

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE
CHAIR

REP. G. STEVEN ROWE
VICE-CHAIR



119th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY
MARCH 22, 1999
Approved April 5, 1999

SEN. CHELLIE PINGREE
SEN. JANE A. AMERO
SEN. ANNE M. RAND
SEN. RICHARD A. BENNETT
REP. MICHAEL V. SAXL
REP. THOMAS W. MURPHY, JR.
REP. DAVID C. SHIAH
REP. RICHARD H. CAMPBELL

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Senate President Lawrence, called the Council meeting to order at 2:47 p.m. in Room 425, the Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee Room.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Lawrence, Sen. Rand, Sen. Bennett Absent: Senators Pingree and Amero
Representatives:	Speaker Rowe, Rep. Saxl, Rep. Murphy, Rep. Shiah, Rep. Campbell
Legislative Officers:	Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House Millicent MacFarland, Assistant Clerk of the House Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council James Clair, 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

SUMMARY OF March 8, 1999, COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: That the Summary be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Sen. Rand; second by Rep. Shiah; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL STAFF DIRECTORS

Sally Tubbesing drew members' attention to a report that Margaret Matheson had prepared to summarize the status of the Revisor's Office's efforts to complete drafting of initial bill requests. She stated that the other Directors would also provide Council members with written reports in the interest of preserving the time at this meeting for the Council's discussion of the Computer Migration Project.

This item required no formal Council action.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Migration Project Steering Committee

Senate President Lawrence, who chairs this Committee, drew Council members' attention to a briefing paper in their packets that summarized the scope of both the overall Migration project and of the proposed first phase, which is designed to be a process review. He led members through the material, noting that the Legislative Process Review would include the following:

- validation of the assumptions, processes, and technologies used in developing the Bill Drafting and Bill Status System design and specifications as presented in the Request for Proposal, and recommendation of modifications to these if required;
- integration of the Senate, House, and Committee processes/systems into the overall migration plan;
- assessment of the adequacy of the Legislature's current information technology environment; and
- identification and implementation of any "quick wins" that are identified in the course of the process review.

In the discussion that followed, Council members raised the following questions:

1. Whether this work was related to the Y2K work that the Council had previously approved in that it would involve the use of offshore resources. (Rep. Campbell)

Senate President Lawrence responded that this is a completely separate project, which is designed to help the Committee and the Council identify areas where the legislative process might be streamlined.

2. Discussion of KPMG's billing rate for this work. (Speaker Rowe)

Speaker Rowe, who had previously questioned the rate, stated that the information Mr. Mayotte had provided to the Council clearly indicates that the blended rate quoted by KPMG includes the firm's indirect costs. Given this and the fact that this would be a fixed price contract, he had concluded that the rate compares favorably with other work with which he is familiar.

Motion: That the recommendations presented by the Migration Oversight Team be approved to 1) proceed with a multiple-phase Migration project; and 2) approve a fixed price contract with KPMG LLP for the first phase of the Migration Project -- a Legislative Process Review -- whose specific scope of work will be defined by the Migration Oversight Team, with the provision that the Migration Team will bring forward to the Legislative Council, or the Presiding Officers, as appropriate, all policy matters requiring resolution, clarification, or action resulting from the Migration Project. (Motion by Sen. Rand; second by Rep. Shiah; unanimous).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: 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.

Item #2: Request from CSG/ERC for Payment of Dues to Support ERC's Eastern Trade Council

The Chair, Senate President Lawrence, recognized Senator Kontos and asked her to present the item. Senator Kontos, who is one of Maine's two members on the Executive Committee for CSG's Eastern Regional Conference, drew members' attention to a letter from the ERC office requesting payment of Maine's dues to the Eastern Trade Council (ETC), an organization that the member states have established to serve as a analyst for public/private sector cooperation in export trade promotion in the eastern region.

Senator Kontos reported that she had worked with the Governor's Office and the Department of Economic and Community Development to fund the dues in 1998, the inaugural year of the ETC, but that she had come to the Legislative Council because she believes that the ETC should really be a legislative activity. In response to a question from the Chair, Senate President Lawrence, she stated that executive branch agency involvement in the ETC in other states is generally limited to those agencies that have specific responsibility for developing international trade. Senator Kontos advocated developing a long term approach to funding these dues; and the Chair, Senate President Lawrence, suggest, that the Executive Branch share in the long term solution.

Senator Kontos then noted that she had asked Sally Tubbesing to determine whether there were any funds available in the Legislature's current budget that could be used to pay at least a portion of the \$5,500 dues for the current fiscal year (FY 1999). Ms. Tubbesing reported that there are balances in two accounts that are used to pay dues to other organizations - the Commission on Uniform State Laws and the Interstate Cooperation Commission - totaling \$4,397, and that these funds would not normally be used for any other purpose.

Motion: That the Council approve the allocation of the balances in two accounts - the Commission on Uniform State Laws and the Interstate Cooperation Commission -- totaling \$4,397 for payment of Maine's dues to support the Eastern Trade Council in FY 1999; and that the Council present an amendment to the Part 2 request that has previously been submitted to fund these dues in FY 2000 and FY 2001; for the balance; and, further, that the Executive Director be directed to include these dues in future biennial budget requests. (Motion by Rep. Saxl; second by Speaker Rowe; unanimous).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACTION ON REQUESTS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
March 22, 1999**

		Action
SPONSOR:	Rep. Davidson, Thomas M.	ACCEPTED
LR 3052	An Act to Enhance the Economic Security of Low-income Households with Respect to Utility Service	
SPONSOR:	Sen. Harriman, Philip E.	ACCEPTED
LR 3049	An Act to Designate Spouse as Named Beneficiary for Benefits Under the Maine State Retirement System	
SPONSOR:	Sen. Kieffer, R. Leo	ACCEPTED
LR 3050	An Act to Prohibit State Government from Using Automated Telephone Answering Equipment During Business Hours	
SPONSOR:	Rep. Richardson, John G.	ACCEPTED BY BALLOT
LR 3039	An Act to Prohibit the State From Using Juveniles in a Tobacco Enforcement Action	03/10/99
SPONSOR:	Rep. Waterhouse, G. Paul	ACCEPTED BY BALLOT
LR 3038	An Act to Prohibit the Use of Juveniles in a Tobacco Enforcement Action	03/17/99

JOINT RESOLUTION

SPONSOR:	Sen. Harriman, Philip E.	WITHDRAWN
LR 0250	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO GRANT NATIONAL GAME FISH STATUS TO STRIPED BASS	

TABLED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SPONSOR:	Rep. Daigle, Robert A.	TABLED
LR 2974	Resolve, Directing the Board of Environmental Protection to Accept the Low RVP of 7.8 Fuel	01/27/99
SPONSOR:	Rep. Etnier, David	TABLED
LR 3011	Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Amend the Number of Votes Needed in Each House of the Legislature Before the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority may Authorize the Issuance of Securities to Fund the Construction, Reconstruction, Purchase or Acquisition of Facilities	02/24/99
SPONSOR:	Sen. Pingree, Chellie	TABLED
LR 3033	An Act to Authorize Matinicus Isle Plantation to Assess a Disposal Fee on Motorized Vehicles	03/08/99
SPONSOR:	Rep. Sirois, Rosaire J.	TABLED
LR 3051	Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Agriculture to Promote the Cultivation of Blueberries in the St. John Valley	03/22/99
SPONSOR:	Rep. True, Harry G.	TABLED
LR 3035	An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Task Force to Review the Applied Technology.	03/08/99
SPONSOR:	Rep. Tuttle, Jr., John L.	TABLED
LR 3022	An Act to Allow a Municipality to Designate Roads Off-limits to Commercial Vehicles	03/08/99

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

SPONSOR:	Sen. Kilkelly, Marge L.	TABLED
LR 3054	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING	03/22/99
	JOINT RESOLUTION	
SPONSOR:	Rep. Mack, Adam	TABLED
LR 3013	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO CHANGE THE WAY IT RELEASES TELEPHONE NUMBERS	02/24/99
SPONSOR:	Sen. Pingree, Chellie	TABLED
LR 2678	JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO COMMIT TO IMMEDIATE REDUCTIONS OF DOMESTIC GREENHOUSE GAS	01/27/99