

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Lynn Randall
Legislative Council Info.



STATE OF MAINE

116th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

March 2, 1993

MEETING SUMMARY

Approved March 16, 1993

SEN. DONALD E. ESTY, JR.
SEN. 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

REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY
CHAIR

SEN. DENNIS L. DUTREMBLE
VICE-CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

The Council meeting was called to order by the Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, at 3:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators:

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

Representatives:

Speaker Martin, Rep. Gwadosky,
Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Paradis,
Rep. Zirnkilton

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
David Kennedy, Revisor of Statutes
Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate
Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the February 2, 1993, Council meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Cahill, second by Sen. Carpenter; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item #1: Adjustments in the Legislative Budget included in the Supplemental Budget, P.L. 1993, Chapter 6.

Sally Tubbesing drew members' attention to a memo that had been distributed in the agenda packet that summarized the impact of the recently passed supplemental budget on the various accounts administered by the Legislature. She noted that it was an informational piece and that she would be happy to answer members' questions.

Motion: That the Director's Report be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Paradis; second by Sen. Carpenter; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Legislative Budget Committee

Sen. Dutremble, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee would be meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, as previously announced.

Personnel Committee

Rep. Gwadosky, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee had met prior to the Council meeting and would be continuing its meeting the following day.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: 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. (Tabled at February 2 Council meeting).

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

Item #2: Revenue Forecasting Committee Created by Executive Order 4 FY 92/93. (Tabled at February 2 Council meeting)

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Submission of Report on Proposed Mandated Health Insurance Benefit for Lead Poison Screening in Children pursuant to statute (Ch. 810, P.L. 1991).

Motion: That the report be accepted and placed on file.
(Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill;
unanimous).

Item #2: Request from Bangor Daily News for Assignment of Additional Space in the State House

Motion: That this item be referred to the Committee on State House Space. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

Item #3: Request from Caucus of New England State Legislatures for Payment of Dues

Motion: That this item be referred to the Legislative Budget Committee. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

Item #4: After Deadline Bill Requests

Before proceeding with the list of After Deadline requests, the Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, asked David Kennedy for a status report on bill drafting. Mr. Kennedy responded that, as of this date, 810 bills had been released to the Secretary and Clerk for reference and printing, and 442 requests had been withdrawn by the sponsors, leaving a total of 939 bills "still to come." Of this number, he reported that more than half were out for sponsor review and signature and 472 had yet to be drafted. He noted that his office was getting more and more requests for substantive revision of drafts sent out for final review and that these requests had an obvious impact on his office's ability to turn its full attention to the bills yet to be drafted. In response to a question from Rep. Gwadosky, he projected that it would be mid-April before all of the bills filed by cloture were finally drafted and released by his office, noting that this date was consistent with prior years.

The discussion that followed Mr. Kennedy's report raised the following issues and questions:

1. Whether sponsors shouldn't be directed to take further changes to the committee rather than have the original bill redrafted, since Committees amend the vast majority of bills that they report out anyway. (Sen. Dutremble).

Mr. Kennedy responded that he thought this should be explored; but that it was difficult to adopt a "new way of doing business" in mid-session. Martha Freeman, Director of Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, expressed her agreement with Mr. Kennedy's concern about changing the rules in mid-stream, but noted that Council members could encourage their respective caucus members to take further changes directly to Committees in order to get the bills out more quickly. Mr. Kennedy agreed that this would be helpful.

After some further discussion, Council members expressed agreement that the presiding officers should make a statement from the rostrum to this effect.

2. Whether the priority attached to Joint Resolutions should be re-examined. (Sen. Esty).

In response to a question from Rep. Gwadosky about the time involved in drafting a Joint Resolution, Mr. Kennedy responded that they went through the entire process in his office -- drafting by an attorney, typing, proofing -- and that they required staff and time resources equivalent to a 1-2 page bill.

Sen. Esty expressed concern that Joint Resolutions were not as high a priority as bills and that the Legislature and individual members had other vehicles available to accomplish the purpose of a Joint Resolution. Sen. Bustin agreed they could be given the lowest priority, but noted that they were an important tool for communicating with -- or "instructing" -- the U.S. Congress.

The Council then proceed with its consideration of After Deadline requests. The Council's action on these requests is included on the attached list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m., on the motion of Sen. Dutremble.