

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

MEETING SUMMARY

September 8, 1993

Approved October 24, 1993

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, called the Council to order at 3:24 pm in the Council Chambers.

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,
Legislative Council
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, Interim Revisor of
Statutes
Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate
Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House
Richard N. Sawyer, Jr., Administrative
Services Director

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the August 16, 1993, meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by President Dutremble; second by Sen. Carpenter; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing reported that she had no items for Council action other than those that appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee

This item was deferred, by unanimous consent of the Council, until all other business had been acted upon.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Request from Jt. Standing Committee on Audit & Program Review for Allocation of Resources to Support Committee's Interim Work Schedule (Tabled at July 14, 1993 meeting).

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Cloture Date and Related Deadlines for Second Regular Session

The Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, noted that the Council's authority to approve bills for introduction to the Second Regular Session is proscribed by the Joint Rules. He drew members' attention to the proposed schedule of deadlines and Council meetings related to this process, noting that one objective of the schedule is to permit all bills to be drafted and printed by the time the Legislature convenes in January.

Motion: That the proposed schedule, as amended, be approved. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Carpenter; unanimous).

A copy of the schedule adopted by the Council is attached to this meeting summary.

Item #2: Notification of Sale of State Property by the Maine Forest Service pursuant to statute.

Motion: That the notification be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Rep. Paradis; unanimous).

Item #3: Joint Select Committee on Rules: Submission of Report

Motion: That the Report be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Rep. Paradis; unanimous).

Discussion: Senator Bustin, who co-chairs the Jt. Select Committee on Rules, noted that the Committee's report was innovated and creative. She stated that while it does not recommend the adoption of concept drafting, it does recommend relaxing the rules of confidentiality as they currently apply to bills introduced in the First Regular Session and that this would achieve many of the efficiencies identified by advocates of concept drafting. She encouraged Council members to read the report and direct their questions, comments and suggestions through Julie Jones, who staffs the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: That the Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Sen. Bustin; unanimous).

The Council proceeded to go into Executive Session at 3:35 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Council reconvened in open session at 4:45 p.m. and proceeded to take up business related to the report from the Personnel Committee, which had been deferred earlier in the meeting.

Motion: That the legislative employees be treated similarly to employees in the executive branch with regard to compensation, with the exception that the schedule of furlough and/or shutdown days be determined by the Council. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Bustin).

Discussion: The Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, clarified that the effect of the pending motion would be to restore 3% and 2% to the salaries of employees from whom these had initially been withheld and award a 7% cost-of-living increase to all legislative employees. The shutdown days would partially offset the cost of this increase.

The vote was then taken, and the motion was approved 7-3.

The Council then proceeded to discuss issues related to the schedule of shutdown days. After some general discussion, members agreed that the Directors should develop a recommended schedule for consideration at the next Council meeting that incorporated the principle of designating certain employees as "emergency personnel" so that the legislative schedule would not be adversely affected.

Motion: That the 2% salary reduction and 3% cost-of-living increase which was originally withheld from the Constitutional Officers be restored and, further, that the Constitutional Officers be eligible for step increases on their next anniversary date. (Motion by Speaker Martin; second by Sen. Bustin).

Discussion: The Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, in response to a question from Sen. Cahill, clarified that because the pending motion did not include the 7% cost-of-living increase, it did not address shutdown days. Rep. Whitcomb then asked if these step increases would require Council action, and the Speaker responded affirmatively.

The vote was then taken, and the motion approved 8-2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:50 p.m.