MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REVISED AGENDA
JANUARY 21, 1998

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 18, 1997, COUNCIL MEETING

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item #1: New Employees/ Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Item #2: State House Renovations: Inquiries

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Request to Pay Maine's Annual Dues to the Assemblée Internationale des Parlementaires de Langue Française (AIPLF). Tabled at December 18 meeting pending further information; memo enclosed.

Item #2: Production of a Video on the Legislative Process: Progress Report

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Submission of Study Reports

- Commission to Determine the Adequacy of Services to Persons with Mental Retardation (Resolves of 1997, Chapter 79)
- Select Committee to Study the Health Effects of Reformulated Gasoline (Established by Presiding Officers)
- Task Force to Review the Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Regions (Resolves of 1997, Chapter 74)
- Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits (Resolves of 1997, Chapter 63)

- Memo from Rep. Arthur F. Mayo, III, Chair Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Effects of Government Costs on Small Businesses in Maine

Item #2: Requests to Extend Reporting Deadlines

- Commission to Study the funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for Peiple with Disabilities (letter from Senator Sharon Treat, Commission Chair)

- Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly (letter from Senator Pingree, Commission Chair)

- Commission to Study the Use of Pharmaceuticals in Long-Term Care Settings (letter from Michael J. Fiori, Chair).

- Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System (letter from Senator Sharon A. Treat, Chair)

- Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Creating a Maine Mobility Fund (letter from Alan B. Stearns, Chair)

Item #3: After Deadline Bill Requests

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

REP. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
CHAIR

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE
VICE-CHAIR

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

118th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

DECEMBER 18, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, called the Council meeting to order at 2:26 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Lawrence, Sen. Pingree, Sen. Rand, Sen. Kieffer Absent: Senator Amero
Representatives:	Speaker Mitchell, Rep. Kontos, Rep. Saxl, Rep. Campbell Absent: Rep. Donnelly
Legislative Officers:	Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council John Wakefield, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian Paul 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 NOVEMBER 20, 1997 COUNCIL MEETING

The Summary of the November 20, 1997 Council meeting was accepted and placed on file.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing turned to Meg Matheson, who reported that all bills that had been accepted by the Council at its initial screening meeting in October had been finally drafted and sent out for sponsor review and signature. She further stated that she anticipated that virtually all bills that had been accepted for introduction would be available for sponsor signature by the time legislators returned in January.

This item did not require Council action.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Requests for Extension of Study Deadlines

Before taking up individual requests, the Chair, Speaker Mitchell, stated that she had established a Study Subcommittee to examine all aspects of the current system and procedures for the creation and initial organization of interim study commissions and that she had asked this Subcommittee to report to the Council in January.

Turning to the requests, she noted that Council members needed to be aware that extensions beyond mid-January are problematic. Most of the interim study commissions are staffed by the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis; and those staff must now turn their full attention to the work of the Joint Standing Committees. The Speaker asked David Boulter for his comments, and Mr. Boulter reinforced the need to keep in mind that in the "short session", committee deadlines will come quickly and require the full attention of staff.

The Council proceeded to consider the following requests.

- **Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First Teachers** (letter from Rep. Christina Baker, Chair)

  Discussion: Sally Tubbesing pointed out that this Task Force is staffed by the Department of Human Services.

  Motion: That the request to extend the deadline to January 15, 1998, be approved. (Motion Rep. Saxl; second by Rep. Campbell, unanimous).

- **Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Effects of Government Regulation and Health Insurance Costs on Small Business in Maine** (letter from Rep. Arthur Mayo, Chair)

  Motion: That the request to extend the Commission's deadline to January 16 be approved. (Motion by Sen. Rand; second by Sen. Kieffer, unanimous)

- **Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State** (letter from Rep. Marc Vigue, Chair)
  Note: The extension of this deadline requires legislation, and the Council supported the inclusion of the necessary language in an "omnibus" bill which the Revisor's Office has been assembling. The Council did not take a formal vote on this request.

- **Task Force to Study the State's Regional Service Center Communities** (letter from Rep. Richard Farnsworth, Chair)

  Discussion: The Speaker noted that this Task Force is not staffed by legislative staff.

  Motion: That the request to extend the reporting deadline to January 15 be approved. (Motion by Rep. Saxl, second by Sen. Rand, approved 6-1)

- **Commission to Study Insurance Fraud** (letter from Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain, III, Chair)

  Motion: That the request to extend the reporting deadline to January 15 be approved. (Motion by Senate President Lawrence, second by Sen. Kieffer, unanimous)

- **Legislative Task Force to Study Registration for In-Home Personal Care and Support Workers** (letter from Sandra Bethanis, R.N., Chair)

  Motion: That the request to extend the reporting deadline to January 15 be approved (Motion by Sen. Pingree, second by Senate President Lawrence, unanimous).

- **Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriter and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities** (memo from Sen. Sharon Treat, Chair)

  Motion: That the reporting deadline be extended to January 15 only. (Motion by Sen. Rand, second by Senate President Lawrence, unanimous).

Item #2: Requests for Additional Meeting(s)

- **Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System** (letter and memo from Sen. Sharon Treat, Chair)

  Motion: That the reporting deadline be extended to January 15 and that the Revisor of Statutes be instructed to incorporate the necessary language in legislation. (Motion by Rep. Campbell, second by Senate President Lawrence, approved 6-1)

- **Joint Standing Committee on Taxation** (letter from Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin, Senate Chair and Rep. Verdi L. Tripp, House Chair)

  The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, stated that the presiding officers had already approved this request.

- **Joint Select Committee on Research and Development** (letter from Sen. Mary Cathcart and Sen. Richard Bennett, Co-Chairs)

  Motion: That the request to extend the reporting deadline to January 15 be approved (Motion by Senate President Lawrence; second by Sen. Kieffer, unanimous)

- **Task Force on State and Federal Tax Filing** (letter from Rep. Scott Cowger, Chair)

  The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, recognized Rep. Scott Cowger, who chairs the Task Force. Rep. Cowger reported that the Task Force had had 4 meetings, but that its progress had been slowed by the absence of a representative from the Internal Revenue Service until early December. He stated that he was planning to submit legislation to extend the work schedule and to seek additional funds. The Council took no formal action on this request in view of the fact that legislation had been filed.

  Speaker Mitchell emphasized that this was a Council issue and Rep. Cowger agreed to submit an Interim Report by January 1. The Council took no formal action on this item.

- **Commission to Examine Rate Setting and the Financing of Long-term Facilities** (letter from Joseph M. Kozak, Chair)

  David Boulter clarified that the Council had already approved an extension for this Commission to November 30, 1998, and that legislation had been submitted to accomplish this. Senator Pingree, who is a member of this Commission agreed to follow up with Mr. Kozak. The Council took no further action at this time.

Item #3: Medical Liability Demonstration Project: Interim Report Submitted by the Bureau of Insurance Pursuant to 24-A MRSA, § 2978 (Executive Summary enclosed)

Motion: That the Interim Report be accepted and placed on file (Motion by Sen. Rand, second by Rep. Saxl, unanimous)

Item #4: Proposal to Produce a Video on the Legislative Process (request of Rep. Kontos)

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, recognized Rep. Kontos, who reported that a group of interested parties has been exploring the concept of producing a video on the legislative process. The group includes the Secretary of State's Office and the Clerk of the House. She and Senator Pingree had seen a video from New Jersey, and it helped them understand what a valuable public education tool this could be. Rep. Kontos said that the informal planning group had been working with Spring Point, a video

production facility affiliated with Southern Maine Technical College and determined that the estimated cost of producing a 25-minute video is $25,000. She noted that her group has also begun consulting with potential funding sources, including Time Warner Cable, and that the group proposes to host a fund-raising event in January.

Speaker Mitchell stated that others had discussed the importance of this kind of product and suggested that Rep. Kontos contact the Maine Development Foundation. Senate President Lawrence encouraged Rep. Kontos to involve the Senate in this project, and Rep. Kontos stated that she had discussed the project with both Sen. Pingree and Rep. Campbell recently, noting that it was critical for this project to have bipartisan and bicameral support. She announced that the group's next meeting was December 22 and invited participation. Rep. Kontos recognized Barbara Merrill, noting that she had been helpful in developing a fund-raising plan, and Ms. Merrill reported that the initial response from corporations to her "soft calls" was very enthusiastic, and stressed the importance of bipartisan endorsement of the project if fundraising is to be successful.

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, thanked Rep. Kontos and asked her to return to the Council in January with more detailed information about the entire proposal.

The Council took no formal action on this item.

Item #5: Request to Pay Maine's Annual Dues to the Assemblée Internationale des Parlementaires de Langue Francaise (AIPLF) for period 1993-1997 (letter from Senator Paradis)

Motion: That this item be tabled, pending the collection of additional information regarding the Legislature's prior payments to the organization by the Executive Director. (Motion by Senate President Lawrence; second by Rep. Saxl, unanimous)

Item #6: After Deadline Bill Requests

Requests to introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session were considered by the Legislative Council. A summary of the Council's action on these requests is attached to this meeting summary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Rep. Kontos announced a bipartisan "Social" on January 13, with proceeds to go to the Legislative Memorial Scholarship Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January 14, 1998

TO: Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair
and Members of the Legislative Council

FROM: Sally

SUBJECT: Legislature's Payments to the Assemblée Internationale des Parlementaires de Langue Française (A.I.P.L.F.)

At the December meeting, you asked me to research the Legislature's payments to the A.I.P.L.F. in prior years. We have reviewed both Legislative Council files and the financial records maintained by our office back to 1982.

The records indicate that the first time the Legislature paid dues to the A.I.P.L.F. as an associate member was in July 1986. The request to pay dues equivalent to $760.00 in U.S. dollars was presented to the Council by then Speaker John L. Martin and unanimously approved; and the dues were paid in July 1986. The next record of payment of dues to the A.I.P.L.F. appeared in September 1994, when $2,382.50 was paid. The Council minutes in June and July of that year reflect that the issue was presented to the Council by Senate President Dutremble, at the request of Senator Paradis. After discussion, the Council eventually voted unanimously to approve payment of the dues for the current fiscal year only.

The dues prior to 1994 have never been paid; and no dues have been paid since the single payment in 1994. The request to pay for the 5-year subscription to the Association's publication is the first such request for which we have any record.

I would be happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

Enclosures
cc: Honorable Judy Paradis

115 STATE HOUSE STATION, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0115 TELEPHONE 207-287-1615 FAX 207-287-1621

Senator Judy Ayotte Paradis
District 1
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 287-1540

THE SENATE OF MAINE
118th Legislature

40 US Route 1
Frenchville, Maine 04745
(207) 728-4854
Fax (207) 728-6374

December 18, 1997

Speaker Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair
President Mark Lawrence, Vice-chair
Legislative Council
15 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Mitchell, President Lawrence and Members of Legislative Council:

I am writing to request payment of 51,730 France (or $8,592.35, according to today's exchange rate of .1661) for the State of Maine's current and past annual dues to the Assemblée Internationale des Parlementaires de Langue Française (AIPLF), as well as payment for 5 years subscription to the publication *Parlements et Francophonie*. Our current and past balance to AIPLF breaks down as follows:

1997 annual dues:	13,000 F	($2,159.30)
1996 annual dues:	12,800 F	($2,126.08)
1995 annual dues:	12,530 F	($2,081.23)
1994 annual dues:	12,250 F	($2,034.73)
1993 annual dues:	12,000 F	($1,993.20)

In addition, we owe a total of 1,400 F ($232.54) for 5 years subscription (1993-1997) to the publication *Parlements et Francophonie*.

As you know, I am currently the Maine President of AIPLF. It would be much appreciated if we could take care of this balance as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Judy Paradis
State Senator - District 1

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.

Motion: That the Council approve payment of per diem and expenses to the members of the Legal Affairs Committee for one meeting. (Motion by Rep. Jacques; second by Sen. Cahill; unanimous).

Item #3: **Requests to Authorize Payment of Annual Dues to the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians (A.I.P.L.F.)**

Senate President Dutremble reported that he had been asked by Sen. Judy Paradis to bring this item before the Council. Sen. Paradis had informed him that Maine had not paid its dues for several years, and that unless Maine paid its dues of $2,000 for the current year, it would no longer be considered a member in good standing. After brief discussion, Council members asked Ms. Tubbesing to obtain additional information from the organization.

Motion: That the item be tabled. (Motion by Sen. Cahill, second by Rep. Jacques; unanimous).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. on the motion of Sen. Cahill (seconded by Sen. Bustin).

STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE STUDIES - JANUARY 21, 1998

Name of Study	Chair	Date of Extension	Next Mtg.	Current Status	Outlook	Leg. Req. to Extend
Task Force to Study Feasibility of Creating a Maine Mobility Task Force	Alan Stearns	October 15, 1998	6/1/98	1 meeting held	Task Force has substantial work to do, requests study be suspended until end of session	N
Commission to Study Unemployment Compensation System	Sen. Treat	February 15, 1998	1/27/98	Commission has met 5 times	No report drafted Comm. has substantial work remaining.	Y
Task Force on Improving Prescription Drugs for the Elderly	Sen. Pingree	February 13, 1998	1/30/98	Report drafted, need recommendations	1 final meeting to incorporate recommendations into report	Y
Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities	Sen. Treat	February 6, 1998 (for interim report) September 30, 1998 (final report)	1/26/98 (tent.)	3 meetings held including l public hearing	No report drafted Commission has substantial work remaining; requests extension for interim report and suspension of study until end of session	N
Commission to Study the use of Pharmaceuticals in Long Term Care Settings	Michael Fiori	January 23, 1998 Fall, 1998 (if reconv)	1/23/98	l meeting held (late convening)	Anticipate an interim report by 1/23/98	N
Blue Ribbon Commission on Government Regulation and Health Insurance Costs on Small Business in Maine	Rep. Mayo	January 23,1998	N/A	Report drafted, awaiting comments	Report to be finalized by end of this week	N
Joint Select Committee on Research & Development	Sen. Bennett Rep. Cathcart	Not specified	Next Week	Report drafted; subcommittee formed to explore certain issues	Report drafted 1-2 meetings of subcommittee needed to finalize recommendations	N
Certificate of Need Study	Rep. Quint	Not Requested	1/23/98	Pending final decisions, met 6 times	Report needs to be drafted	Y
Maine Commission on Children's Health Care	Rep. Berry	Not Requested	No more meetings	Report drafted, under review	Anticipate completion by 1/23/98	Y
Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State	Rep. Vigue	Not Requested	1/21/98	Report prepared, under review	Anticipate completion by 1/23/98	Y
Task Force to Study the Cost-Effectiveness of the Child Development Services System	Sen. Pendleton	Not Requested	No more meetings	Recommendations decided, need report	Anticipate report by 1/23/98	Y

Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Effects of Government Regulation and Health Insurance Costs on Small Businesses in Maine

Members
Rep. Arthur F. Mayo, III, Chair
Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon
Rep. Jane W. Saxl
Timothy Agnew
Douglas S. Carr
Thomas J. Giordano
S. Catherine Longley
Edward Gorham
Thomas D. McBrierty
Jim McGregor
Patrick Murphy
Peter Sassano

Staff
John Kelley
Colleen McCarthy Reid
Darlene Shores Lynch
Maine State Legislature
Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

January 16, 1998

Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Chair, Legislative Council
118th Maine Legislature

Dear Speaker Mitchell:

On behalf of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Effects of Government Regulation and Health Insurance Costs on Small Businesses in Maine, I am writing to update you on the status of the Commission's report.

As you are aware, the recent ice storm delayed Legislative committee and study commission meetings. Accordingly, the Commission has not been able to finalize its report and recommended legislation by today's reporting deadline. We are currently awaiting responses from Commission members who are reviewing the final draft. We hope to submit the report to the Legislative Council by the end of next week.

Sincerely,

Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III

cc: Executive Director, Legislative Council

JAN 16 1998

Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities

Members
Sen. Sharon Treat, Chair
Rep. Sharon Libby-Jones
Rep. Joseph Taylor
William Black
Eleanor Brown
Patti Brown
Daniel Breton
Jonathan Connick
April McAfee
Larry Sterrs
Kathi Wall
Kim Wallace

Staff
Phillip McCarthy
Maine State Legislature
Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

January 13, 1998

TO: The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair, Legislative Council

FROM: Senator Sharon Treat, Chairperson, Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities

RE: **Extension Request**

Pursuant to the authorizing legislation that established the Commission, I am requesting a further extension beyond the January 15, 1998 reporting date approved by the Legislative Council on December 18, 1997 (see Resolves 1997, c. 72, § 5). The Commission requires another extension for the following reasons:

1. The Commission was not convened until December 5th;

2. The Commission has held two subsequent meetings, including a public hearing, in which Commission members have begun to explore the range of issues involved in the six charges entrusted to the Commission; however to accommodate the needs of Commission members and other people with hearing- or speech-impairments, our Commission meetings are limited to only three hours (which is the maximum time that interpreters are able to provide interpretation services);

3. The interpreters contracted with the Legislature have already been reserved through Wednesday, January 21st for other Legislative meetings and the lead time necessary to schedule other interpreters for the next Commission meeting may take up to two weeks, therefore, the Commission will not be able to conduct another meeting before the January

15th deadline; and

4. Commission members will not have sufficient time between now and the January 15th reporting deadline to properly consider the complex issues before them and to complete the multiple tasks involved in preparing findings and recommendations, including any necessary legislation, for consideration by the 118th Legislature.

At the Commission's January 6th meeting we agreed on the following course of action, pending approval by the Legislative Council. We plan to schedule the fourth Commission meeting later in January to continue our deliberations and prepare an interim report on or before February 6, 1998. We intend to make preliminary recommendations and agree on an interim report, including proposed legislation to address short-term funding needs, to be considered by the 118th Legislature. We further propose that the Legislative Council postpones the Commission's activities until after the 118th Legislature adjourns and, at the same time, extends the Commission's work until Wednesday, September 30, 1998. This extension will permit Commission members with the time necessary to more thoroughly address the complex issues before them, including Public Utilities Commission rate regulation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and federal Telecommunications Law.

In summary, I am requesting an extension until February 6, 1998, for the Commission's interim report and proposed legislation to be presented to the Legislature. Furthermore, I am requesting that the Commission's final report and any necessary legislation can be prepared for consideration by the 119th Legislature.

I trust that the Legislative Council will consider this request at its next scheduled Council meeting. Please contact me should you require any further information. On behalf of the Commission, thank you for your consideration of this request.

cc: Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council
David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Members, Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 20, 1998

Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair
Legislative Council
118th Maine Legislature

re: Extension request

Dear Speaker Mitchell:

The Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly, established by PL 1997, chapter 560, Part E, requests an extension of the January 15, 1998 deadline. Our final meeting had been scheduled for January 9th. It was canceled due to the ice storm, and rescheduled for January 14th. That meeting was also canceled and we have rescheduled for January 30th.

We request an extension of the deadline to February 13th. This will provide sufficient time for staff to draft the final recommendations that we will make on January 30th, and give us a chance to review and sign off on the final language of the legislation and the report before it is printed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sen. Chellie Pingree
Task Force Chair

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COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF PHARMACEUTICALS IN LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

Michael J. Fiori, *Chair*
P.O. Box 120
Readfield, Maine 04355

Speaker Elizabeth Mitchell
Chair of the Legislative Council
118th Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 12, 1998

Dear Speaker Mitchell:

I am writing on behalf of the Commission to Study The Use of Pharmaceuticals in Long-Term Care Settings to request permission for the Commission to continue to meet. As you know, the Commission was convened on January 5th, four days after our required reporting date, and too late to fully perform our assigned duties. Despite this, we made reasonable progress during our first meeting and believe we should continue to work on the important issues raised by the study order.

Ideally, we would ask to continue our work after the session is completed. The issue of pharmaceuticals in long-term care settings is a complicated one, but important to the state budget and to the physical and financial well-being of the frailest of Maine's citizens -- those in nursing homes and other long-term care settings. The Commission members are dedicated to finding answers to the issues raised in the study order, but simply cannot do so in the 10-day period that has been given to us.

If it is not acceptable to you that we continue our work in the spring, we ask for permission to meet on Friday, January 16th. We believe that we can make meaningful, albeit incomplete, recommendations to the Legislature with one additional meeting. We are not able to meet before the 16th because Commission members, especially legislators, are not available before then.

We are very disappointed that the Commission was not convened in a timely manner. Since the first meeting was delayed through no fault of our own, we ask your consideration in granting our request to continue meeting.

Would you please notify me of your decision at the earliest possible time; also please notify the legislative analyst assigned to the study, Deborah Friedman in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis so that she can notify the other members of the Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Fiori
Chair

JAN 12 1998

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 15, 1998

Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Chair, Legislative Council
118th Maine Legislature

Dear Speaker Mitchell:

The Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System requests that its reporting deadline be extended again from January 15, 1998, to February 15, 1998.

Due to last week's ice storm, the Commission was unable to meet to make final recommendations. And, with the scheduling difficulties resulting from the storm, it looks as though we will not be able to meet again until January 27. We plan to make recommendations at our next meeting, but we will need some time after that to prepare and review any reports or legislation that we recommend.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If I can answer any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Sharon A. Treat
Chair, Commission to
Study the Unemployment
Compensation System

cc: David E. Boulter
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December 22, 1997

Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Mitchell,

The 19 member Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Creating a Maine Mobility Fund, established by Resolves of 1997, chapter 73, held its first meeting on Friday, December 19, 1997 in room 134 of the State House. Fifteen of the 19 appointed members were present for the meeting, including three of the four legislative members.

At the conclusion of that meeting, a majority of the Task Force members voted to request that the Council extend our reporting deadline to October 15, 1998, with the understanding that we would hold our next meeting sometime around June 1, 1998. Resolves of 1997, chapter 73, authorizes the Council to grant such a request. Our current reporting deadline is January 1, 1997.

This request is necessary because a large majority of the members of the Task Force are of the opinion that several months, at a minimum, are needed to complete our work on the complicated and substantive issues before us. If our request for an extension until next summer is granted, I intend to meet informally with members of the Task Force between now and next June to better define the focus of the study and to better understand where areas of consensus may exist. Those meetings will allow us to use our remaining three meetings and our staffing resources more efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I will be in attendance at the next meeting of the Legislative Council to answer any questions you or other members of the Council may have on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alan Stearns PN

Alan B. Stearns, Chair
Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Creating a Maine Mobility Fund

cc: Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
✓David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Members, Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Creating a Maine Mobility Fund

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SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

February 19, 1998

TO: Honorable Carol A. Kontos
House Majority Leader

FROM: Sally

SUBJECT: Legislative Video

I just received the agenda for the February 24 meeting and your note about reviewers. At the last Council meeting, you indicated that you wanted representatives from the Staff Offices to participate in reviewing the video. Our volunteers are John Wakefield, Dave Boulter and Meg Matheson, and we all look forward to participating in this important project! Thank you for including us.

cc: John Wakefield
David Boulter
Margaret Matheson

115 STATE HOUSE STATION, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0115 TELEPHONE 207-287-1615 FAX 207-287-1621

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Augusta, Maine 04333

December 15, 1997

The Honorable Representative Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair
The Honorable Senator Mark Lawrence, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Mitchell and President Lawrence:

On behalf of the Commission to Determine the Adequacy of Services to Persons with Mental Retardation we are pleased to submit the enclosed report. The Commission was authorized in Resolve 1997, chapter 79. It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the commission. We look forward to presenting the report and accompanying legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during January.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Berry

Rep. Randall L. Berry

Jean Manning

Jean Manning

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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Augusta, Maine 04333

December 30, 1997

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair
Legislative Council
118th Maine Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chair Mitchell:

This letter is to inform you that the Select Committee to Study the Health Effects of Reformulated Gasoline has submitted the attached report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, and to the Law and Legislative Reference Library.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Harriman /ABH
Sen. Philip E. Harriman
Senate Chair

Verdi L. Tripp /ABH
Rep. Verdi L. Tripp
House Chair

Attachment

cc: Members of the Legislative Council
Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council
David E. Boulter, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat, Senate Chair, Rep. G. Steven Rowe, House Chair,
Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources

PHILIP A. DIONNE
CHAIR

TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
THE APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTERS
AND APPLIED TECHNOLOGY REGIONS
CHAPTER 74, RESOLVES OF 1997

SEN. MARY E. SMALL
REP. JOHN L. TUTTLE, JR.
JOANNA M. JONES
ANTHONY H. KRAPF
JOHN R. TURCOTTE
DR. DONALD CANNAN
DENIS L. HOWARD
DR. PAUL RANDY WALKER
JAMES E. RIER, JR.
CHRISTOPHER D. LYONS

STAFF: YVONNE DAMBORG
LLOYD KEAST

INTERIM REPORT

January 1, 1998

As requested by the Legislative Council of the 118th Maine State Legislature on November 20, 1997, the following is an interim report on the work of the *Task Force to Review the Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Regions*, established pursuant to Chapter 74, Resolves of 1997.

The Task Force to Review the Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Regions, established pursuant to Chapter 74, Resolves of 1997 and hereafter referred to as the Chapter 74 Task Force, comprises the following eleven members, one appointed by the Governor, two appointed jointly by the President of the Maine Senate and the Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, five representing other organizations, and three ex officio:

Joanna M. Jones of Bath Iron Works, the former Chair of the Maine Human Resource Development Council, appointed by the Governor to represent the business community;

Senator Mary E. Small of Bath, appointed by the President and the Speaker to represent the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs;

Representative John L. Tuttle, Jr., of Sanford, appointed by the President and the Speaker to represent the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs;

John R. Turcotte, Superintendent of MSAD #67 in Lincoln, appointed by the President of the Maine School Management Association as a superintendent who is a member of the cooperative board of an applied technology region;

Anthony H. Krapf, Superintendent of MSAD #59 in Madison, appointed by the President of the Maine School Management Association as a superintendent who is a member of the advisory committee of an applied technology center;

Denis L. Howard, Director of Maine Applied Technology Region 7 in Belfast and the President of the Maine Association of Vocational Education Administrators;

Dr. Donald Cannan, Director of the Lewiston Regional Technical Center, appointed by the President of the Maine Association of Vocational Education Administrators;

23 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023 PHONE 207-287-5854 FAX 207-287-5894

Dr. Paul Randy Walker, Team Leader and Policy Director of the Learning Systems Team of the Maine Department of Education (MDOE), designated by the Commissioner of Education;

James E. Rier, Jr., Chair of the State Board of Education;

Philip A. Dionne, former Chair of the Maine Council on Vocational Education (MCVE); and,

Christopher D. Lyons, State Director of Workforce Education of the MDOE.

Staff assistance to the task force is being provided by Yvonne Damborg, formerly of MCVE, and Lloyd Keast of MDOE.

The first meeting of the Chapter 74 Task Force held on November 20, 1997, called together at the invitation of Representative Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Speaker of the House and Chair of the Legislative Council.

The first meeting was primarily organizational; all votes were unanimous. Philip A. Dionne, former Chair of the Maine Council on Vocational Education, was elected chair of the task force. As provided in Section 7 of Chapter 74, a request for an extension of the January 1, 1998 deadline for the submission of a report to the Second Regular Session of the 188th Legislature and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs was forwarded to the Legislative Council. The second meeting of the task force was set for December 30, 1997.

Later on November 20, 1997, the request for an extension was granted by the Legislative Council.

The second task force meeting was held as scheduled on December 30, 1997; this meeting was primarily informational. Gary Leighton, MDOE Supervisor of School Finance, presented an overview of State funding of applied technology regions and centers. Phillip McCarthy, Legislative Analyst for Education and Cultural Affairs, distributed a "Summary of Applied Technology Education Legislation Referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs during the 118th Maine State Legislature (1st Regular and 1st Special Session)." Chair Philip A. Dionne offered an overview of the State applied technology statute (M.R.S.A. 20-A, Chapter 313) and an analysis of current Cooperative Agreements between school units affiliated with applied technology regions and centers.

Detailed minutes and attendance rosters for each task force meeting are available from the MDOE (Workforce Education Team, 287-5854).

The next meetings of the Chapter 74 Task Force have been scheduled for January 15 and 29, 1998, and will primarily be focused on data gathering and analysis. The Task Force expects to work systematically through each of the seven issues specified in Section 4 of Chapter 74, and currently anticipates being able to complete its work and present a report and a set of recommendations to the Legislature by the new deadline of March 1, 1998.

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 15, 1998

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair
Legislative Council
118th Maine Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chair Mitchell:

This letter is to inform you that the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits has submitted the attached report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, the Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance, and to the Law and Legislative Reference Library, pursuant to Resolves 1997, chapter 63.

Sincerely,

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, co-chair

Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon, co-chair

Attachment

cc: Members of the Legislative Council
Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, and Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon, co-chairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance
Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council
David E. Boulter, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

JAN 16 1998

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REQUESTS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 20, 1998

Action

SPONSOR: Rep. Baker, Christina L.

LR 3356 An Act to Appropriate Funds to the United States Ship Maine Centennial Committee to Restore and Maintain Davenport Park

SPONSOR: Sen. Daggett, Beverly C.

LR 3339 An Act Regarding the State Valuation of the Town of Winslow

SPONSOR: Rep. Donnelly, James O.

LR 3333 An Act to Require that the Sex Offender List be Available to Businesses Hiring Personnel Who Will Have Contact With Children

SPONSOR: Rep. Donnelly, James O.

LR 3334 An Act to Create Independent Clinical Oversight of the Department of Human Services

SPONSOR: Rep. Donnelly, James O.

LR 3367 An Act to Clarify the Responsibilities of Certain Divisions in the Department of Labor

SPONSOR: Rep. Gagne, Rosita

LR 3348 An Act to Appropriate Funds for the Commemoration of the Sinking of the United States Ship Maine

SPONSOR: Rep. Gagne, Rosita

LR 3349 An Act to Require Alternate Sources of Power for Elderly Housing

SPONSOR: Rep. Kontos, Carol A.

LR 3345 An Act to Encourage the Development of Small Distributed Generation Technologies that Reduce Pollution

SPONSOR: Rep. McAlevey, Michael J.

LR 3340 An Act to Raise the Borrowing Cap for the Limerick Water District

SPONSOR: Rep. Mitchell, Elizabeth H.

LR 3364 An Act to Allow Tow Trucks on Posted Roads

SPONSOR: Rep. Povich, Edward J.

LR 3365 Resolve, Authorizing the Transfer of the Old Hancock County Jail on State Street, Ellsworth from Hancock County to the Ellsworth Historical Society

SPONSOR: Rep. Savage, Christine R.

LR 3347 An Act to Change the Name of the Knox Agricultural Society

SPONSOR: Rep. Townsend, Elizabeth

LR 3344 An Act to License Building Contractors

SPONSOR: Rep. Vigue, Marc J.

LR 3336 An Act to Immediately Recognize Changes in Property Valuations in Winslow for GPA Purposes

JOINT RESOLUTION

SPONSOR: Rep. Gerry, Belinda A.

LR 3366 JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO RELEASE LIHEAP FUNDS TO ASSIST MAINE CITIZENS

TABLED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SPONSOR: **Rep. Carleton, Jr., Joseph G.** **TABLED 12/18/97**

LR 3324 An Act Regarding the Issuance of Depuration Certificates by the Commissioner of Marine Resources

SPONSOR: **Rep. Donnelly, James O.** **TABLED 12/18/97**

LR 3327 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Purple Heart License Plates

SPONSOR: **Rep. Donnelly, James O.** **TABLED 12/18/97**

LR 3328 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Intellectual Property Rights

SPONSOR: **Rep. Mitchell, Elizabeth H.** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3289 An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of Law Necessary for the Operation of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999

SPONSOR: **Rep. Perkins, Royce W.** **TABLED 12/18/97**

LR 3308 An Act to Exempt Adult Diapers from the Sales Tax

SPONSOR: **Sen. Pingree, Chellie** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3288 An Act to Improve Access to Women's Heathcare

SPONSOR: **Rep. Tuttle, Jr., John L.** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3282 An Act Regarding Veterans' Benefits

SPONSOR: **Rep. Tuttle, Jr., John L.** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3283 An Act to Permit Employees to Require Receiving Unemployment Benefits in Certain Cases

SPONSOR: **Rep. Tuttle, Jr., John L.** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3284 An Act to Authorize an Apprentice Cadet Program in the Bureau of State Police

SPONSOR: **Rep. Tuttle, Jr., John L.** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3285 An Act to Establish the State Police Law Enforcement Scholarship Program

SPONSOR: **Rep. Tuttle, Jr., John L.** **TABLED 12/18/97**

LR 3303 An Act Regarding the Expanded Archery Deer Hunting Season

SPONSOR: **Rep. Usher, Ronald E.** **TABLED 11/20/97**

LR 3296 An Act to Allow a Utility Company Vehicle to Use a Siren When Responding to an Emergency

ADDENDUM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REQUESTS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 21, 1998

Action

SPONSOR: Rep. Gooley, Walter R.

LR 3368 An Act to Extend the Deadline for Filing Updated Management Plans Under Tree Growth Tax Laws

SPONSOR: Rep. Wright, Thomas J.

LR 3369 Resolve, to Name the Bridge on Route 236 the Jeffrey Corley Bridge

ADDENDUM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REQUESTS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 21, 1998

Action

SPONSOR: Sen. Michaud, Michael H.

LR 3371 Resolve, Naming the New Bridge in Medway the Harold C. Beathem Bridge