

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Legislative Council Chamber

November 28, 1973

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman Simpson.

ROLL CALL

SENATORS: Berry, Brennan, MacLeod, Sewall (Sen. Danton arrived at 2:00 p.m.)

REPRESENTATIVES: Martin, McTeague, Simpson (Reps. Birt and Hewes attended morning session only)

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE OFFICER: William H. Garside

CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Mrs. Suzanne Havens

GUESTS: Niran C. Bates, Director, Richard G. Bachelder, Planning Engineer, and C. Richard LaCasce, Supt. of Buildings and Grounds, Bureau of Public Improvements.

David E. Smith, Director, Central Computer Services

Dr. William E. Schumacher, Director, Bureau of Mental Health

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the secretary's report be accepted as distributed.

Seconded: Rep. Hewes

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Opinions concerning the Maine Turnpike Authority have been received and have been placed in the Legislative Council file.

A memorandum from Spencer Apollonio, Commissioner, Department of Marine Resources, was reviewed by Council members. (Copy attached)

A request for a study of the Public Utilities Commission

COMMUNICATIONS (Cont'd)

and the Central Maine Power Company received from Rep. Roswell E. Dyar was discussed. (This was taken up under new business)

A communication from Col. Parker F. Hennessey, Commissioner of Public Safety, addressed to Niran C. Bates, Director of the Bureau of Public Improvements and concerning availability of space at the Ray Building of the Augusta Mental Health Institute, was reviewed by members of the Council. (Copy attached)

A letter received from Nancy Smith of Union requested that she be allowed to review legislation regarding school funding. The letter was discussed and reply will be forwarded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Legislative Finance Officer - no report.
2. Legislative Staff - See attached reports.
3. Legislative Reorganization - A meeting is scheduled for December 18 at 1:00 p.m.
4. Bill Status Retrieval System - An oral report from David Smith, Director of Central Computer Services, was received.
5. Collective Bargaining - See attached report.
6. Disaster Planning - A report was received and explanation given that events concerning the energy crises have taken place since the report was made. (Report attached)
7. Excise Tax - See attached report.
8. Appropriations and Financial Affairs - The chairman of this Committee advised they are waiting for a report from the Governor's Task Force before submitting their report.
9. Business Legislation - Report attached.
10. Education - Report attached.
11. Health & Institutional Services - Report attached.
12. Judiciary - Report attached. A communication regarding duplication of effort on prison reform study, was discussed and the following motion made:

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That we reconsider our action and that

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)

the Judiciary Committee not study the subject matter contained in S. P. 690.

Seconded: Sen. Sewall

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Labor - no report.
14. Legal Affairs - See attached report.
15. Liquor Control - no report.
16. Natural Resources - There was discussion concerning a duplication of effort between the Natural Resources Committee and the Public Lands Committee concerning the study of a Maine Forest Practices Act.

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the Public Lands Committee be authorized to report out a bill for the special session dealing with forest practices in Maine; that the Natural Resources Committee be informed that there is no need for them to proceed further with this study.

Seconded: Sen. MacLeod

Discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Public Lands - Report attached.
18. Public Utilities - Reports attached.
19. State Government - David Smith of Central Computer Services appeared before the Council and explained the necessity of some legislation acceptable to the Legislature and some direction on whether or not the University of Maine should be included in the computer plan. The following motion carried:

MOTION

Sen. MacLeod: That the Legislative Council request from the Council of State Governments, a technical assistance team to work with Central Computer Services to prepare a master plan for legislation to be submitted by the 107th Legislature; and that the cost of this team be borne by Central Computer Services; and that the study be relative to state computer services only and not to the University of Maine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)

seconded: Rep. Birt

Discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

20. Transportation - no report.

21. Veterans and Retirement - no report.

MOTION

Sen. MacLeod: That the Committee Reports be accepted as presened.

Seconded: Sen. Brennan

Motion carried unanimously.

At 10:30 a.m. the Council recessed so that members could attend the Reference of Bills meeting.

At 11:45 a.m. Dr. William E. Schumacher, Director of the Bureau of Mental Health, presented a problem concerning the phasing out of the services at the Children's Psychiatric Hospital at the Pineland Center. (See attached correspondence)

The Council recessed for lunch and returned at 1:45 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the subject matter of item 1)b) concerning H.P. 1642 - Advertising of Prescription Drugs - be indefinitely postponed.

Seconded: Rep. Simpson

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the subject matter of item 1(b) concerning H.P. 1569 - Marketing and Distributing Oil and Gas - not be considered for study.

Seconded: Rep. Simpson

Motion carried unanimously.

The study of the Maine Management and Cost Survey Report concerning items requiring legislative action was removed

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

from the calendar as proposed legislation covering the report is being handled by the Executive Office.

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the report of the Legislative Staff on Acupuncture be accepted as presented and that no further action be taken in this matter.

Seconded: Rep. Simpson

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Sen. Danton: That Mrs. Helen Ginder be approved as a Legislative Staff Assistant at a salary of \$11,000 effective the week of October 29, 1973.

Seconded: Rep. Martin

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That a salary increase to \$125 a week, with a proviso that she work a 5-day, 8-hour work week, be granted to the clerk of the Public Lands Committee, effective the week of December 3rd.

Seconded: Sen. Danton

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That we authorize the purchase of a filing cabinet for the office of the Minority Floor Leader of the House.

Seconded: Sen. Sewall

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the Education Committee be allowed a public hearing in Machias and that they be reimbursed for expenses of two automobiles.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Seconded: Sen. Sewall

Discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Sen. Berry: That because of the desirability and necessity of the Legislature accomplishing its objectives of the expeditious handling of public business and also because of the limited time available for legislative action, the Bureau of Public Improvements is requested to furnish electric power during those hours that the Legislature, its committees and staff are engaged in the discharge of legislative objectives.

Seconded: Rep. Martin

Discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin: That the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation undertake a study of possible rail passenger transportation.

Seconded: Sen. Danton

Discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION (Concerning a request for study from Rep. Dyar and Rep. Martin)

Rep. Martin: That the Public Utilities Committee undertake a study of the rate-making processes of the Public Utilities Commission.

Seconded: Sen. Brennan

Discussion.

Motion did not carry (Vote of 5-2 - Sen. Berry, Rep. Simpson opposed)

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

MOTION

Sen. Berry: That Legislative Assistant George Viles be authorized expenses to attend a housing conference in New Orleans.

Seconded: Sen. MacLeod

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.