

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 1980

CALL TO ORDER

A scheduled meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Legislative Council Chambers, Room 327, and called to order by Sen. Richard H. Pierce, Chairman, at 2:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Conley, Sen. Katz, Sen. Pierce, Sen. Pray,
Sen. Sewall

Representatives: Rep. Garsoe, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Tarbell,
Rep. Tierney

Staff: William Garside - Legislative Administrative Director
David S. Silsby - Legislative Research Director
Ronald Lord - Legislative Finance Officer
Mary Lou Debeham - Deputy Law Librarian
William Brown - Legislative Assistant

Guest: Ralph Gelder, Chairman - Public Utilities Commission
Lincoln Smith, Commissioner - Public Utilities Commission
Diantha Carrigan, Commissioner - Public Utilities Commission
Lanning Mosher, Director - Employee Relations

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1. Ralph Gelder, Chairman, Lincoln Smith, Commissioner, Diantha Carrigan, Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission, briefed the Council on various issues and procedures before the Public Utilities Commission. Some of the issues discussed were:

1. Regulation on rates and services of electric, gas, water, and telephone utilities;
2. Transportation area - Regulation of the rates of trucks, buses, railroads and Casco Bay Lines or water carriers;
3. Sears Island;
4. Natural Gas - (much cheaper than oil;)
5. Railroad rates; freight rates;

6. Water companies;
7. Sanitary districts - Regulation of sanitary districts; (have not been regulated);
8. Conformance to the Administrative Procedures Act; and
9. Workload and staffing considerations.

Item #5. Lanning Mosher, Director, Employee Relations - Contract Negotiations

MOTION

Sen. Conley moved that the meeting be adjourned to go into executive session to deal with Item #5. (adjourned at 3:40 p.m.)

The motion was seconded by Rep. Mitchell and carried unanimously.

Reconvened in open session at 4:10 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

William Garside, Legislative Administrative Director, recommended the Council's approval for a one-step increase for Mary Irvine of the Law Library, from \$336.80 to \$353.20 to become effective April 1, 1980.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the request for the recommended merit increase be accepted.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Tarbell and carried unanimously.

Letter - Regarding authorization to continue experimental computer terminal hookup to NSF. Project enabling Legislative Staff to communicate involves 12 hours computer time at a cost of \$96.

MOTION

Sen. Conley moved that the request be accepted for 12 hours of computer time for \$96.

The motion was seconded by Sen. Pray and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Agriculture - Letter from Chairman of Agriculture Committee regarding Sunset Review of Pesticide Review.

MOTION

Sen. Conley moved that this report be accepted and placed on file.
The motion was seconded by Rep. Tarbell and carried unanimously.

Audit and Program Review - Request Committee members receive per diem and expenses for interim work on Sunset Review.

MOTION

Sen. Conley moved that the request be accepted.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Garsoe and carried by Sen. Conley, Sen. Katz, Sen. Pierce, Rep. Garsoe, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Tarbell - Opposed - Rep. Tierney, Sen. Pray, Sen. Sewall. Further discussion

MOTION

Sen. Conley also moved that authorization for 5 meetings be approved for interim work on Sunset Review.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Garsoe and carried unanimously.

Business Legislation - Majority and Minority report

MOTION

Sen. Conley moved that this report be accepted and placed on file.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Tarbell and carried unanimously.

Education - Extension of Study Order S.P. 580 relating to Maine Education Laws Codification as authorized by the 108th Legislature.

MOTION

Rep. Tarbell moved that this be tabled.

The motion was seconded by Sen. Conley and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Ronald Lord, Legislative Finance Officer - Hiring of Program Analyst.

MOTION

A motion was made that the hiring of a Program Analyst be tabled.

The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Rule Change -

MOTION

A motion was made that the rule change be tabled.

The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS con't

Item #2. Request from United Press International for assignment of a key to the copying machines, the use of which to be billed to them.

MOTION

Rep. Tarbell moved that the authorization be accepted and to include all press.

The motion was seconded by Sen. Pray and carried unanimously.

Item #3. Continuing Legal Education (CLE Seminar) - Reimbursement to the University of Maine School of Law and Legislators.

MOTION

Rep. Tierney moved that the reimbursement be authorized.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Mitchell and carried unanimously.

Item #4. Joint Studies - Motions were made concerning the following studies:

1. Siting of Manufactured Housing, Resolve c. 54, L.D. 2021, Approved unanimously.

2. Sanitary District Charters, HP 2050 - Funding \$500 . - Subcommittee approved - Opposed- Sen. Pierce
3. Motor Vehicle Carriers Regulation - Funding \$800 - Approved Opposed - Sen. Pray
4. Wood Measurement, HP 2008. Rejected
5. Housing Policy HP 2047. Rejected without motion
6. Personnel S.P. 814. Rejected without motion
7. Pesticide Control Board. Approved unanimously
8. Legislative Budget S.P. 819. Rejected (Opposed - Sen. Conley, Sen. Pray, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Tierney)
9. Retirement fund evaluation HP 2044 (deferred pending letter to the Governor - Governor just had study)
10. Home Winterization Program. Approved unanimously. Transferred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources - Funding \$500 - Subcommittee not to exceed 5 members.
11. Office of Energy Resources SP 772. Approved unanimously Funding - none
12. Environmental Health HP 1990. Approved unanimously - Funding - \$375.
13. Dental Health HP 2032 (Indef P.P. Unanimous) Letter to Dental Health from Chairman.
14. Fisheries and Wildlife, Recreation Division HP 1864 (Rejected)
15. Oil Spills, liability of Petroleum Handlers, HP 2043 Approved unanimously - Funding \$375.
16. Revision Retirement Statutes, Staff Study (without motion)
17. County Government Law Review, Staff Study (without motion)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that the Council meeting be adjourned (4:35 p.m.)
The motion was seconded by Sen. Conley and carried unanimously.