

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
DECEMBER 6, 2000
APPROVED DECEMBER 19, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

President Pro Tem Bennett called the first meeting of the 120th Legislative Council to order at 6:25 p.m. in Room 228 of the State House.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Pro Tempore Bennett, Sen. Daggett, Sen. Small, Sen. Davis, Sen. Treat

Representatives: Speaker Saxl, Rep. Colwell, Rep. Bruno, Rep. Norbert, Rep. Schneider

Legislative Officers: Millicent MacFarland, Clerk of the House
David Shiah, Assistant Clerk of the House
James Clair, Executive Director, Legislative Council
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

ELECTION OF OFFICER FOR THE 120TH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Senate President Pro Tem Bennett, declaring that a quorum was present, proceeded to read excerpts from the Rules of Procedure that had been adopted by the 119th Legislative Council that pertained to the election of the Council Chair and Vice-Chair. He noted that the Rules prescribed the following with regard to the election of Council officers:

Rule #2 provides that the position of Chair shall alternate in succeeding biennial sessions between members from the Senate and members from the House. Thus, pursuant to these Rules, the Chair for this new Council would come from the House.

Rule #3 provides that the Vic-Chair shall not be a member of the same body of the Legislature as the Chair. Thus, the vice-Chair for the 120th Council must be a member of the Senate.

President Pro Tem Bennett then opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair.

Motion: That Speaker Michael V. Saxl be nominated for the position of Council Chair. (Motion by Representative Colwell; second by Senator Treat; unanimous).

Motion: That the nominations cease. (Motion by Senator Treat; second by Senator Daggett; unanimous).

Motion: That a single ballot be cast to elect Speaker Saxl as Chair. (Motion by Representative Colwell; second by Senator Treat; unanimous).

Speaker Saxl then proceeded to open the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Motion: That President Pro Tem Bennett be nominated for the position of Council Vice-Chair. (Motion by Senator Small; second by Senator Treat; unanimous).

Motion: That the nominations cease. (Motion by Representative Norbert; second by Representative Colwell; unanimous).

Motion: That a single ballot be cast to elect President Pro Tem as Vice-Chair. (Motion by Representative Bruno; second by Representative Norbert; unanimous).

The newly elected Chair, Speaker Saxl, then proceeded with the printed agenda.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE 120TH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Chair, Speaker Saxl, drew members' attention to a draft of proposed rules of procedure, based on those of that prior Councils have used.

The Rules of Procedure from the 119th Legislative Council were discussed.

Motion: That the Council adopt the Rules of the 119th, except that the date be updated and #10 reflect the 120th Council. (Motion by Senator Bennett; second by Representative Bruno; unanimous.)

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair then turned to Item # 4 on the agenda.

Item #4

The salary range for the Attorney General was discussed.

Motion: That the Attorney General's salary be set at Range 91, Step 5 pursuant to Title 3 MRSA, §162-B. (Motion by Senator Bennett; second by Representative Bruno; unanimous.)

OTHER

President Pro Tem Bennett then asked about the Legislator's Policy Forum training to be held at the Samoset Resort. This forum was sponsored by the House who in turn invited their Senate colleagues. Representative Bruno was concerned not only with the cost, but he felt that the panel did not represent his caucuses' views. President Pro Tem Bennett was also concerned with the cost as the Legislative budget is facing a shortfall of \$850,000 to \$1,000,000 in FY 01. Speaker

Saxl wanted to point out that this forum was not partisan in nature. He also did not believe it was a council matter. With so many new legislators, he felt that the training and social interaction was very important. Representative Bruno and Senator Treat both felt that the timing of the Forum was definitely not at a good time. Both urged Speaker Saxl to see if it could take place in January rather than December. Speaker Saxl suggested that members with ideas or questions meet with the Executive Director Jim Clair.

Senator Treat also inquired as to the amount the Legislature has set aside for training of legislators. With 15 new senators, she felt it was very important that training for chairs be provided. Speaker Saxl suggested that she talk with the presiding officers

Item #5

Executive Director Mr. Clair pointed out that there was a need for one long meeting or two shorter meetings to discuss other business concerning the Legislative Council. After discussion, Speaker Saxl requested that Mr. Clair work with the various offices to come up with a meeting time during the week of December 11-15 or December 18- 22; that way if one long meeting was not enough there would be time to schedule a second meeting.

President Pro Tem Bennett requested the number of Legislative Council subcommittees. Mr. Clair pointed out that there were two active committees (the Personnel Committee and the Space Committee) and Clerk of the House Millie MacFarland pointed out that there was also a Migration Committee and a Subcommittee on Costs. Mr. Clair said the Subcommittee on Costs was temporary, and, he would check the notes from the beginning of the 119th Legislative Council and see if there were other subcommittees. President Pro Tem Bennett asked if it would be possible to appoint members to the subcommittees so they could begin working on issues that would need to be dealt with by the Council. Speaker Saxl thought that this should wait until after the long Council meeting.

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.