

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Augusta, Maine

Legislative Council Chamber
August 21, 1975

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. SECRETARY'S REPORT

D. STAFF REPORTS

1. Legislative Administrative Director
2. Legislative Staff Assistants Director
3. Law and Legislative Reference Librarian
4. Legislative Research Office Director

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Sen. Ted Curtis, Chairman, State Government Committee re studies
2. Letter from Ms. Lynn Fulton, Director, Bureau of Human services, accepting invitation to be present at August meeting of Legislative Council.
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- 15.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Agriculture
2. Appropriations & Financial Affairs
3. Business Legislation
- (4) Education
5. Election Laws
6. Energy
7. Health & Institutional Services
8. Human Resources
9. Jobs
10. Judiciary
11. Labor
- (12) Legal Affairs
13. Liquor Control
14. Local & County Government
- (15) Marine Resources
16. Natural Resources
- (17) Performance Audit
18. Public Utilities
- (19) State Government
20. Taxation
21. Transportation

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. TABLED AND SPECIALLY ASSIGNED ITEMS:

- a. Establishment of salary policy for legislative staff
- b. Publication of roll call votes
- c. Report of subcommittee establishing direction for study of University of Maine budget
- d. Discussion of Priority Social Services Funding Act with Commissioner David Smith, Ms. Lynn Fulton and Mr. Philip Butterfield

2. TABLED AND UNASSIGNED ITEMS

- a. Discussion of Legislative Account by Chairman of the Legislative Council, President of the Senate and the Legislative Finance Officer
- b. Letter to Director of Legislative Research from West Publishing Co., re L.D. 212, appropriating funds for replacement volumes of the Revised Statutes; also letter from Rep. Walter Birt re this same matter.
- c. Report of the Legislative Council of the 106th Legislature and suggestions for implementing legislation
- d. H.P. 1060, study of the effect of inflation on Maine's elderly living on fixed income
- e. Report on meeting with National Council of State Governments (Sen. Curtis) (Outstanding Invoice - \$27,660)
- f. Report of subcommittee on suggestions for computer savings (Sen. Conley, Rep. Najarian, Rep. Palmer)
- g. Discussion on possibility of internship program for the Legislature during interim
- h. S.P. 537 - Maintenance of legislative records

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sen. Berry, Chairman of Marine Resources Committee, request for authorization to expend an additional \$1,000, if necessary, to complete Phase II of the Marine Resources study on the marine boundary between Maine and Canada.
2. Letter from David Silsby, Director of Legislative Research, concerning space and staffing of his office.
3. Memorandum from Mrs. Havens dated August 4, 1975 re interview with Ford Foundation officers.
4. Letter from Sen. Samuel Collins, Jr. Chairman, Judiciary Committee.
5. Letter from R.L. Halperin, State Tax Assessor, re request for authorization to directly assess the Legislative Document Reference System, dated July 17, 1975
6. Jobs Committee (S.P. 555, including CETA)
7. Property Tax Valuation (S.P. 610)
- 8.
- 9.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMARKS

The next meeting of the Legislative Council will be held September 18, 1975, 10:00 a.m.

J. ADJOURNMENT

STATE OF MAINE

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Date August 4, 1975

Senator Jerrold Speers, Chairman

Dept. Legislative Council

From Suzanne Havens, Chief

Dept. Legislative Assistants

Subject Interview with Ford Foundation Officer

As you requested, I met with Jim Kelly, who is a program officer for the Ford Foundation, when he was at the State House last Wednesday, to discuss with him a possible grant to finance the study of State Property Tax Valuation ordered by S.P. 610. The following is a summary of information received.

1. The Ford Foundation, as I heard, has cut back on its grant programs. However, a decision has been made to fund studies relating to Education Financing and the whole subject of the Property Tax. Therefore, funds are available.
2. A prime requirement of the Ford Foundation is that its grants cannot be used for partisan purposes or for anything which could be construed as lobbying - i.e., as a study to support a policy or oppose it. Objectivity is important. Mr. Kelly felt that the present legislative situation (Republican Senate, Democratic House) and the fact that both Houses are represented either on the Tax Committee or the special committee would be very helpful in avoiding the partisan label and that the order itself would require objectivity in the study. Mr. Kelly indicated possible broad uses of funds which would not violate the foundation policy (which as you know is required for them to maintain non-taxable status) including funding of the research itself, paying for computer time, consultants, publication of the research document itself (they would urge this), possible training of executive branch staff, and so on.
3. The question of who would be the grantee was discussed. Mr. Kelly doubted the sufficiency of a study order to confer the power to accept funds. I looked into this and can report that no legislative entity has the statutory authority to accept such grants. Perhaps this should be looked into further? Anyway, there are probably other ways of channeling the funds, though these may be complex and could be awkward - most would involve the Executive Branch. Perhaps the Attorney General should advise.
4. Mr. Kelly recommended that whether or not whatever committee was authorized decided to submit a grant proposal, the committee might initiate its proceedings by enlisting the help of 2 people whose services would be free - up to a point - and whose advice would be most helpful in such a project.
 - A. John Callahan, who is the director of a current School Finance Project which is under the control of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Task Force on Education. Mr. Callahan is working out of the Washington office of the Council of State Governments.
 - B. Alan Odden, who is the (new, which was emphasized since the old was not so good) director of the School Finance Project of the Education Commission of the States.

Senator Jerrold Speers

August 4, 1975

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Apparently these people have worked cooperatively in the past. I was not able to get a clear picture of exactly what they would do, except perhaps outline how such a study should be conducted, and matters which might be considered.

Mr. Kelly also told me that ACIR might have some interest in such a study.

5. Before our meeting, Mr. Kelly talked with the Education Funding Commission, to which he made the same recommendations he did to me. I don't have any idea what that group plans. Senator Huber is the Chairman.

6. Although no sense of urgency was expressed, Mr. Kelly outlined the time frame for securing funds, which would be at least 2 months. I have no details on how to write a proposal but was assured that forms are available and no "grantsmanship" is necessary. He was perfectly willing to be contacted at any time for answers to further questions.

7. My own opinion is that such a grant might be interesting to pursue. He was clearly discussing a high-powered study which would certainly not be possible with the \$25,000 proposed appropriation. One thing that would bear thinking about is that there are now 4 groups discussing various aspects of the property tax and it might be fruitful to think in terms of some mutual benefit to all four from such a study.