MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
CHAIR

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE
VICE-CHAIR

118th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. CHELLIE PINGREE
SEN. JANE A. AMERO
SEN. 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

MEETING SUMMARY

May 29, 1997

Approved June 16, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, called the Council meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Lawrence, Sen. Pingree, Sen. Amero, Sen. Rand, Sen. Kieffer
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 Paul E. Mayotte, Director, Legislative Information Services Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House Millicent MacFarland, Assistant Clerk of the House

SUMMARY OF MAY 8 MEETING

(Item not taken up).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Proposal from Business & Economic Development Committee to Review Agencies Pursuant to Government Evaluation Act

(Item not taken up).

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Consideration of Proposed Interim Studies

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, requested that the Council take this item out of order to facilitate the movement of bills off the Appropriations Table. She asked Sally Tubbesing to lead Council members through the materials that had been provided.

Ms. Tubbesing stated that the Council's review of proposed statutory studies had evolved several years ago: as committees moved away from formulating requests for "committee studies", (committee members only) to formulating statutory studies with more diverse membership, it became clear that the Council needed to look at the "big picture" before it could make good management decisions regarding the allocation of staff resources to these studies. The Appropriations Committee has worked cooperatively with the Council in past years to table all "study bills" to facilitate the Council's consideration of this big picture.

She then drew members' attention to the materials which summarized information regarding both the scope and various administrative characteristics of each proposed study (e.g. composition; proposed staffing; level of activity; eligibility of members for compensation and funding), in tabular form. The Tables, prepared by David Boulter and his staff grouped the proposed studies by committee in order to give Council members a sense of potential workload. Finally, she reminded Council members that they had agreed with the Appropriations Committee to set aside $63,000 for studies and reported that the total cost of the studies incorporated in the bills about to be considered was more than $250,000.

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, suggested that the Council go through the list as it appeared. Senator Amero suggested that the Council set some general guidelines before proceeding, including the use of subcommittees rather than full committees and limiting the number of meetings to be

authorized. Speaker Mitchell asked Mr. Boulter for any recommendations, and he responded that it would be important for those study commissions that were authorized to be prepared to deliver their final reports, including any legislation, no later than January 1. This deadline would not only ensure that the Legislature would have study reports and legislation available when they first convene, but ensure that OPLA staff are fully available to turn their attention to committee support when the Second Regular Session convenes.

A list summarizing the Council's action, including its amendments to the original proposals is attached to this Summary. It includes actions taken by the Council when it reconvened after a Recess (see below).

RECESS

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, with the approval of all members present, moved that the Council stand in Recess until later in the day.

Accordingly, the Council recessed at 3:00 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, brought the Council to order at 6:35 p.m., for the purpose of completing its action on proposed studies.

Present were Senate President Lawrence, Senator Pingree, Speaker Mitchell, and Representatives Kontos, Donnelly, Saxl and Campbell.

Item #2: After Deadline Requests

(Item not taken up)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on the motion of the Chair.