

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

SEN. DONALD E. ESTY, JR.
SEN. PAMELA L. CAHILL
SEN. BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN
SEN. DAVID L. CARPENTER
REP. PAUL F. JACQUES
REP. WALTER E. WHITCOMB
REP. PATRICK E. PARADIS
REP. STEPHEN M. ZIRNKILTON

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

116th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, July 27, 1994

Approved August 29, 1994

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Dutremble, Sen. Esty, Sen. Bustin Absent: Sen. Cahill and Sen. Carpenter
Representatives:	Speaker Gwadosky, Rep. Jacques, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Paradis Absent: Rep. Zirnkilton
Legislative Officers:	Martha Freeman, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian John Wakefield, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes Millie MacFarland, Assistant Clerk of the House Tim Glidden, Principal Analyst, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Summary of the June 29, Council meeting was approved and placed on file. (Motion by Rep. Jacques; second by Rep. Paradis; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Noting that Sally Tubbesing was attending the NCSL Annual Meeting, the Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, drew Council members' attention to the following items:

Item #1: Resignations of Martha Freeman, Director, Office of Policy & Legal Analysis and Tim Glidden, Principal Analyst, Office of Policy & Legal Analysis

Speaker Gwadosky thanked Ms. Freeman for her hard work and the high degree of professionalism she had brought to her position. Rep. Paradis then expressed his appreciation for Ms. Freeman's contributions to the Judiciary Committee during the years she had staffed it prior to being named to the Director's position in 1988.

Ms. Freeman expressed her appreciation for the Council's recognition of her efforts and then thanked Tim Glidden for his superb work both as staff to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy & Natural Resources and as the Principal Analyst who served essentially as her deputy director. She noted, in particular, his efforts to strengthen collaboration among the non-partisan staff offices and to enhance the use of computers to support both management and analytic functions.

Rep. Jacques then expressed his high regard for both Ms. Freeman and Mr. Glidden, noting that he had always been able to rely on them for unbiased information and support. Rep. Whitcomb echoed this, observing that in the era of term limits, the high level of trust in the Office was particularly important. Senator Esty recalled Ms. Freeman's important role in the Legislature's extended debate on workers' compensation in 1991, noting the stability she brought to those negotiations; and he pointed to Mr. Glidden's work on color, odor and foam and the high quality and reliability of the information he had provided the Committee.

Motion: That the Council accept both resignations with deep regret. (Motion by Sen. Bustin; second by Sen. Esty; unanimous).

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, drew Council members' attention to Ms. Tubbesing's memo related to the search for a new Director and asked Council members who were interested in serving on the Search Committee to let him know.

Item #2: 1993 Laws of Maine, Volume III

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, noted that Volume III of the Laws of Maine was out and that this was the first year in memory that the volume had been available prior to the July 14 effective date for most legislation. At his invitation, Meg Matheson reported that the timely delivery of the publication was attributable to the decision to produce camera-ready copy in house, a decision which also achieved cost savings.

No Council action was required on this item.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES**Committee on Total Quality Management in the Legislature**

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, drew members' attention to the letter from Rep. Kontos, who chairs the TQM Committee, and pointed out that new member orientation has been identified as the highest priority for the Committee's work this summer.

No Council action was required.

Personnel Committee

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, noted that the Committee was scheduled to meet on August 3 to begin performance reviews of the Office Directors.

No Council action was required.

OLD BUSINESS**Item #1: State House Dome Lighting: Progress Report**

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, drew members' attention to the memo from Ms. Tubbesing, which reported results of a meeting related to the lighting design for the Dome. He noted that while the memo required no action by the Council, he wished to have the Council's consensus recorded. There was no objection.

Item #2: International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians

Motion: That the Council approve payment of the dues for the current fiscal year. (Motion by Sen. Dutremble; second by Rep. Jacques).

Discussion:

Rep. Whitcomb asked if the dues to the Council of State Governments had been paid; and, after consultation with Dick Sawyer, Administrative Services Director, the Chair, Rep. Gwadosky, reported that the annual dues to both NCSL and CSG had been processed for payment. Rep. Whitcomb then stated that he had supported the visits that French-speaking parliamentarians from other countries had made to Maine as well as Maine legislators' participation in these activities; however, he expressed concern that the Council have the opportunity to consider dues for all groups at the same time. Sen. Esty concurred and further observed that Sen. Judy Paradis had gone to Haiti through A.I.P.L.F. to oversee the recent elections. Senate President Dutremble also agreed with this, but noted that it was important for the Council to act on the dues to A.I.P.L.F. immediately in order to allow Maine to participate in the annual meetings in New Brunswick in early August.

The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**Item #1: Request from the Maine State Museum for Authorization to Use Capitol Park for a Civil War Encampment**

Motion: That the request be approved (Motion by Sen. Esty; second by Senate President Dutremble; unanimous).

Rep. Whitcomb sought clarification that the group had fulfilled all of the conditions placed on their use of the Park for a similar purpose last year; and Rep. Jacques, referring to the letter from Mr. Phillips, noted that they had.

Item #2: Request from the Office of Health Planning and Development for Council Support of a Conference for Legislators on Rural Health Issues

The Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, drew members' attention to the letter, noting that it requested use of the House Chamber as well as financial support from the Legislature.

Motion: That the request be approved (Motion by Sen. Bustin; second by Rep. Jacques).

At this point, the Chair, Speaker Gwadosky, recognized Helen Zidowecki, representing the Maine Office of Rural Health. Ms. Zidowecki indicated that the conference date had been changed from mid-November to January 18. Speaker Gwadosky posed the question about whether the group's request required Council action; and Sen. Bustin concurred, noting that the use of the House Chamber was not a Council issue. She encouraged Council members, however, to support the conference itself.

The discussion then turned to the timing of the conference, with Senate President Dutremble advocating that the presiding officers should determine whether the date fits with the Legislature's January schedule. Both Rep. Jacques and Rep. Whitcomb concurred that this decision should be made by the presiding officers; and Rep. Whitcomb further suggested that the request be tabled until it could be considered in the context of other similar requests (such as any programs conducted by the Maine Development Foundation). Sen. Esty agreed, noting that the newly-elected leaders and the newly-appointed committee chairs should be involved in planning the legislative schedule. Sen. Bustin observed, however, that the Department of Human Services needed to have some definitive answer regarding this conference within a very short time so that planning could begin, and amended her original motion as follows:

Motion: That the Legislative Council endorse the concept of the proposed conference and that the Chair appoint a subcommittee to work out the scheduling details and make a recommendation to the Council at its next meeting. (Motion by Sen. Bustin; second by Sen. Esty; unanimous).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned on the motion of Senate President Dutremble at 2:55 p.m.