

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 12, 1973

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the 106th Legislature

FROM: Legislative Council Chairman, Larry E. Simpson

SUBJECT: Activities of Legislative Council, Present Role of
Legislative Staff, Policy for Joint Standing Committees
and Status of Study Orders.

The Legislative Council has scheduled its regular meeting day for the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber which is the old Executive Council room.

Presently we have assigned a considerable number of studies to some of the Joint Standing Committees. These studies resulted from the study orders presented to the regular session of the 106th Maine Legislature. A copy of all action on these study orders to date is enclosed.

We have a subcommittee which is studying the organizational structure and function of the Legislature and the different people assigned to it. We would appreciate any suggestions you might have pertaining to this subject.

We are also preparing guide lines and policy to be used by the Joint Standing Committees either when the Legislature is in, or out of, session.

The Legislative Council has taken no action on a permanent Legislative Administrative Director or Constituent Services Officer. This is part of our subcommittee study. We have been active in seeking solutions for more efficiency in our operation and a better coordination of activities within the frame of our operation. I sincerely hope you will communicate your thoughts to us pertaining to any areas which you feel we

should devote more attention to.

During the time between sessions the Legislative Staff is assisting in the studies assigned by the Council to the Joint Standing Committees on a project basis. That is, staff members are not assigned directly to a committee to carry out general committee assignments but are working on study projects in their particular areas of expertise under the direction of a particular committee. All staff members have assignments from more than one committee. For this reason, committee chairmen and members should not assume that staff members are available for ongoing committee business as they were during the session.

Staff members are available, as during the session, to carry out research projects of a limited scope or to provide information for individual legislators. Requests for assistance on these limited matters should be made either to the staff person you have in mind or to Suzanne Havens, who is supervising staff assignments. Please use the incoming WATS Line (800-452-8795) if trying to contact staff members by telephone (Extension 2486). Research projects of a larger scope should be proposed in writing to the Legislative Council.

Because of the nature of the special session, any requests for bill drafting should be made directly to the Legislative Council.

Legislative staff members are not authorized to give out information, memos, etc., either concerned with Legislative Council activities or done at the request of the Legislative Council. All information requests concerning Legislative Council

activities should be made to Louise Giroux of the Legislative Research Staff (289-2101) who is acting as secretary for the Legislative Council.

- Correspondence to the Council may be directed to the chairman or Mrs. Louise Giroux, Legislative Research Office, State House, Augusta, 04330.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the 106th Legislature
FROM: Legislative Council
RE: Legislative Studies
DATE: August 30, 1973

As of August 30, the following studies have been assigned to committees or otherwise as indicated.

1. Excise Tax Structure
H.P. # 878 no committee - assigned to staff
2. Personnel Laws
H.P. # 1388 State Government Committee
3. Manner and Costs of Processing Claims
H.P. #1469 Legal Affairs Committee
4. Telecommunications
S.P. # 605 Public Utilities Committee
5. Evaluation of Maine's Disaster Contingency Plans
H.P. # 1496 no committee - assigned to staff
6. Study of Village Corporations
S.P. # 647 Legal Affairs Committee
7. Consumer Credit Code
H.P. # 1551 Business Legislation Committee
8. Commuter-type Tickets for Maine Turnpike
S.P. # 649 Transportation Committee
9. Subject matter of Bill, "An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Act." (H.P. 1375 - L.D. 1831)
S.P. # 655 Natural Resources Committee
(Study to be combined with that of H.P. # 1608 - see #12 below)
10. Review and Evaluation of State Budget Appropriations
H.P. # 1567 Appropriations Committee
11. No-fault Insurance
S.P. # 663 Business Legislation Committee
12. Study of Environmental Laws
H.P. # 1608 Natural Resources Committee
(To be combined with #9 above)

13. Forest Practices Act (H.P. 1301 - L.D. 1757)
H.P. # 1619 Natural Resources Committee
14. Subject Matter of S.P. 406 - L.D. 1208, and H.P. 1397 - L.D. 1808.
S.P. # 675 Labor Committee
15. Subject Matter of H.P. 1377 - L.D. 1833
H.P. # 1626 Appropriations Committee
16. Relative to a Special Commission on Acupuncture
H.P. # 1629 no committee - assigned to staff
(The staff has at this point been asked to find answers to preliminary questions on this subject and report back to the Council)
17. The Maine Housing Authority
S.P.#687 State Government Committee
18. Maine State Retirement System
H.P. # 1387 Veterans and Retirement Committee
19. Trespass on Certain Lands Surrounding Lakes and Other Bodies of Water
(H.P. 459 - L.D. 614)
H.P. # 1634 Judiciary Committee
20. Post-secondary educational services by the University of Maine
S.P. # 688 Education Committee
(Study to be combined with that of S.P. # 699 - see #25 below)
21. Proposals Involving Prison and Parole Reform (L.D.s 473, 1153,
1156, 1262, 1416, 1422, 1730, 1749, 1752 and 1840)
S.P. # 690 Judiciary Committee
22. Funding of Maine Law Enforcement Academy (H.P. 1575 - L.D. 2004)
H.P. # 1636 State Government Committee
23. Prescription Drugs
H.P. # 1642 Appropriations Committee
24. Petition Process Under the Constitution
H.P. # 1644 Judiciary Committee
25. The University of Maine at Portland-Gorham
S.P. # 699 Education Committee
(Study to be combined with that of S.P.#688, see #20 above)
26. Operations and Procedures Employed by the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages
S.P. # 698 Liquor Control Committee
27. (No order)
Study of future impact of Educational Funding Laws
Appropriations Committee

As indicated, the following study orders have been tabled, tabled unassigned, or are not to be studied.

1. Subject matter of L.D. Nos. 87, 107, 119, 147, 181, 243, 482, 574, 671, and 706. (Additional Motor Vehicles Offices)
S.P. # 604 Not to be studied
2. Subject matter of "An Act to Register and License Dispensing Opticians."
(H.P. 1233 - L.D. 1610)
H.P. # 1536 Tabled unassigned
3. Subject matter of H.P. 1115 - L.D. 1451; S.P. 464 - L.D. 1495; H.P. 1291 - L.D. 1679; and H.P. 1357 - L.D. 1813. (Consumer members on Boards and Commissions)
H.P. # 1534 Not to be studied
4. Establishment of Data Processing Center
H.P. # 1535 Tabled unassigned
5. Health Maintenance Organizations
H.P. # 1541 Tabled unassigned
6. Needs and Health Care for Retarded People of Maine
S.P. # 641 Tabled unassigned
7. Advisory Committees assisting Departments of Mental Health and Corrections and Health and Welfare
H.P. # 1542 Tabled unassigned
8. Financing of Certain Bond Issues (L.D.s 211, 639, 1502, and 1744)
S.P. # 650 Not to be studied
9. Marketing and Distributing Gas and Oil in Maine
H.P. # 1569 Tabled unassigned
10. Examinations by Joint Standing Committees on Education, Health and Institutional Services and Transportation
H.P. 657 Tabled unassigned
11. Costs and Benefits of the Liquor Business in Maine
H.P. #1598 Not to be studied
12. Feasibility of Law Courses to Legislators
H.P. # 1601 Not to be studied

13. Existing Regulations and Guidelines Relative to Local School Construction and Transportation
S.P. # 689 Not to be studied
14. Collection of State Income Tax by the Federal Government
H.P. # 1637 Not to be studied
15. Central Computer Services
H.P. # 1638 Tabled unassigned
16. Maine Development Act
S.P. # 693 Not to be studied
17. Special Commission on tax laws
S.P. # 694 Not to be studied
18. County Government
S.P. # 696 Not to be studied
19. Policy-making by students
H.P. # 1643 Not to be studied