

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

DONALD E. ESTY, JR.
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

February 2, 1993

MEETING SUMMARY

Approved March 2, 1993

CALL TO ORDER

The Council meeting was called to order by the Chair,
Representative Gwadosky, at 3:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Dutremble, Sen. Esty, Sen. Cahill,
Sen. Bustin, Sen. Carpenter

Representatives: Rep. Gwadosky, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep.
Paradis, Rep. Zirnkilton
Absent: Speaker Martin

Legislative Officers: 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
Margaret Matheson, Principal Analyst,
Office of the Revisor
Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate
Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the January 7, 1993, Council meeting was approved
and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill;
unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, reported that David Kennedy had informed her that the effort to combine duplicate and closely-related bills had resulted in the withdrawal of approximately 200 bill requests. She noted that this would reduce the initial bill load from slightly more than 2,000 to about 1,800, a number that would be augmented by both Governor's bills and approved after deadline bills.

No Council action was required.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Representative Gwadosky announced that the Budget Committee, which had met once, would continue its discussions following adjournment of the Council meeting.

He further reported that the Personnel Committee had met the previous week and, after a general orientation, had begun consideration of a sick leave bank for legislative staff. Neither Committee had any report for general Council consideration at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, asked the Council's leave to take Item #4 under New Business out of order. There being no objection, the Council proceeded to consider this item.

Item #4: After Deadline Bill Requests

After deadline requests were considered by the Legislative Council. The Council's action on these requests is included on the attached list.

RECESS

Motion: That the Council meeting be recessed until after adjournment of both houses. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Esty; unanimous).

The Council then recessed at 3:59 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Council meeting reconvened at 5:17 p.m. All Council members were present, except Speaker Martin; and the Chair, Representative Gwadosky proceeded with the printed agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Item #1:** Request from Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council to Provide Funds for an Evaluation of the Service.

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to the letter which had been included in the agenda packet. She noted that the Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council had been created by legislation that took effect in 1990, and that the expense of having interpreters for the hearing disabled at every Advisory Council meeting had been funded out of the legislative account pursuant to action of the 114th Legislative Council. She reported that the survey that the Advisory Council now proposes is required by the original law and that the total estimated cost of the mailed survey would be less than \$500.

Motion: That this item be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

- Item #2:** Senate Resolution expressing the Sense of the Senate that the Legislative Council Authorize Formation of a Task Force to address the issues related to the workers' compensation rate structure.

Motion: That this item be tabled. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

- Item #3:** Revenue Forecasting Committee Created by Executive Order #4 FY 92/93.

Ms. Tubbesing summarized the material that had been included in the agenda packet. The Executive Order establishes two separate committees: a Consensus Forecasting Commission and a Revenue Forecasting Committee. The latter committee comprises 5 members, who all serve ex officio; one of these is the Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. She noted that former Senate President Pray and Speaker Martin had originally objected to the Executive Order on the grounds that it violated the principle of separation of power. Ms. Tubbesing reported that the Revenue Forecasting Committee has now met, and that Mr. Wakefield has not participated, given that the Council has not authorized his involvement.

Council members' discussion focussed on a) whether the separation of power issue had been satisfactorily addressed (Rep. Paradis); and b) whether Mr. Wakefield had time to participate on this Committee (Sen. Dutremble). Mr. Wakefield responded that the Committee meets 4 times a year, and he felt that this would be manageable. He further observed that the Office's participation on the Committee would improve the level and quality of information related to the revenue projection process that is available to the Office.

Motion: That the item be tabled. (Motion by Sen. Cahill; second by Sen. Dutremble; unanimous).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Various Council members requested, and received, the Chair's permission to raise several issues for Council discussion, none of which required formal Council action.

- Taxation Committee Public Hearings

Sen. Cahill asked whether the Taxation Committee had been authorized to schedule hearings around the State and whether this needed Council authorization. Rep. Gwadosky responded that the presiding officers had the authority to approve these expenses. Sen. Dutremble added that such activity had not been authorized yet and that he would keep Sen. Cahill informed about this matter.

- Committee on Programs and Conferences

Sen. Cahill inquired whether this Committee had been appointed, whether it had met, and whether it had agreed to the Legislature's participation in the all day "summit" being cosponsored by MMA and the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She expressed concern about the number of workshops and conferences that had been scheduled and that took full days out of legislators' schedules. Sen. Dutremble agreed with her concern.

Rep. Gwadosky noted that this particular conference had been scheduled prior to the Council's discussion in December of the need to create a vehicle to "manage" the conference calendar. He reported that he had appointed a Committee on Programs and Conferences and, further, that he would be happy to ask that Committee to meet if the Council wanted to establish a formal approval process.

- Council of State Government Dues

Sen. Dutremble reported that he wanted the Council to take up the issue of paying Maine's annual dues to CSG at its next meeting, noting that he felt it was extremely important for Maine to participate in a forum with other New England States who share common economic problems and conditions.

By consensus, the Council agreed to refer this to the Budget Committee for further discussion.

- Personnel Policies regarding Alcoholism Treatment

Rep. Whitcomb asked whether the Legislature's policies addressed this issue specifically. Rep. Gwadosky agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting of the Personnel Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m., on the motion of Sen. Carpenter.