

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JULY 13, 1978

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers and called to order by Rep. John L. Martin, Chairman, at 11:25 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Conley

Representatives: Rep. Martin, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Tierney

Staff: Helen Ginder, Legislative Assistants Coordinator  
Ronald Lord, Legislative Finance Officer

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing was taken up under "Old Business"

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman explained to the members that this meeting was called based on the Governor's request for suggestions on when to convene the Legislature for a special session. Rep. Martin asked for the feelings of the Council.

Rep. Tierney remarked that the session should begin as soon as possible. Rep. Quinn suggested having a committee assigned to begin preparing data before the session convened, adding that an immediate announcement of a later session date would give time for necessary printing.

The Chairman advised that it would be possible to handle the matter of taxation limitations in one or two days. He also stated that if the Governor requested other items to be taken up during this session, such as adjustments in the budget or the helmet law, that action would cause a lengthier session. He suggested that if this did occur, the Legislature should convene in the last part of August.

MOTION

Rep. Quinn moved to recommend to the Governor that the special session be set for September 5, 1978.

Sen. Conley seconded the motion.

Rep. Martin stated that an early announcement would be helpful in allowing the committees to start referring proposed legislation from various groups.

Rep. Quinn suggested having a committee set up of those who are concerned with this idea and are not involved candidates for a major office. He questioned whether this would be handled as a taxation, appropriation or constitutional measure. Rep. Tierney stated that the proposed draft on taxation limitation is an appropriation matter, which puts a "cap" on how much the State can spend and that it shouldn't be handled as a tax item. He added that if this matter were assigned to a special committee during an election year, there would be no way to stop the candidates from being on the committee. Rep. Tierney stated that there are good joint standing committees and that the Council should go with a standing committee.

Rep. Martin said that the tax limitation refers to a "spending cap" being imposed on State spending and is an appropriation issue. Sen. Conley stated that the Appropriation Committee is an extremely important committee and has worked with the state dollars totally. He added that they should have the broadest idea of what is available and how it would affect the general budget overall. Rep. Conley suggested that if additional legislation is allowed in, other than the Governor's call, leadership should take a stand to have these items postponed until January.

MOTION

Rep. Tierney moved that the Appropriation Committee be assigned to the matter of taxation limitations.

Sen. Conley seconded the motion.

Sen. Conley advised that the Council have the committee work on the drafts immediately so that by the September 5th date the Legislature would be ready for action.

MOTION

Rep. Quinn moved that the chairmen be instructed to activate their committee immediately in order to begin hearings.

Rep. Martin advised that the committee could begin with the 6th draft of the taxation limitation proposal, the information with the property tax exemption proposal of Rep. Brennerman, Rep. Wyman and Rep. Diamond and other critical staff work.

Rep. Martin stated that Helen Ginder, Legislative Assistants Coordinator requested that the issue on printing the draft of the proposal be discussed at this meeting. Helen Ginder asked for authorization to print 250 copies of the proposal for distribution to every legislator and other in-house agencies interested. After discussion it was agreed to authorize the printing of 300 copies of the proposal for distribution to legislators and in-house agencies. It was also decided to have the material available for the public if they wished a Xerox copy. It was determined that the cost of printing and mailing would run around \$400.

MOTION

Sen. Conley moved that the Chairman get in touch with the Governor to discuss the results of today's Council meeting.

Rep. Martin advised the Council members that the regularly scheduled monthly meeting which was set for July 28th has been cancelled. He added that the August meeting would be set later to allow time for the necessary paper work and so that the authorization of printing the bills could be taken care of at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:55 a.m. Sen. Conley moved that the meeting be adjourned.