MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib

Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied

(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Lynn Randall
Legislative Council Info.

REP. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
CHAIR

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE
VICE-CHAIR

. CHELLIE PINGREE
. JANE A. AMERO
. ANNE M. RAND
SEN. R. LEO KIEFFER
REP. CAROL A. KONTOS
REP. JAMES O. DONNELLY
REP. MICHAEL V. SAXL
REP. RICHARD H. CAMPBELL

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

118th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

February 27, 1997

Approved March 18, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, called the Council to order at 9:35 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	Sen. Pingree, Sen. Rand, Sen. Kieffer Absent: President Lawrence, Sen. Amero
Representatives:	Speaker Mitchell, Rep. Kontos, Rep. Donnelly, Rep. Saxl, Rep. Campbell
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 Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House Millicent MacFarland, Assistant Clerk of the House

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion: That the Summaries of the January 16, January 22, January 23, and January 30 Council meetings be accepted as amended and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Rand; second by Rep. Kontos; unanimous)..

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing presented the following items to the Council for its consideration:

Item #1: Interpreters for the Deaf

Ms. Tubbesing reported that she has completed contractual arrangements to provide interpreters for the deaf on a regular basis with the Pine Tree Society for Handicapped Children and Adults in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the 117th Legislative Council. Interpreters will be available for committee hearings and work sessions, and committee chairs have been asked by the presiding officers to schedule bills of particular interest to the deaf community on those days. Ms. Tubbesing noted that the interpreters would also be available to work with individual legislators who may wish to arrange meetings involving deaf constituents. The interpreters will be scheduled through the Legislative Information Office.

This item required no formal Council action; however, Rep. Kontos asked that copies of the language that gives the Council responsibility for compliance with ADA requirements be provided at the next Council meeting.

Item #2: Legislative Budget: Adjustments in Governor's Original Recommendations

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to the memo she had written the previous week that reported the adjustments that had been made in the Governor's Recommendations for the accounts included in the Legislative Department. The Governor's recommended reduction has been cut from $1,207,084 to $688,534. She noted that these revised figures are included in the Governor's budget bill, which has recently been printed.

This item did not require Council action.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Search Committee, Director of Legislative Information Services

In the absence of the Chair, Senate President Lawrence, Sally Tubbesing reported that the Subcommittee had initially selected 10 candidates to spend a day at the State House to visit many of the legislative offices and meet with various members of the Search Committee. The Search Committee then selected 4 candidates to invite back for a formal interview with a subcommittee of the full Search Committee, and those interviews had taken place the previous day (Wednesday, February 27).

Ms. Tubbesing concluded by saying that the Subcommittee would be scheduling a meeting to review the results of calls to references provided by each candidate and hoped to have a recommendation to present to the full Council at its March meeting.

This report required no formal action by the Council.

Committee on Legislative Information Technology

Senator Pingree, Committee Chair, reported that she and Rep. Carleton have started a Legislators' Internet User's Group and that the group had met in the new area, on the 1st floor, which has recently been equipped with computers for legislators' exclusive use. The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, suggested that members might need another memo indicating that the area is open and available for use.

The Council took no formal action on this item.

CSG/ERC '97 Legislative Steering Committee

Rep. Kontos, who co-chairs the Committee with Sen. Amero, reported that the Committee was completing plans for the ERC Executive Committee meeting which would be convened in Portland the weekend of March 7-9. Maine is responsible for hosting dinners on both Friday and Saturday nights during the meeting, and Rep. Kontos encouraged Council members to attend. She stated that the Steering Committee would be meeting later that day to begin fleshing out the details for the summer program.

Finally, she reported that Hugh Farrington, President and CEO for Hannaford Bros., and Mike McNamara, who is CEO and President of Key Bank of Maine, have agreed to co-chair the Private Sector Host Committee, which will assume primary responsibility for overseeing the fund-raising that will be required to fund the Social activities for the summer meeting. She concluded that both she and Sen. Amero continue to be confident that the fund raising goal - $125,000 - is "very doable."

This item require no formal Council action.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: State House: Maintenance and Repair Issues

Sally Tubbesing drew members' attention to an item in their packets which listed the major repair and renovation projects that constitute the "State House Master Plan" at this point. She described the Master Plan as a dynamic document, which changes as some projects are completed and as additional information regarding the scope of work required to accomplish other projects becomes available.

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, stated that she had recently taken a guest on a tour of the State House, and that the tour had further heightened her concern about the need for a sustained program of repairs. She encouraged all members of the Council to take their own tour and cited several areas of "distress," including the chairs in the House Chamber, some of which have been patched with duct tape and/or safety pins. She emphasized the Council's role as the custodian of the State House, and noted that she was actively seeking partnerships and ideas to supporting a sustained capital improvements program in the building. Sen. Kieffer stated that it is important to break the work that needs to be done into two segments - ongoing maintenance and capital improvements. Speaker Mitchell closed the discussion by asking all Council members to assist in efforts to restore the public's pride in the State House.

This item did not require formal Council action.

Item #2: Submission of Reports:

- **Maine State Revenue Forecasting Committee**

Motion: That the Council accept the report and place it on file. (Motion by Rep. Kontos; second by Sen. Rand; unanimous).

- **License Plate Task Force: Report to Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

Motion: That the Council accept the report and place it on file. (Motion by Rep. Campbell; second by Sen. Rand; unanimous).

- **Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority: 1996 Annual Report**

Motion: That the Council accept the report and place it on file. (Motion by Rep. Saxl; second by Sen. Rand; unanimous).

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

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, congratulated all the staff "for the extraordinary work they've done to get us to this point," noting that the public recognition of their efforts was well-deserved.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on the motion of the Chair.