

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

February 27, 1976

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting, held in Room 228, was called to order by the Chairman, Senator Jerrold B. Speers, at 11:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

SENATE:

Sen. Conley, Sen. Cummings, Sen. Speers, Sen. Sewall

HOUSE

Rep. McKernan, Rep. Najarian, Rep. Palmer, Rep. Rolde

Staff: William H. Garside, Legislative Administrative Director
Edith L. Hary, Law Librarian
David S. Silsby, Director, Legislative Research Office

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION

Sen. Conley: That the secretary's report be accepted as presented.

Motion duly seconded and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

The Legislative Administrative Director submitted a report from the Legislative Staff Assistants office containing: a recommendation for salary increases for the two secretaries of that office who have completed their probationary employment period; a request for approval of acceptance of offer of intern assistants from Bates College; an update of drafting progress; a request for direction in submitting final reports on committee studies to the Legislature (this problem resolved before the meeting).

MOTION

Sen. Cummings: That the Legislative Staff Assistant secretaries be elevated to permanent employment status and that they be granted the following salary increases: Earl Knox, from \$142.40 to \$148.80; Sandra Mathieson, from \$130.80 to \$136.40 weekly.

Seconded: Sen. Sewall

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS (continued)

MOTION

Rep. McKernan: That the Legislative Staff Assistants office be allowed to make the arrangements, at no cost to the State, for the legislative intern program as outlined in their memorandum of February 20, 1976, and that the Legislative Administrative Director oversee the entire program.

Seconded: Sen. Sewall

Motion carried unanimously.

The Legislative Administrative Director advised that the long-range plan for legislative space needs has been taken care of and that the revision of statutes relating to legislative agencies is progressing. He presented an updated report on legislative expenditures.

The Law Librarian advised members that in reviewing the statutes concerning the Law and Legislative Reference Library she would prefer to have personnel within her entity remain in the classified State service and under State Personnel Law, except for the Deputy Law Librarian who would be unclassified.

The Director of the Office of Legislative Research advised that he would prefer that the statutes concerning employees of his office remain the same.

In discussing changes that would be necessary in the legislative statutes and in the legislative policy manual, it was decided that the position of Legislative Constituent Officer remain in the law and in the manual. Further discussion suggested a need for wording change in Title 3, section 168 and a review of need for full-time assistants to the legislative leadership in the interim.

MOTION

Sen. Cummings: That the Legislative Research be directed to prepare a bill reflecting the statutory changes as discussed.

Motion duly seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion was made and unanimously carried to take up Item 2 (H) out of order. Senate Paper 610 was then discussed. This Senate Paper authorized the Council to study, through either the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation or through the establishment of a Select Committee on State Property Tax Valuation, the matter of state valuation.

It was moved and carried unanimously that the study be referred to a Select Committee on State Property Tax Valuation.

COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION

Sen. Conley: That the communications be accepted and placed on file.

Motion duly seconded and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A report was received from the Joint Standing Committee on Election Laws. It was moved and unanimously carried to accept the report and place it on file.

OLD BUSINESS

TABLED AND SPECIALLY ASSIGNED

1. Study of University of Maine budget

Rep. Palmer reported that a report of the subcommittee had been distributed to Members of the Legislature and that the subcommittee was waiting for a response to the report.

All other items under Old Business were tabled and assigned to the next meeting of the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Funding of legislative study

There was considerable discussion concerning the employment of Stephen Lakis of The State Legislative Leaders Foundation to study the Maine Legislature. Members were concerned with the manner in which Mr. Lakis was hired; the funding of the study; how much input legislative staff should contribute and the length of time Mr. Lakis would be employed in this study. Discussion concluded with a decision to invite Mr. Lakis to appear before the next meeting of the Council.

2. Item 2 (re SP 610, Property tax) had been taken out of order after staff reports.

3. Education Finance

Membership on the Educational Finance Commission which will study educational funding of other states was discussed briefly. The Senate members selected for this committee will be the same Senate members presently on the Joint Standing Committee on Education.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.