

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January 30, 1986

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Minutes of January 21, 1986, Council Meeting

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

V. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Submission of Study Reports

- Joint Standing Committee on State Government: Study of State Personnel System
- Joint Standing Committee on Taxation: Study of Taxation of Telecommunications
- Joint Standing Committee on Taxation: Study of Tax Expenditures
- Business and Commerce Committee: Study of the Social Worker Registration Act
- Joint Standing Committee on Business and Commerce: Study of the Current Crisis in Property Casualty and Liability Insurance

Item #2: Special Select Commission on the Administration and Financing of General Assistance: Request for extension to First Regular Session of the 113th legislature and increases appropriation.

Item #3: Request for extension of Deadline for Study of Safety and Sanitary Conditions of Railroad Employees pursuant to 1985 Private and Special, Chapter 63 (Letter from P. Daniel Coyne, Director, Bureau of Labor Standards).

SENATE

JUDY C. KANY, DISTRICT 17, CHAIR
DAVID T. KERRY, DISTRICT 31
WALTER W. HICHENS, DISTRICT 35

TED POTTER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JANET BELANGER, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

DAN A. GWADOSKY, FAIRFIELD, CHAIR
CONSTANCE D. COTE, AUBURN
BRADFORD E. BOUTILIER, LEWISTON
ARTHUR G. DESCOTEAUX, BIDDEFORD
ELAINE LACROIX, OAKLAND
GUY R. NADEAU, SACO
ROBERT G. DILLENBACK, CUMBERLAND
DONALD F. SPROUL, AUGUSTA
ALBERTA M. WENTWORTH, WELLS
CLYDE A. HICHBORN, LAGRANGE

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

January 15, 1986

Representative John N. Diamond, Chairman
Legislative Council
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Representative Diamond:

Enclosed is the final report of the Joint Standing Committee on State Government of the 112th Legislature on its study of the State Personnel System: employee recruitment and retention. This was authorized by the Legislative Council, and the final report is required to be presented to the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. We hope the 112th Legislature will find this report valuable.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Judy C. Kany in cursive.

Senator Judy C. Kany
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of Dan A. Gwadosky in cursive.

Representative Dan A. Gwadosky
House Chair

enclosure
TP/e1k/4587

SENATE

R. DONALD TWITCHELL, DISTRICT 15
G. WILLIAM DIAMOND, DISTRICT 27
JEROME A. EMERSON, DISTRICT 9

JULIE JONES, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
BUNNY THURSTON, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

H. CRAIG HIGGINS, PORTLAND, CHAIR
RICHARD E. MCCOLLISTER, CANTON
JOHN A. CASHMAN, OLD TOWN
MERLE NELSON, PORTLAND
DANA S. SWAZEY, BUCKSPORT
JOSEPH W. MAYO, THOMASTON
GENNETTE M. INGRAHAM, HOULTON
PHILIP C. JACKSON, HARRISON
STEPHEN M. ZIRNKILTON, MOUNT DESERT
MARY C. WEBSTER, CAPE ELIZABETH

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

January 22, 1986


Rep. John N. Diamond, Chairman
Legislative Council
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

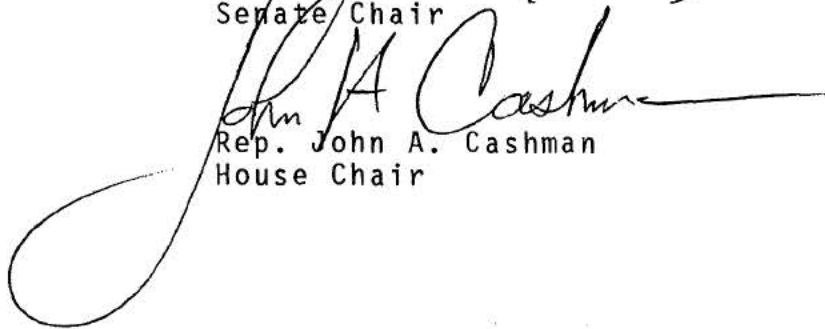
Dear John:

Enclosed is the final report of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation resulting from its study of the taxation of telecommunications as authorized by the Legislative Counsel.

Our recommendations include a proposed amendment to L.D. 699, AN ACT to Realign the Tax Laws of the State as they Relate to Telecommunications which is included with the report.

Sincerely,


Sen. R. Donald Twitchell
Senate Chair


Rep. John A. Cashman
House Chair

4712

SENATE

R. DONALD TWITCHELL, DISTRICT 15
G. WILLIAM DIAMOND, DISTRICT 27
JEROME A. EMERSON, DISTRICT 9

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

January 22, 1986


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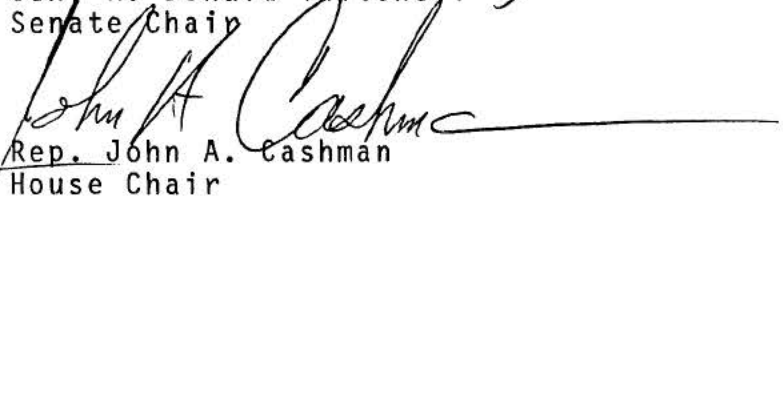
Dear John:

Enclosed is the final report of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation resulting from its study of tax expenditures as authorized by 36 M.R.S.A. §199.

Our recommendations include one proposed bill relating to the the insurance premium tax. This bill is included with the report.

Sincerely,


Sen. R. Donald Twitchell
Senate Chair


Rep. John A. Cashman
House Chair

4712

SENATE

BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN, DISTRICT 19, CHAIR
DAVID T. KERRY, DISTRICT 31
CHARLOTTE ZAHN SEWALL, DISTRICT 20

JERI B. GAUTSCHI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
SANDRA CHESLEY, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

JOSEPH C. BRANNIGAN, PORTLAND, CHAIR
HILDA C. MARTIN, VAN BUREN
ROBERT E. MURRAY, JR., BANGOR
PATRICIA M. STEVENS, BANGOR
JOHN A. ALIBERTI, LEWISTON
CHARLENE B. RYDELL, BRUNSWICK
JOHN TELOW, LEWISTON
RICHARD W. ARMSTRONG, WILTON
ALAN L. BAKER, ORRINGTON
GERALD A. HILLOCK, GORHAM

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

January 21, 1986

Representative John Diamond
Chair, Legislative Council
Maine Legislature
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Representative Diamond:

Enclosed for your information is the final report of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Commerce of its study on the Social Worker Registration Act. The report primarily focuses on recommendations which should clarify functions and qualifications of social workers.

Sincerely,


Sen. Beverly Miner Bustin
Senate Chair


Rep. Joseph Brannigan
House Chair

enclosure
JG/elk/4682

SENATE

BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN, DISTRICT 19, CHAIR
DAVID T. KERRY, DISTRICT 31
CHARLOTTE ZAHN SEWALL, DISTRICT 20

JERI B. GAUTSCHI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
SANDRA CHESLEY, COMMITTEE CLERK



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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

January 21, 1986

Representative John Diamond
Chair, Legislative Council
Maine Legislature
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Representative Diamond:

The Joint Standing Committee on Business and Commerce is pleased to submit for your use the final report on its study of the current crisis in property casualty and liability insurance. The report discusses causes and possible solutions to the problem.

Sincerely,

Beverly Miner Bustin
Sen. Beverly Miner Bustin
Senate Chair

Joseph C. Brannigan
Rep. Joseph Brannigan
House Chair

enclosure
JG/e1k/4682

SPECIAL SELECT COMMISSION
ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE

January 16, 1986

Rep. John Diamond, Chairman
Legislative Council
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Rep. Diamond:

The Special Select Commission on the Administration and Financing of General Assistance was established by the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature by Private and Special Laws, Chapter 79. It is composed of Legislators and representatives of municipalities, welfare departments, private nonprofit charitable organizations, and low-income recipients.

General Assistance seems to be a topic which is constantly before the Legislature. During the 111th Legislature, several major revisions were enacted to the general assistance law. The Department of Human Services reported on the effects of those changes to the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. Last year the 112th Legislature also enacted several major changes to the general assistance laws. The cost of the general assistance program to Maine has increased tremendously in recent years. As a result of these series of changes and the increase in general fund and municipal expenditures for general assistance and because of the report received by the Legislature late in the session from the Department, the Legislature created the Special Select Commission to study the Administration and Financing of the General Assistance laws.

Unfortunately, the legislation establishing this commission was not emergency legislation. This commission could not begin its study until after the September effective date of the enabling legislation. The committee has already held three meetings. The most recent meeting heard testimony from individuals who administer the law, from individuals who receive the benefits provided in the law and from advocates who assist both groups. In addition, the commission is preparing a questionnaire to further complete its duty to "inquire into the experience and adequacy of the present methods of administration and financing of the general assistance program and the extent to which low-income citizens currently receive the benefits provided by law."

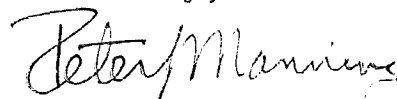
The task which this commission was given requires a careful and comprehensive analysis of the current law and its implementation as well as proposals to improve the administration and financing of the general assistance program. One of the important questions which this commission hopes to resolve is the proper roles of the municipalities and the state in general assistance. Much interest and sincere effort to honestly evaluate this issue has been forthcoming from the members of the commission. This commission will attempt to go beyond the accusations of abuse of the system and abuse by the administrators which is prevalent in discussions of this issue.

We have realized that if this commission is to accomplish anything other than a cursive and meaningless "once over" of the general administration system, it will not be able to report any findings in time for consideration by this Legislature. These are issues which are repeatedly before the Legislature. It would defeat the purpose of the study and invite more repetitious legislation to prepare anything less than a complete and thoughtful report on these issues. Accordingly, we request that emergency legislation which amends the reporting date to the First Regular Session of the 113th Legislature and which increases the appropriation an additional \$5,000, be approved for introduction.

This commission represents one of the few real efforts for all of the parties involved in General Assistance (including the Department of Human Services) to be involved and committed to a constructive joint effort to resolve some of the serious General Assistance issues confronting our state. It is unfortunate that the commission was unable to start until September because of the effective date of the enabling legislation. I sincerely hope that this commission's efforts can be realistically supported by the Legislature in its attempt to reach a meaningful conclusion.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. If there are any questions you have concerning this request, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rep. Peter Manning, Chair

JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE

PATRICIA M. MCDONOUGH
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

P. DANIEL COYNE
Bureau Director

STATE HOUSE STATION 45
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 22, 1986

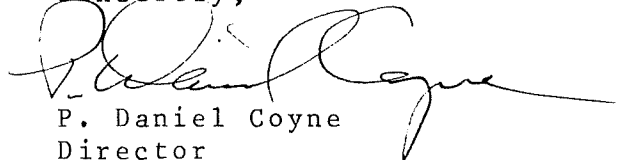
Representative John N. Diamond, Chairman
Legislative Council
State House Station #2
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Representative Diamond:

Please be advised that the Commissioner of the Department of Labor has directed the Bureau of Labor Standards to conduct a study of safety and sanitary conditions to which railroad employees are subject in accordance with 1985 Private and Special Law, Chapter 63.

The Bureau's field work for the study is scheduled to be completed by February 1, 1986 and the study report itself is scheduled to be completed in mid-February. However, I understand from Representative Edith Beaulieu that all study reports must be submitted by January 29. Because we were unaware of this deadline I would like to request an allowance of three weeks in order that the study be completed and submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Sincerely,



P. Daniel Coyne
Director

PDC/kgg

cc: Senator Dennis Dutremble
Representative Edith Beaulieu