

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAIR

REP. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
VICE-CHAIR

Lynn Randall
Legislative Council Info.

SEN. JEFFREY H. BUTLAND
SEN. R. LEO KIEFFER
SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE
SEN. BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN
REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY
REP. PAUL F. JACQUES
REP. WALTER E. WHITCOMB
REP. JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

117th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

January 17, 1996

Approved February 6, 1996

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Senator Amero, called the Council to order at 9:45 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	Sen. Lawrence, Sen. Kieffer, Sen. Bustin, Sen. Amero Absent: President Butland
Representatives:	Speaker Gwadosky, Rep. Jacques, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Carleton
Legislative Officers:	Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian John Wakefield, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes May Ross, Secretary of the Senate Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House

DECEMBER 5 COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: That the Meeting Summary be approved. (Motion by Rep. Jacques; second by Sen. Lawrence; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing drew Council members' attention to the following items:

Item #1: Personnel Changes

Ms. Tubbesing reported that the following individuals had been hired pursuant to the Council's prior authorization to fill vacant positions on the non-partisan staff:

Office of the Revisor

Hilayne Cavanaugh, Legal Proofreader/session
Thomas Downey, Legal Proofreader
Sarah McSorley, Legal Proofreader/session

Office of Policy & Legal Analysis

Jon Kachmar, Researcher
Kathleen Norris, Secretary/session

No Council action was required on this item.

Item #2: Retirement of Germaine Longley

Ms. Tubbesing announced that Germaine Longley had announced her decision to retire from the legislative staff, effective January 19, after a career in state government of more than 37 years, the last 20 of which had been in the Legislature.

Sen. Amero expressed the Council's appreciation for Mrs. Longley's long service, and asked that the Council's gratitude be conveyed to her.

No formal Council action was required.

Item #3: Bill Drafting: Status Report

At Ms. Tubbesing's suggestion, the Chair, Sen. Amero, recognized Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes, who reported that her office had completed the initial drafting of all bills that had been authorized for introduction to date. She noted that her office was working on changes to a small number of bills, as requested by sponsors, and that the office retained custody of approximately 30 bills pending sponsor/cosponsor signature.

Ms. Tubbesing then drew Council members' attention to the Report of Bills in Committee, observing that the majority of bills had been referred and that Committees had embarked upon their work for the Second Regular Session.

This item required no action by the Council.

Item #4: Interim Study Committees & Commissions: Status

Ms. Tubbesing drew Council members' attention to a Status Report for the statutory study commissions that had been active during the 1995 interim. The Report included information regarding the status of each commission's final report and of its total expenditures to date. She pointed out that three of the Commissions had requested that the Council authorize extensions of their reporting deadlines, an action which would require introduction of legislation in each of the cases.

Motion: That the Council authorize extending the statutory reporting deadline for the **Task Force on Tax Increment Financing** to January 31, 1996. (Motion by Rep. Mitchell; second by Speaker Gwadosky; unanimous).

Motion: That the Council authorize extending the statutory reporting deadline for the **Commission on Higher Education Governance** to March 1, 1996 and that the Commission be requested to revise its schedule to conform to this deadline. (Motion by Rep. Mitchell; second by Rep. Jacques).

Discussion: Rep. Mitchell, noting that the Commission had requested an extension until June 30, expressed her concern that the Legislature would not be in session on June 30 and that her motion to set a March 1 reporting date would assure that this Legislature could respond to the recommendations. Sen. Kieffer asked if the schedule could be compressed.

The vote was taken and the motion was approved **unanimously**.

Motion: That the Council authorize extending the statutory reporting deadline for the **Commission to Study Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering** from November 1, 1995, to February 15 of this year. (Motion by Rep. Jacques; second by Sen. Kieffer; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Committee on Total Quality Management in the Legislature

Sally Tubbesing stated that Representative Carol Kontos, House Chair of the TQM Committee, had a scheduling conflict that prevented her from being available to present the first product of the efforts of the TQM Committee and the TQM Subcommittee on Rules -- a proposed recodification of the Legislature's Joint Rules. (Copies of the proposed recodification were distributed to members subsequently). She conveyed the two committees' recommendation that the Council schedule a working session in the near future to go over the proposed changes.

Speaker Gwadosky acknowledged the enormous amount of time and energy that members of both committees had devoted to this effort and endorsed scheduling a special meeting of the Council to review the proposed recodification.

The Council took no action on this item at this time; however, Sen. Amero indicated that she and Rep. Mitchell would try to schedule a meeting of the Council within the next week for the purpose of reviewing the proposed recodification.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Submission of Reports

- Loring Development Authority of Maine: Annual Report, pursuant to MRSA § 13080
- Study Commission on Property Rights and the Public Health, Safety and Welfare (Resolves of 1995, ch. 45)
- Commission to Study Trespass Laws (Resolves of 1995, ch. 53)
- Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (P.L. 1995, ch. 455)
- Task Force to Review the Beverage Container Law (Resolves of 1995, ch. 52)
- Work Group on Electric Industry Restructuring (Resolves of 1995, ch. 48)

Motion: That each of the reports be accepted and placed on file and that a letter be sent to each commission expressing the Council's appreciation for the Commission's work and their timeliness. (Motion by Rep. Mitchell; second by Rep. Jacques; unanimous).

Item #2: Task Force on Learning Results: Presentation of Major Findings and Discussion

Senator Amero recognized Marjorie Medd, Chair of the Task Force and thanked her for appearing. Ms. Medd, who also chairs the State Board of Education, proceeded to trace the emergence of the Task Force on Learning Results, from the federal "Goals 2000 Project" in the late 1980's, through a series of Maine-based initiatives that brought the education and business communities together to discuss the reform of education in Maine.

Ms. Medd reported that the Task Force had developed "Guiding Principles", as well as "Content Standards," which define "what we want our kids to know and to be able to do." The Report is designed to provide a foundation for systemic change in education, so that all students are prepared, not just some.

Ms. Medd stated that the Task Force's Report has been accepted by the State Board of Education; and the State Board is currently in the process of a) identifying essential services and essential programming; b) looking at school consolidation; and c) working with both the Department of Education and the Board of Higher Education to look at 8 pilot projects in teacher education. She briefly described some of the initiatives which the Task Force felt were critical to the achievement of their goals.

Senator Amero expressed her appreciation for Ms. Medd's presentation and for the leadership she had provided to the very significant achievement that the Task Force's report represents.

Item #3: After Deadline Requests

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. (Motion by Sen. Lawrence; second by Rep. Jacques).