

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

FOOD & BEVERAGES IN COMMITTEE ROOMS

February 7, 2001

I. Statement of Intent

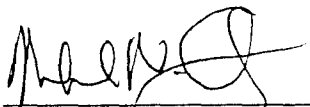
It is the intent of the Legislative Council to develop and preserve the aesthetic and historical integrity of the State House. To that end, this policy will help ensure that the public's investment in those facilities under the auspices of the Legislative Council is protected. There are opportunities for members of the general public and others to use on-site cafeteria services for meals and snacks. However, the scheduling of legislative sessions and committee meetings often limits the amount of time Legislators have to eat. This policy attempts to balance the desire for well-maintained legislative committee rooms with the time constraints placed on Legislators.

II. Committee Rooms

In accordance with Title 3, §162, sub §12 and the model "rules of procedure" provided to each committee, eating and drinking in the State House and Cross Office Building are governed as follows:

- A. Only Committee members and committee staff may consume food and beverages in committee rooms. Water is permitted by others as long as the container is properly disposed of after use;
- B. Committee members shall refrain from eating in committee rooms during public hearings;
- C. Caucus meetings held in committee rooms are exempt from these provisions;
- D. Rooms 228 and 334 in the State House are available for use by any group interested in holding a meeting during which food or beverages are desired. Permission to use these rooms for this purpose must be granted in advance by the Chair of the Legislative Council; and
- E. There may be rooms available on the first floor of the Cross Office Building in the future to host legislative functions, non-legislative study committees and other groups for which food and drink is desired. Please contact the Executive Director's Office for more details.

Adopted by the 120th Legislative Council:

on: 
February 7, 2001