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
APRIL 2, 1998
Approved April 15, 1998

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, called the Council to order at 9:20 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:	Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council John Wakefield, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Paul Mayotte, Director, Legislative Information Services

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, proceeded directly to **New Business**.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Proposed Studies on the Appropriations Table

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to take action on those bills that had been assigned to the Appropriations Table that propose interim studies and noted that the Appropriations Committee had set these aside for Council action. She asked Sally Tubbesing the total amount that would be required to fund all of the proposed studies, and Ms. Tubbesing responded $100,940; and then asked Jim Clair how much money was left to fund these bills. Mr. Clair drew Council members' attention to a chart that he had distributed that summarized the Appropriations Committees' actions to date on bills assigned to the table. He stated that a balance of $642,130 remained "unspent". Senator Kieffer, noting that this balance appeared to be in the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund, asked Mr. Clair to confirm that these funds were specifically for tax relief; and Mr. Clair responded affirmatively.

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, then asked Mr. Clair if the Appropriations Committee had, in fact, funded some "tax relief" bills out of the General Fund. Senator Amero stated that she would not vote for any of the studies, given the lack of General Fund monies; but the Chair, Speaker Mitchell, suggested that the Council look at the studies on their merits and then go back to the Table to identify specific bills that could legitimately be funded with the Tax Relief funds.

Representative Campbell then asked whether the Council wanted to set general guidelines for funding studies as it had in the past. Ms. Tubbesing stated that the Council had tried to impose consistency on study commissions with regard to both compensation of legislative members, and the reporting date. She noted that most of the studies before the Council lacked emergency preambles; thus, they would not take effect until 90 days following adjournment -- and that the earliest most of these could begin work would be in late August or early September. Senator Pingree asked if there was not some way other than the emergency preamble to address the effective date; and Senate President Lawrence suggested that the Council could kill the individual bills and enact the studies by means of a Joint Order.

The Chair, Speaker Mitchell, then proceeded to take up the studies on the list that had been distributed. The Council's action on the studies is summarized on the enclosed list.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Legislative Facilities Committee

Rep. Saxl, Committee Chair, reported that interviews with the 3 firms that had submitted Qualifications Packages for Construction Manager had been conducted earlier in the day. The Interview Team had consisted of the architect; the structural, electrical and mechanical engineers; the Director of the Division of Professional Services, Bureau of

General Services; and Sally Tubbesing. Rep. Saxl stated that while the demands of a legislative session had prevented him and Rep. Campbell from fully participating in all of the interviews, Rep. Campbell had attended a segment of each of the interviews, and that both he and Rep. Campbell had participated in the general discussion that followed the interviews.

Rep. Saxl reported that each member of the Review Team had rated each of the three firms relative to several pre-established evaluation criteria. The ratings confirmed that all three firms are extremely well-qualified; and, based on the composite scores, Granger Northern, Inc., of Portland, Maine came out on top. He then presented the following motion to the Council:

Motion: That, pending the satisfactory outcome of the remaining reference checks, the Legislative Council authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with the Facilities Committee, to proceed with the negotiation of a contract with Granger Northern, Inc., to serve as Construction Manager for the renovations to be carried out in the State House during the 1998 interim. (Motion by Rep. Saxl; second by Sen. Rand; unanimous).

Rep. Campbell noted that it is extremely important to expedite contract negotiations so that actual work can begin as soon as possible. He also stressed the need to proceed rapidly with the selection of the Owner's Representative.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m., at which point the members of the Council continued their review of the Appropriations Table as Leadership.