would be practical. Let them know our goal would be to set the deadline as April 6, and ask if that would be feasible for the Executive Branch. If not, what would be.

Moved by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Daggett, 8-0 unanimous.

**Item #4: Submission of Study Reports**

- Commission to Study the Needs and Opportunities Associated With the Production of Salmonid Sport Fish in Maine (pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 82)
- Citizens Advisory Committee to Secure the Future of Maine's Wildlife and Fish (pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 86)
- Committee to Develop a Compensation Program for Victims of Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and to Continue Oversight of Multi-agency Cooperation (pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 127, Part B)
- Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-Terrain Vehicles and Watercraft (pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 131)
- Task Force to Study Market Power Issues Related to the Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal Industry (pursuant to P.L. 1999, Chapter 773)

- Joint Select Committee to Study the Creation of a Public/Private Purchasing Alliance to Ensure Access to Health Care for All Maine Citizens (pursuant to H.P. 1857)
- Joint Select Committee on School-Based Health Care Services (pursuant to H.P. 1864)
- Committee to Study Further Decriminalization of the Criminal Laws of Maine (pursuant to H.P. 1914, as amended by Senate Amendment "A", S-722)
- Task Force to Study Growth Management (pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 1090)
- Task Force on the Maine Learning Technology Endowment (pursuant to P.L. 1999, Chapter 731, Part FFF, Sec. FFF-2)

**Motion:** Move for acceptance of the Committee Reports. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Daggett, 8-0 unanimous).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Item #1: Submission of Study Report

- Committee to Study Economically and Socially Just Policies for Foreign Investments and Foreign Purchasing by the State (pursuant to H.P. 1755)

**Motion:** Move for acceptance of the Committee Report. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Rep. Bruno, 8-0 unanimous).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Saxl moved that the Council adjourn at 2:37 p.m. (Motion by Sen. Bennett, second by Sen. Davis, unanimous).