

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Lynn Randall  
Legislative Council Info.



REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY  
CHAIR

SEN. DENNIS L. DUTREMBLE  
VICE-CHAIR

STATE OF MAINE

116th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

EN. DONALD E. ESTY, JR.  
EN. PAMELA L. CAHILL  
SEN. BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN  
SEN. DAVID L. CARPENTER  
REP. JOHN L. MARTIN  
REP. WALTER E. WHITCOMB  
REP. PATRICK E. PARADIS  
REP. STEPHEN M. ZIRNKILTON

SARAH C. TUBBESING  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Thursday, January 7**

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

**Approved February 2, 1993**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Representative Gwadosky, called the Council meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Council Chamber

### **ROLL CALL**

<b>Senators:</b>	Sen. Dutremble, Sen. Esty, Sen. Cahill, Sen. Bustin, Sen. Carpenter
<b>Representatives:</b>	Speaker Martin, Rep. Gwadosky, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Paradis, Rep. Zirkilton
<b>Legislative Officers:</b>	Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian John Wakefield, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Martha Freeman, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis David Kennedy, Revisor of Statutes Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Summary of the Council's December 2 meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Carpenter; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

None.

## **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Chair, Representative Gwadosky, noted that none of the recently-appointed Committees had met yet, but that he would be convening the Personnel Committee within the next two weeks.

No Council action was required.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item #1: Submission of Study Reports**

- Joint Select Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Statewide Health Insurance Program (study authorized by the Legislative Council on August 22, 1991).
- Staff Study on Confidentiality of Public Records, by Deborah C. Friedman, Office of Policy & Legal Analysis (authorized by the Legislative Council, April, 1992).

**Motion:** That the reports be accepted and placed on file.  
(Motion by Sen. Cahill; second by Sen. Esty; unanimous).

### **Item #2: Procedures for Implementing Joint Rule Provisions**

- Addressing Duplicate and Closely-Related Bill Requests
- Unlimited Cosponsors

Sally Tubbesing drew Council members' attention to materials in their agenda packets related to both issues. At the Chair's request, David Kennedy, Revisor of Statutes, provided the following information:

**Duplicate and Closely-Related Bills**

Mr. Kennedy noted that the 115th Council had unanimously endorsed a proposal last fall to amend the Joint Rules as they pertain to the confidentiality of bill titles after cloture. Because that proposal is still under consideration by the Joint Select Committee on Rules, Mr. Kennedy expressed his view that it was important for the Council to, once again, adopt procedures to deal with the 800 bill requests that appear to be duplicates or closely related. He reviewed with Council members the procedures that had been adopted two years ago and proposed minor changes in order to improve the process.

In response to a question from Sen. Cahill, he verified that the proposed procedures would give members two opportunities for "opting out" - that is, deciding not to combine their bill request with other apparently similar ones.

**Motion:** That the Council adopt the proposed system for duplicate and closely-related bills. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

**Note:** A copy of the procedures is attached to this Meeting Summary.

**Unlimited Cosponsors**

Speaker Martin explained the proposed procedures for accommodating the new amendment to the Joint Rules that permits unlimited cosponsors on bills, noting that he and Senate President Dutremble had met with David Kennedy, the Secretary of the Senate Joy O'Brien, the Clerk of the House Joe Mayo, and Sally Tubbesing to consider options. Mr. Kennedy reported that he had reviewed the proposed procedures with his staff and that all agreed to try implementing them within existing staff, though he noted that the new rule could create significant additional loads on data entry and proofreading.

**Discussion focussed on the implications of the new rule:**

- Sen. Dutremble expressed concern that it could increase the time required to get bills in the process if sponsors failed to return their completed cosponsor sheets on time; while Sen. Esty speculated that the rule might be a time saver ultimately, because it put the responsibility for obtaining cosponsor signatures clearly on the sponsor. Rep. Zirnkilton pointed out that the new rule might decrease the number of duplicate and closely-related bills.

- Sen. Cahill, noting that she opposed the amendment to the Joint Rules, expressed concern that sponsors would enlist others - namely, staff and lobbyists - in getting cosponsors' signatures. Speaker Martin pointed out the cosponsor signature page did require the actual signature. All Council members agreed that the Revisor's Office would in no way be held responsible for verifying signatures.
- Rep. Gwadosky asked for clarification that all cosponsors' names would appear on the printed bill and was assured that this would be the case.

Finally, Rep. Whitcomb commended the presiding officers for having done an excellent job of developing a method for implementing the new rule.

**Motion:** That the proposed procedures be approved.  
(Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

**Item #3: After Deadline Requests**

Requests to introduce legislation to the First Regular Session were considered by the Legislative Council. A summary of the Council's action on these requests is attached to this meeting summary.

**Discussion:** The Council engaged in extended discussion related to Senator Dutremble's bill request, "An Act to Clarify Legislative Intent Regarding the Maine Mutual Insurance Rate Structure". After discussing various alternatives, they unanimously agreed to schedule a special Council meeting on Monday, January 11, at 3 p.m., to meet with representatives from the Mutual Insurance Fund Board.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS**

Rep. Gwadosky drew members' attention to two coming events:

**1) Special Orientation Session for New Council Members**

Tuesday, January 12  
3:00 p.m.  
Legislative Council Chamber

**2) Seminar on Science and Technology for all legislators**

Thursday, January 14  
1:30 - 3 p.m.  
Room 113

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Council meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m., on the motion of Sen. Dutremble.