

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. JOHN RICHARDSON
CHAIR

SEN. BETH EDMONDS
VICE-CHAIR



122ND MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. MICHAEL F. BRENNAN
SEN. PAUL T. DAVIS, SR.
SEN. KENNETH T. GAGNON
SEN. CAROL WESTON
REP. GLENN A. CUMMINGS
REP. DAVID E. BOWLES
REP. ROBERT W. DUPLESSIE
REP. JOSHUA A. TARDY

DAVID E. BOULTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
JUNE 14, 2005
AGENDA**

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
	CALL TO ORDER	
	ROLL CALL	
1	SUMMARY OF THE MAY 26, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING	Acceptance
	REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS	
6	• Executive Director's Report	
12	• Fiscal Report (Pennoyer)	
	• Office of Information Services' Report (Mayotte)	
	REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES	
	• Personnel Committee (Rep. Cummings, Chair)	
	No Report	
	• State House Facilities Committee (Sen. Gagnon, Chair)	
	No Report	
	OLD BUSINESS	
13	Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot	Information

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Requests for Interim Studies

Decision

Information on Interim Study requests were distributed on June 10, 2005. **Please bring your notebook to the meeting.**

14 **Item #2: Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests**

Decision

15 **Item #3: Request for a Permanent Display of a MIA/POW Flag in the Hall of Flags**

Decision

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Executive Session)

Decision

Article 54: Contract re-opener for purpose of salary schedule adjustment

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

REP. JOHN RICHARDSON
CHAIR

SEN. BETH EDMONDS
VICE-CHAIR



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DAVID E. BOULTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meeting Summary
May 26, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Richardson, called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Edmonds, Sen. Gagnon, and Sen. Weston.
Sen. Brennan and Sen. Davis joined the meeting in progress.

Representatives: Speaker Richardson, Rep. Cummings, Rep. Duplessie,
and Rep. Tardy.
Rep. Bowles joined the meeting in progress.

Legislative Officers: Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate
Michael Cote, Assistant Clerk of the House
Rose Marie Breton, Legislative Finance Director
Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
David Elliott, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes
Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian
Paul Mayotte, Director, Legislative Information Services

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 28, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: That the Meeting Summary of April 28, 2005 be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Edmonds, second by Rep. Duplessie, unanimous).

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL STAFF OFFICES

- **Executive Director's Report**

Rose Marie Breton, Legislative Finance Director, reported that David Boulter, Executive Director, who was unable to attend the meeting, had provided the executive director's report in his weekly administrative report. He did want to remind members that the World War II and Korean War plaques will not be completed in time for Memorial Day. The plaque dedication and ceremony will occur sometime this summer.

No Council action required.

- **Fiscal Report**

Grant Pennoyer, Director of Fiscal and Program Review, presented his report to the Council.

1. **General Fund and Highway Fund Revenue Variances for April 2005**

- **General Fund**

General Fund revenue was over budget in April by \$48.0 million, negating the earlier year-to-date negative variance. Through ten months of FY 05, General Fund revenue was \$33.5 million or 1.6% over budget, largely as a result of individual income tax collections in April, which were ahead of projections in April by \$63.6 million.

Major positive variances for fiscal year through April include:

- Individual income tax had a positive variance of \$64.9 million;
- Estate tax had a positive variance of \$3.6 million; and
- Corporate income tax had a positive variance of \$1.3 million.

Major negative variances for fiscal year through April include:

- Sales and service provider taxes were \$13.5 million negative;
- Insurance companies tax was \$10.5 million negative;
- Lottery transfer was \$2.4 million negative; and
- Other Revenue was under projections by \$7.8 million (the Department of Health and Human Services represents a negative variance of \$8.5 million).

As of May 2005 the General Fund revenue appears to be performing better in some of the lines that had been negative, particularly the Sales Tax and Insurance Companies Tax revenue lines. It is hoped that as the heating season ends, sales will recover as the dampening effect of the burden of high oil prices subsides.

- **Highway Fund**

Highway Fund revenue was over budget in April by \$0.2 million. With 2 months remaining in FY05, the Highway Fund has a positive variance of \$1.8 million.

2. Cash Pool Status

- Absent reserve accounts balances and tax anticipation notes, the General Fund average cash balance would have been negative by \$193.3 million. April has typically been the lowest average balance. It appears that balances began their recovery earlier this year.

No Council action required.

• Office of Information Services' Report

Paul Mayotte, Director, Legislative Information Services, reported the following:

Bill Drafting System

In accordance with the agreement between the Council and HP, HP has provided 8 high speed PCs and a server which are installed on the network, all part of the MELD bill drafting system. HP delivered and installed the bill drafting system software that includes the five contractually required items. Testing on each of the five items was completed and full system testing began on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 and will be completed on Friday, May 27, 2005. No serious issues have arisen during the testing process, thus far.

Virus/SPAM Blocking

Some SPAM has passed through the Legislature's filters for the email system. The "Sober.P" computer virus resulted in unprecedented volumes of email traffic, but the Legislature's computers were not infected.

Legislative Internet Home Page

The newly updated Legislative Home page is now online.

Committee Bill Status Report

Speaker Richardson reported that there were 175 bills remaining in committee and they must be reported out no later than Friday, May 27th by 5:00 p.m. 275 other bills are still in the process and the Speaker inquired as to their status. Mr. Elliott, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis reported that there are approximately 60 unvoted bills, most of which are in the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and the Judiciary Committee. Approximately 15 of those bills have been voted but need amendments drafted, 50-75 are drafted and in various production stages and will be in the chambers early in the week of May 30th.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

• Personnel Committee (Rep. Cummings, Chair)

Rep. Cummings, Chair of the Personnel Committee reported that the Personnel Committee met on May 19, 2005 and voted unanimous to recommend that the Legislative Council adopt the proposed Violence in the Workplace Policy.

Motion: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed Legislative Council Policy on Violence in the Workplace, with the policy becoming effective immediately and applying to all legislative offices. (Motion by Rep. Cummings, second by Rep. Tardy, unanimous).

- **State House Facilities Committee**

Sen. Gagnon, Chair of the State House Facilities Committee reported that the committee did not meet, but will be meeting soon to discuss, among other items, a policy for the use of the Hall of Flags and the food being served. Sen. Gagnon said the committee will be considering a policy that would curtail the meals served noting that full meals served have increased dramatically over the years. Serving of food also raises issues relating to security, costs of clean-up and adverse effects to business in the State House café. Sen. Gagnon suggested that if members of the Council have concerns, they should speak with a member of the State House Facilities Committee soon because the Committee will be drafting a policy to bring before the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

A copy of a list of actions taken by ballot by the Legislative Council since its April 28, 2005 meeting is attached.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Consideration of After Deadline Bill Requests

The Legislative Council members discussed the lateness of the current session and whether late-filed bills authorized for introduction would be heard this session or whether bill sponsors have had or should have discussions with committee chairs about carrying the bills over until the 2nd Regular Session. After Council discussion the following motion was made:

Motion: That the Executive Director's Office hold the following bill requests in abeyance until the Legislative Council considers bill requests for the 2nd Regular Session and at that time re-present them for the Legislative Council's consideration. (Motion by Sen. Gagnon, second by Rep. Tardy, unanimous).

LR 2410; An Act To Allow The Buckfield Village Corporation To Be Dissolved And Combined With The Town Of Buckfield (Rep. Bruce Hanley)

LR 2407; An Act To Protect The Water Quality of Colcord Pond and Bickford Pond in Porter (Rep. Muse)

LR 2375; An Act Authorizing the Deorganizatoin of Drew Plantation (Sen. Raye)

Fourteen after deadline bill requests were considered by the Legislative Council. The Council's actions on these requests are included on the attached list.

Item #2: Request for Funding of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (Sen. Weston)

Motion: That the Legislative Council allocate up to \$12,000 from unexpended balances in the Legislative account to support the Legislative Youth Advisory Council for each year of the FY 06/07 biennium. (Motion by Sen. Weston, second by Rep. Duplessie, unanimous).

Item #3: Legislative Council Policy on Violence in the Workplace

The Legislative Council adopted the policy earlier in the meeting. No further action was taken.

Item #4: Policy Discussion on Use of Hall of Flags (Rep. Bowles)

Rep. Bowles expressed concerns about inappropriate and offensive use of the Hall of Flags, noting specifically a group that used the Hall of Flags on Wednesday, May 18th. He explained that the material and other items being distributed by the group were inappropriate, especially with groups of school children touring the State House. He believes that there needs to be more sensitivity to and legislative control over what will be distributed by the groups who are authorized to use the Hall of Flags and they should be made aware of restrictions.

Speaker Richardson said a report will be brought to the June Council meeting suggesting a protocol.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

A member of the Legislative Council commented that legislators have raised some questions regarding acceptance of the special session pay for the 121st Legislature and the income tax implications of accepting or refusing the pay.

The Legislative Council members generally agreed that the Legislative Council should not attempt to decide issues of potential tax liability. Legislators should be advised to speak with their own tax consultant or accountant about their specific circumstances.

After further discussion, Rep. Cummings made the following motion.

Motion: That if at any time in the future legislators find that they may be liable for income tax payments for the special session payment that they did not accept, affected legislators will be allowed to receive the payment at that time. Further, that the Executive Director's Office must reserve sufficient funds to cover such payments in the future. (Motion by Rep. Cummings, second by Sen. Edmonds, motion failed 4-4-0-2, Sen. Davis, Sen. Weston, Rep. Bowles and Rep. Tardy opposed, Sen. Brennan and Sen. Gagnon absent for the vote.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m. (Motion by Sen. Edmonds, second by Rep. Bowles, unanimous).

Fiscal Briefing for the Legislative Council

Legislative Council Meeting

June 14, 2005

Prepared by the

Office of Fiscal & Program Review

1. General Fund and Highway Fund Revenue Variances for May 2005

- **General Fund (GF)** - GF revenue was over budget in May by \$9.9M, increasing the year-to-date positive variance to \$43.4M or 1.9%. This amount does not reflect the recent Revenue Forecasting Committee FY05 revenue revision, which increased GF revenue projections by \$27.7M for FY05. This positive variance is largely the result of a pleasant “April Surprise” in individual income tax collections, which through 11 months was \$73.9M over budget.
- **Highway Fund (HF)** - HF revenue was over budget in May by \$1.2M. With 1 months remaining in FY05, the HF has a positive variance of +\$3.0M or +1.1%.

2. Revenue Forecasting Committee – Forecast Schedule

- A Joint Meeting of Revenue Forecasting Committee and Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission has been scheduled for June 30th in Room 228 of the State House. Meeting will include discussions of FY05 variances and improvements to forecasting methods and procedures in preparation for the fall forecast.

3. Cash Trends

- GF average balance trends are still trending upward (when you exclude the effect of the tax anticipation notes), but the improvement is moderating.
- HF trend appears to have flattened out.
- OFPR will be watching these and providing additional analysis after the session.

General Fund and Highway Fund Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005
Based on All Actions of the 122nd Legislature through 1st Regular Session
(Does not reflect June 2005 Revenue Revision)

MAY 2005 VARIANCE REPORT

FUND	Revenue Line	May '05 Budget	May '05 Actual	May '05 Var.	FY05 YTD Budget	FY05 YTD Actual	FY05 YTD Variance	FY05 Budgeted Totals
GF	Sales and Use Tax	67,298,519	67,466,895.90	168,376.90	747,531,993	735,784,841.31	(11,747,151.69)	914,710,000
GF	Service Provider Tax	4,195,062	3,851,524.98	(343,537.02)	38,635,277	36,686,202.81	(1,949,074.19)	46,700,000
GF	Individual Income Tax	70,553,907	79,599,103.18	9,045,196.18	1,023,714,924	1,097,660,422.77	73,945,498.77	1,189,230,674
GF	Corporate Income Tax	3,476,212	3,913,964.32	437,752.32	102,860,425	104,551,137.84	1,690,712.84	123,300,647
GF	Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	8,359,871	7,215,793.82	(1,144,077.18)	88,383,772	87,334,445.85	(1,049,326.15)	96,019,864
GF	Public Utilities Tax	26,375,000	24,995,021.63	(1,379,978.37)	26,675,000	25,414,127.56	(1,260,872.44)	26,675,000
GF	Insurance Companies Tax	10,572,814	13,771,379.76	3,198,565.76	57,356,270	50,024,352.32	(7,331,917.68)	78,615,872
GF	Estate Tax	2,380,536	2,259,998.12	(120,537.88)	21,901,144	25,330,612.55	3,429,468.55	29,042,767
GF	Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	0	0.00	0.00	9,722,362	9,638,377.00	(83,985.00)	10,580,086
GF	Income from Investments	411,210	574,185.09	162,975.09	3,899,889	4,207,151.44	307,262.44	4,896,463
GF	Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(7,421,709)	(7,896,405.91)	(474,696.91)	(97,648,352)	(100,658,812.81)	(3,010,460.81)	(115,971,008)
GF	Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,478,872	4,603,015.62	124,143.62	48,008,342	45,696,533.75	(2,311,808.25)	52,292,750
GF	Other Revenue	16,545,908	16,820,247.97	274,339.97	234,120,832	226,934,186.65	(7,186,645.35)	264,907,493
GF	Totals	207,226,202	217,174,724.48	9,948,522.48	2,305,161,878	2,348,603,579.04	43,441,701.04	2,721,000,608
HF	Fuel Taxes	15,434,647	16,051,531.98	616,884.98	180,648,999	181,227,818.21	578,819.21	220,838,729
HF	Motor Vehicle Registration and Fees	7,137,624	7,921,878.99	784,254.99	72,417,189	75,207,713.68	2,790,524.68	81,378,234
HF	Inspection Fees	313,671	381,693.79	68,022.79	4,070,399	3,819,562.58	(250,836.42)	4,281,459
HF	Fines	174,529	(20.00)	(174,549.00)	1,692,249	1,373,064.29	(319,184.71)	1,890,359
HF	Income from Investments	106,696	180,908.03	74,212.03	817,124	1,114,791.54	297,667.54	1,059,903
HF	Other Revenue	555,077	431,490.73	(123,586.27)	8,145,899	8,087,811.87	(58,087.13)	13,817,473
HF	Totals	23,722,244	24,967,483.52	1,245,239.52	267,791,859	270,830,762.17	3,038,903.17	323,266,157

REVENUE FORECASTING COMMITTEE
JUNE 2005 REVIEW OF FY05 GENERAL FUND REVENUE VARIANCES

<u>REVENUE SOURCE / LINE</u>	<u>FY05 Budget</u> ¹	<u>Preliminary Variance through May 2005</u>	<u>Recommended Change</u>	<u>Revised FY05 Budget</u>
Sales & Use Tax	\$914,710,000	(\$11,747,152)	(\$15,000,000)	\$899,710,000
Service Provider Tax	\$46,700,000	(\$1,949,074)	(\$2,500,000)	\$44,200,000
Individual Income Tax	\$1,189,230,674	\$74,049,273	\$70,000,000	\$1,259,230,674
Corporate Income Tax	\$123,300,647	\$1,690,713	\$0	\$123,300,647
Cigarette & Tobacco Tax	\$96,019,864	(\$1,049,326)	\$0	\$96,019,864
Public Utilities Tax	\$26,675,000	(\$1,370,102)	(\$1,375,000)	\$25,300,000
Insurance Companies Tax	\$78,615,872	(\$7,331,918)	(\$9,000,000)	\$69,615,872
Estate Tax	\$29,042,767	\$3,429,469	\$2,500,000	\$31,542,767
Property Tax - Unorganized Territory	\$10,580,086	(\$83,985)	\$0	\$10,580,086
Income from Investments	\$4,896,463	\$321,984	\$0	\$4,896,463
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(\$115,971,008)	(\$3,164,232)	(\$2,677,499)	(\$118,648,507)
Lottery Commission	\$52,292,750	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)	\$50,292,750
Other Revenue (See Detail Below)	\$264,907,493	(\$7,151,367)	(\$12,204,153)	\$252,703,340
Total - General Fund Revenue	\$2,721,000,608	\$43,644,283	\$27,743,348	\$2,748,743,956
Detail of Other Revenue:				
- Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$24,306,346	(\$833,107)	(\$1,000,000)	\$23,306,346
- Commercial Forestry Excise Tax	\$3,350,000	\$929,736	(\$344,851)	\$3,005,149
- Liquor Sales and Operations	\$50,000,000	\$157,404	\$0	\$50,000,000
- Liquor Taxes and Fees	\$17,431,231	(\$490,838)	\$0	\$17,431,231
- Banking Fees/Assessments	\$16,563,440	\$1,697,760	\$0	\$16,563,440
- Corporation Fees & Licenses	\$5,451,707	(\$251,897)	\$0	\$5,451,707
- Hunting and Fishing License Fees	\$16,104,482	\$1,150,602	\$0	\$16,104,482
- Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Fees	\$4,159,724	(\$155,391)	\$0	\$4,159,724
- Parimutuel and Gaming Revenue	\$1,014,900	\$6,599	\$0	\$1,014,900
- Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	\$35,415,714	(\$7,099)	\$0	\$35,415,714
- Targeted Case Management (HHS)	\$35,303,832	(\$8,316,981)	(\$11,776,045)	\$23,527,787
- HHS Services Rendered	\$6,614,176	(\$2,079,200)	(\$317,911)	\$6,296,265
- State Cost Allocation Program	\$6,935,885	(\$667,086)	\$0	\$6,935,885
- Unclaimed Property Transfer	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
- Tourism Transfer	(\$7,554,189)	(\$1)	\$0	(\$7,554,189)
- Clean Elections Fund Transfer	(\$2,250,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$2,250,000)
- Other Miscellaneous	\$42,060,245	\$1,708,132	\$1,234,654	\$43,294,899
Other Revenue - Total	\$264,907,493	(\$7,151,367)	(\$12,204,153)	\$252,703,340
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Revenue	\$21,444,736	\$753,219	\$0	\$21,444,736

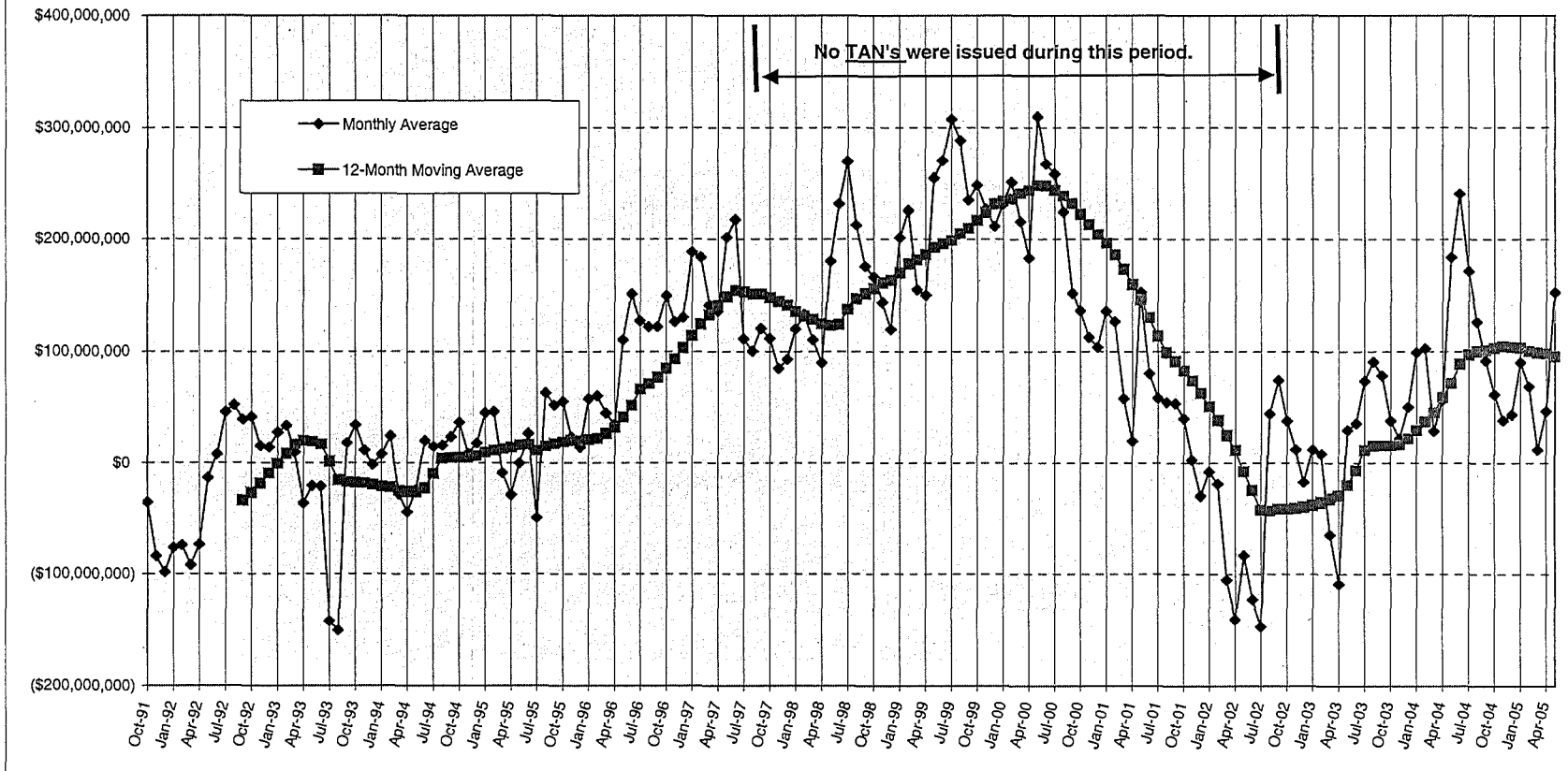
Notes:

¹ Reflects Budgeted Revenue through the 122nd Legislature, 1st Regular Session

² After the meeting, an accounting adjustment resulted in an unanticipated swing of \$1 million.

³ An accounting entry was not made in May to offset a receivable. \$1.2 million will be reversed in June.

GENERAL FUND DAILY STARTING CASH BALANCES

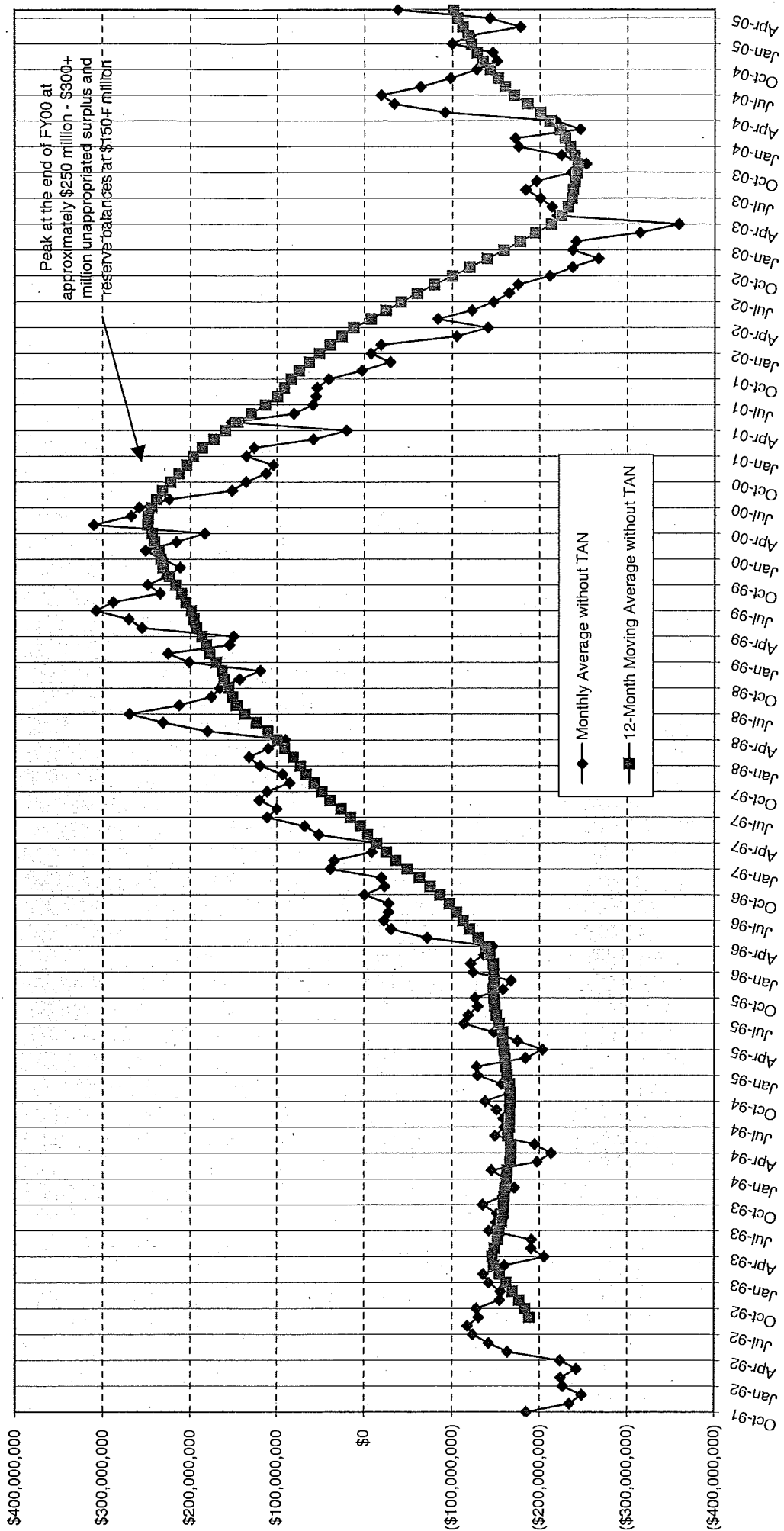


TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TAN's) - History from FY 1990-91 ⁽¹⁾

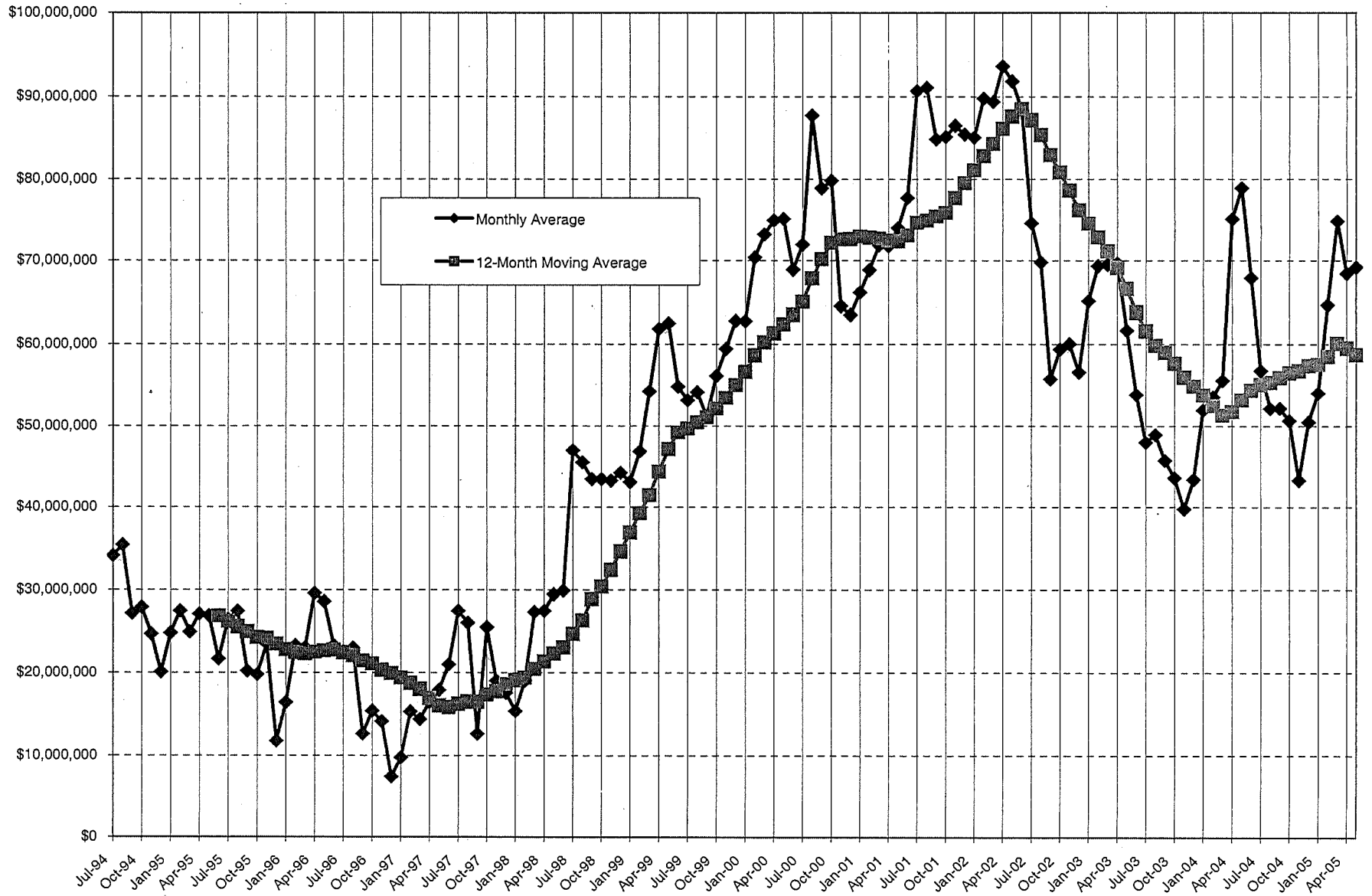
Fiscal Year	Amount Authorized	Amount Issued	Reference
2004-05 ⁽²⁾	\$301,688,831 ⁽³⁾	\$190,000,000	5 MRSA, §150 (as amended by PL 2001, c. 705)
2003-04 ⁽²⁾	\$284,492,042 ⁽³⁾	\$275,000,000	5 MRSA, §150 (as amended by PL 2001, c. 705)
2002-03 ⁽²⁾	\$282,869,203 ⁽³⁾	\$250,000,000	5 MRSA, §150 (as amended by PL 2001, c. 705)
2001-02	\$100,000,000	\$0	5 MRSA, §150 (as amended by PL 2001, c. 467)
1997-98	\$100,000,000	\$0	PL 1997, c. 24, §F-1 (Repealed by PL 1997, c. 643, §E-5)
1996-97	\$190,000,000	\$150,000,000	PL 1995, c. 665 §P-1
1995-96	\$182,000,000	\$182,000,000	PL 1995, c. 368, §V-1
1994-95	\$175,000,000	\$175,000,000	PL 1993, c. 707, §P-2
1993-94	\$170,000,000	\$170,000,000	PL 1993, c. 382, §1
1992-93	\$170,000,000	\$170,000,000	PL 1991, c. 780, §BB-1
1991-92	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000	PL 1991, c. 589, §1
1990-91	\$125,000,000	\$115,000,000	PL 1991, c. 5, §1

Notes: ⁽¹⁾ 5 MRSA, §150 provides the statutory authorization for Tax Anticipation Notes. As amended by PL 2001, c. 705, the limit is the same as that imposed by the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Sec. 14, 10% of total General Fund appropriations and Highway Fund allocations or 1% of the State Valuation, whichever is less. The amounts authorized for fiscal years 2002-03 and 2003-04 reflect General Fund appropriations and Highway Fund allocations through the 121st Legislature, 1st Regular Session. Amounts for fiscal year 2004-05 reflect budgeted amounts at the end of the 121st Legislature, 2nd Special Session. Special exceptions to the general authorization levels are detailed in this table.

GENERAL FUND
 DAILY STARTING CASH BALANCES - EXCLUDING TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES



HIGHWAY FUND DAILY STARTING CASH BALANCES



**122nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Technology Report
June 14, 2005**

Bill Drafting System:

- Integration testing was completed on Friday, May 27th
- 7 minor issues were found that HP will correct with the next release of the software
- Conditional acceptance of the software was made as of June 6th
- In August, HP is required to provide one additional item to complete the all the deliverables required by the contract

**Action Taken by Ballot by
the Legislative Council Since
the May 26, 2005 Council Meeting**

1. Request for Introduction of Legislation

- A. LR 2425: An Act to Authorize, Subject to State Referendum, A Tribal Commercial Track and Slot Machines in Washington County

Submitted by: Representative Frederick Moore

Accepted: June 9, 2005, 10 – 0 – 0 – 0

- B. LR 2412: An Act to Ensure Maine's Readiness to Respond to BRAC Authority Commission Recommendations

Submitted by: Speaker John Richardson

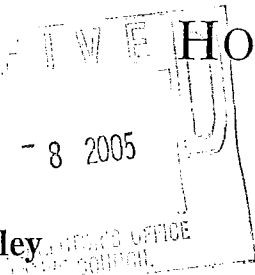
Accepted: June 1, 2005, 10 – 0 – 0 – 0

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REQUESTS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
June 13, 2005

Action

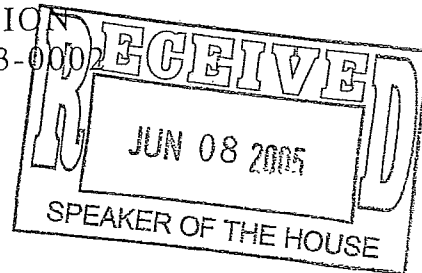
SPONSOR: Rep. Canavan, Marilyn E.

LR 2386 An Act To Require Large Retailers To Pay Health Care Costs



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: (207) 287-4469



Stephen P. Hanley

67 Lincoln Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345
Residence: (207) 582-9073

June 8, 2005

Hon. John Richardson, Chair
Legislative Council
State House Station #2
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Richardson:

I write to respectfully request that I be permitted to address the Legislative Council as to the importance of including a permanent display of a MIA/POW flag in the Hall of Flags. Three veterans groups have approached me asking why this flag is excluded and I share their concern.

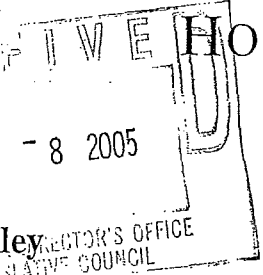
Such a banner should be hung in honor and memory of all of the military personnel in the State of Maine who have been Prisoners of War and who are still Missing in Action. We fly The MIA/POW flag over the State House in our everlasting hope that all our courageous sons and daughters will return home and to let all know that they will not be forgotten. It is time that the same sentiment is expressed in the one place in the State where we memorialize Mainers throughout history who have given of themselves to serve our country.

I thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

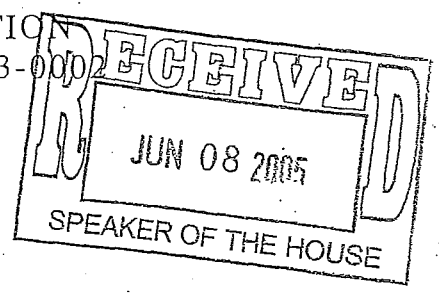
Stephen P. Hanley
State Representative

cc: President Edmonds



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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June 8, 2005

Hon. John Richardson, Chair
Legislative Council
State House Station #2
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Richardson:

I write to respectfully request that I be permitted to address the Legislative Council as to the importance of including a permanent display of a MIA/POW flag in the Hall of Flags. Three veterans groups have approached me asking why this flag is excluded and I share their concern.

Such a banner should be hung in honor and memory of all of the military personnel in the State of Maine who have been Prisoners of War and who are still Missing in Action. We fly The MIA/POW flag over the State House in our everlasting hope that all our courageous sons and daughters will return home and to let all know that they will not be forgotten. It is time that the same sentiment is expressed in the one place in the State where we memorialize Mainers throughout history who have given of themselves to serve our country.

I thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Hanley
State Representative

cc: President Edmonds