

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## TQM Committee

Priorities as Ranked by Members  
October 11, 1995

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## TQM Committee

### Priorities as Ranked by Members October 11, 1995

Note: Topics are listed in order of priority so that the topic listed by the largest number of members is listed first. The number of members who ranked each topic as 1, 2 or 3 appears in the first column; and the total "score" in the second. (1st place = 5 points; 2nd =4; 3rd = 3; etc.)

	# Ranking	"Score"
1. Fiscal Notes	7	27
2. Prioritizing	6	25
3. Evaluating Committee Process	6	19
4. Concept Drafting	5	11
5. Committee Structure & Schedule	4	10
6. Orientation	3	9
7. Things that would make legislators' jobs easier	2	9
8. Cloture & Schedules	2	8
9. Other Drafting Issues (Emergency preamble, etc.)	1	5

## ORIENTATION

- Fine-tune 117th program.
- A process for feedback.
- Include more information about filing bill requests, cloture, drafting of legislation (send information packet to Legislators immediately following election) for 1st and 2nd sessions; fiscal note process and amendment process.
- Develop continuing education program
- Expand/extend training for Committee Chairs.
- Define committee process/services.
- Education committees about the role/significance of the fiscal note in the process.

## BILL PROCESSING & COMMITTEE DELIBERATION

- Strengths of current process include:
  - Continuous passing of bills
  - Technical production of LD's/amendments
  - Quality of statutes/readability
- More bill drafting info to legislators earlier
- Establish interim committee schedule?
- Cloture date for Governor's bills?
- Change dates? (cloture, statutory adjournment)
- Prioritize issues early in session/focus resources on highest priorities
- Develop process for prioritizing
- Review current drafting process
- Review changes in bill processing and committee deliberation that have already been incorporated
- Legislator's right to sponsor a bill?
- Define "Emergency"
- Require emergency preamble in 2nd Regular?
- Majority rule principle
- Review Fiscal Note process
  - Appear subjective
  - Time and resources a problem
  - Frustration at expending the effort of obtaining the information if it is later ignored on the table
  - Drafting "tricks"

## PUBLIC ACCESS/PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Strengths of current structure and process that support public access and participation include:
  - Public's ability to impact/influence the process
  - Availability of information related to legislative bills, bill status, debate and roll call records
  - Accessibility of legislature/executive department
- Survey public participants
- Define Committee process/services
- Review/revise committee pamphlets
- Educate committees and the public about the role/significance of the fiscal note in the process
- Computer training, support and access for all legislators
- Building concerns/public access:
  - User-friendly kiosk for public
  - Central reception area?
  - Tour guides (volunteers?)
  - Hearing board (South entrance)?
  - More signs

## "INFRASTRUCTURE"

### a. General

- Joint committees are a strength of Maine's legislative process!
- Strong (budget) support for non-partisan staff is also a strength!
- Change legislative schedule (cloture, statutory adjournment)?
- Facilitate work of legislators
- Computer training/support and access for all legislators
- Work station earmarked for legislators' use
- More user friendly bill status
- Key contact list of state agencies/programs
- Security
  - Need fire drill
  - Recently developed emergency response plan (education?)
- Establish interim committee schedule?
- Assess 117th committee structure/jurisdiction
- Interim Study Committees
  - Need to prioritize issues/topics
  - Scheduling
  - Compensation for members/funding

10/10/95