

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

***One Hundred and Twelfth
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume II

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 5, 1984 - June 20, 1985

INDEX

FIRST CONFIRMATION SESSION

August 29, 1985

INDEX

SECOND CONFIRMATION SESSION

October 11, 1985

INDEX

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

November 13, 1985

INDEX

maro, Tardy, Theriault, Vose, Walker, Warren, Zirkilton, The Speaker

ABSENT:—Baker, H.R.; Cashman, Conners, Hillock, Holloway, Kimball, Masterman, Paul, Pouliot, Randall, Ridley, Rolde, Seavey, Small, Willey

22 having voted in the affirmative and 114 in the negative with 15 being absent, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, Senate Amendment "C" (S-284) was adopted.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) as amended by Senate Amendment "C" (S-284) was adopted.

The Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) as amended by Senate Amendment "C" (S-284) thereto, and Senate Amendment "A" (S-140) and House Amendment "A" (H-417) in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

On motion of Representative Reeves of Pittston, the House reconsidered its action whereby L.D. 820, "An Act to Establish Age 21 Years as the Legal Age to Purchase or Consume Alcoholic Beverages and to Deter Drinking and Driving by Minors" was passed to be engrossed

On motion of the same Representative, the House reconsidered its action whereby Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) as amended by Senate Amendment "C" (S-284) and House Amendment "A" (H-417) thereto was adopted.

On motion of the same Representative, the House reconsidered its action whereby House Amendment "A" (H-417) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) was adopted.

On motion of Representative Reeves of Pittston, House Amendment "A" (H-417) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) was indefinitely postponed.

Thereupon, Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) as amended by Senate Amendment "C" (S-284) was adopted.

The Bill passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the following matter: An Act to Clarify the General Assistance Law (S.P. 297) (L.D. 786) (C. "A" S-272) which was tabled earlier in the day and later today assigned pending passage to be enacted.

Whereupon, the bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The following item appearing on Supplement No. 11 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent.

Papers from the Senate Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Require Parental Consent in the Case of Minors' Abortions" (H.P. 298) (L.D. 387) on which the House insisted on its former action whereby Report "B" Ought to Pass" as amended Report of the Committee on Judiciary was read and accepted and the Bill Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-409) on June 14, 1985.

Came from the Senate with that Body having Adhered to its former action whereby Report "A" Ought to Pass" as amended Report of the Committee on Judiciary was read and accepted and the Bill Passed to be Engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-408) in non-concurrence.

Representative Paradis of Augusta moved the House recede and concur.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Paradis.

Representative PARADIS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I will be very, very brief. The hour is late and we have fought long and hard. We have fought honorably for what we perceive to be right. This vote does not represent a compromise, it represents

a commitment to what we think possibly enactable. I would ask you to support my motion to recede and concur so that we can begin to have some sort of parental consent on abortions of minors in Maine. That is the issue, that has always been our commitment and we hope that by voting to recede and concur we can get this bill passed and we can begin to make an effort here in Maine to show some parental responsibility over these abortion rights on minors.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Washington, Representative Allen.

Representative ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: Less there by any confusion, I, too, would urge you to recede and concur so that we can accept Committee Report "A."

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Cahill.

Representative CAHILL: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would hope that you would vote against the recede and concur motion so that we could adhere.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eastport, Representative Vose.

Representative VOSE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I sat very patiently and listened to all the arguments for three reports. The committee, unfortunately, has been bouncing this thing around like a yoyo. I don't think that anyone of them at this point in time are exactly sure just which way they want to go. I would strongly suggest that we defeat the motion to recede and concur and allow the committee to take this issue back to them and, either next year or whatever the case may be, come back to us with a very sensible solution.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Corinth, Representative Strout.

Representative STROUT: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: This is the first time that I have spoken on this issue. I agree with the gentlemen from Eastport that today we should not pass this bill.

I am a father of six children. I have three daughters and three sons. I have one daughter, who will be graduating this Sunday 18 years old. I have another daughter that will be turning 15 in December. If you pass this Report "A," you are saying to me, as a father, and to the mother of my daughter, that somewhere down the line if we should be faced with situations that have been brought on the floor the last couple of days, that my daughter would have to have counseling and I am opposed to that.

I can tell you as a father that I would rather have my neighbor consult with my daughter than someone who is a professional in the counseling field.

I think the only decision that we have before us at this time is to vote no on recede and concur so that we will do nothing, which is where I am coming from tonight.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Paradis.

Representative PARADIS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I will be very brief. Just so there is no confusion, this was not an easy decision for those of us on Report B to make. We made it in the interest of compromise and we made it in the interest of having some bill. We all concur, all of us, that the motion to recede and concur should win. Let there be no mistake about that. The groups that have been lobbying for Report B now agree that we ought to recede and concur. I am happy to have the others join with me, who had signed Report "A", to support the motion to recede and concur. Those who do not, I am very sorry, for their own reasons.

But I tell you if the motion to recede and con-

cur fails, then the entire bill is dead. I would dare say there are some who would like to see the entire bill dead. I am not one of those. I have labored too long. We have given this too much conscientious effort to have this bill die. It is a beginning and it is an honest and sincere beginning. I hope you will support the motion to recede and concur so that we can have a parental consent bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Stockton Springs, Representative Crowley.

Representative CROWLEY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I agree with Representative Vose and Cahill and Mr. Strout. I have been sitting here for a few days listening and listening and wondering, where in God's name have the parents gone? How come they can't be responsible? How come they can't be looked upon as the ones that should be consulted in this thing?

I would rather have my children consulting me. Even when I was a counselor of college students, and in one year I had three youngsters that decided to come to me and they weren't 18, 17 and 16, they were 20, 21 year old girls and they came and discussed. The first thing I tried to get them to do and succeeded was to have them first consult their parents, because they had to live with their lives for a long time and they should know that their parents are out there to love them and respect them. If they get their legs knocked off or something, who is going to take care of them? The parent. After the abortion is over, who is going to take care of them? The parent.

Another thing that has been bothering me all week is we talk about judges as though they are some inferior type people. I know a few judges, I am a little older than most of you, and judges are a little older I guess, but I haven't met a judge in my life that I didn't think would be a lot better counselor that I am with the experience and the knowledge, brains that they have and so forth. For us to sit here and think judges are not capable of making great decisions with our kids, I think is a big mistake.

I think we should take this, as Representative Vose said, back to the drawing board next year and come up with a better bill. I am voting against this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lisbon, Representative Jalbert.

Representative JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Right along, I have supported my good friend from Augusta, Representative Paradis. But I could not go along with him on this issue. As a parent who has raised four children, I think it has been my experience that when you raise children everybody and his uncle will try to tell you how to raise them. If it doesn't turn out right, they say, that is your problem. He is your child. So, I say let's not give up our rights as parents. I have never given up my duty as a parent and I don't think that the government should come along and say to me, you shall go to a counselor before my children can come to me or my children can go to my wife, who I can honestly and proudly say is a lady, who has been the closest to her children of anybody I have ever seen. I don't want that to happen.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Beaulieu.

Representative BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I rise to support the positions taken by Mr. Crowley, Mr. Vose and Mr. Strout. I think I am a little confused. We have a motion before us to recede and concur and yet the arguments in the hall have been, please do not vote for Report A because it is riddled with loopholes and we could wind up in the courts.

Now why is it all of a sudden that the proponents of a parental consent bill are receding

and concurring to what has been, in the past couple of days, promoted as a lousy report? I urge everybody here to vote no on recede and concur.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cumberland, Representative Dillenback.

Representative DILLENBACK: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I haven't spoken on this bill, but as long as you have kept me here all afternoon, I feel I have a right to say a few words.

I have quietly been here listening. Now the young people today are very mobile, they all have vehicles, more or less, or their friends do. I am afraid if you force somebody to go to a judge or to somebody else, they are going to jump into that car and go out of state away from their parents and I do not want to see that happen.

I am going to join with the rest of these people and vote against this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Cooper.

Representative COOPER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I will keep this very short. I just wanted to concur that I hope you will vote to recede and concur. This, I believe, is the last opportunity this year to support a bill that encourages parental consent or at least parental involvement. All of the minors would have someone who would discuss with them the possibility of involving their parents in the decision to have an abortion. That is the fact of the bill. I wish you would keep that in mind, those of you who are concerned about parental consent, you cannot have parental consent but at least with this bill you will have somebody encouraging minors to involve their parents in the decision.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monmouth, Representative Davis.

Representative DAVIS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Again, as Representative Dillenback has said, I have listened for two days to this argument concerning this issue. I am the father of four daughters and one son. I am telling you now that I have finally made up my mind that I agree with Mr. Vose, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Dillenback, and Mrs. Beaulieu. I hope you will vote with them.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Kimball.

Representative KIMBALL: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I am not even going to tell you how to vote but I do think I need to stand and say a little bit in defense of my profession. I will just address one of the issues that Representative Strout brought up. It is an issue that we agree on with him, I am quite sure. I think that, if you talk to anyone else that is in the profession as well as myself, sincerely, if things can be settled out of my office and out of the rest of the offices, if they can be settled with the next door neighbors, if they can be settled with your aunt, your cousin, it is always a much better way of resolving problems than coming to see a person like me.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Brown.

Representative BROWN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I, too, have listened to this long enough. My position from the beginning was for parental consent and it always will be. I was here in the House in the 109th when we passed it. I am a cosponsor of this bill. I would ask you please to vote against the motion to recede and concur. I would rather have nothing.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Carrier.

Representative CARRIER: Mr. Speaker, and

Members of the House: I wish to reveal to you the truth about this bill. As you know, we all have a different approach and mine was pretty nice and clear. If we were to have this bill at all, I would naturally have preferred Report B, but the situation is not whether A or B or C is the best, as of today, the things that are going on around here is not the question of what is best.

We have suffered by the nonfeasance of the other body over there. The thing is that the same people that were here a few days ago were to accept Report A or they were voting to recede and concur, today when the motion is made, they don't want to vote for recede and concur. I will tell you why they don't want to vote for recede and concur because the same people that have been lobbying this place for the last two weeks or the last week or so, every night and day, they don't want this bill at all. This is why they tell the people that have voted to recede and concur before to change their vote and vote to adhere because they don't want any bill at all.

So, let's be truthful. I want a bill, I wasn't for Report A. I don't think that is the real vehicle for the thing. But I think rather than have nothing, I will vote for Report A strictly on the principles of those that have promoted this thing and now they don't want the bill at all. They have fought, they have lobbied you, they have written letters, they have cornered you, they have promised things to make you vote for Report A, which is what is now here. Wisely, a lot of people refused it and we didn't vote for Report A. This is why there are some people that have not supported Amendment B before are voting today, not to recede and concur, that is what they wanted a day ago. They changed because the people outdoors and in the hall and people upstairs, they don't want any bill. This is why.

I submit to you that if you want to do something for those kids, if you even want to do a little thing for the kids that get caught in a pregnancy, you better go with Report A.

We have tried all kinds of ways, we had all kinds of hopes to get around to this thing but we haven't. I submit to you that today your best vote is to support the motion to recede and concur.

I have not totally changed my position but I have changed it enough to bring to you the truth of what has been going on with this bill. So, I submit to you that you should support the motion to recede and concur and inquire to those that supported that motion before, why today, if they vote the opposite. I don't have to give you their issues. Let them account for themselves, like I will account for myself. I submit to you that you should support the motion to recede and concur.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Washington, Representative Allen.

Representative ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: I rise to urge you to vote in support of recede and concur. All members, all 13 members of the Judiciary Committee, were in agreement that some form of this bill ought to pass both Houses. The proponents of Report B had an opportunity to present that report to you. A majority of you accepted that. Some of you rejected that. Some of you rejected it because you wanted to support Report A. Some of you may have rejected that because you wanted to, in fact, kill the entire bill. I respect that. I, for one, have been out there in the lobby and I, for one, have been trying to persuade you to support Report A. I accept the fact that I was unable to do that here in this House. I very much respect your individual decisions as to why or why not you will or will not support recede and concur. But from the onset, from the very beginning, when I said that I was committed to Report A, I, and those six people that joined me on Report A, advocated some form of urging kids to go to

their parents when they need them. I, for one, am happy to hear my friend from Westbrook and my friend from Augusta urge you also to now support the only report, the only thing available to you, and that is Report A.

Mr. Speaker, may I pose a question to you?

My question is, if we fail to recede and concur, will this bill be dead? Will it die in non-concurrence?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eastport, Representative Vose.

Representative VOSE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would like to pose a question through the Chair to any member of the Judiciary Committee. Would somebody explain the present law to me now?

The SPEAKER: Representative Vose of Eastport has posed a question through the Chair to any member who may respond, if they so desire.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Paradis.

Representative PARADIS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: There is no law on the Maine books today.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Nicholson.

Representative NICHOLSON: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: We talked about this for two days and everything has been said. I move to indefinitely postpone this bill and all its accompanying papers. I ask for a roll call.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the Representative from South Portland that the only portion of his speech that is applicable is the request for the roll call.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been requested. For the Chair to order a roll call, it must have the expressed desire of more than one-fifth of the members present and voting. Those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken and more than one-fifth of the members present and voting having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is the motion to recede and concur.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Nelson.

Representative NELSON: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: I ask permission to pair my vote with the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kane. If he were here and voting, he would be voting yes and I would be voting no.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is the motion to recede and concur. Those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL No. 200

YEAS:—Aliberti, Allen, Baker, A.L.; Begley, Boutlier, Bragg, Brodeur, Brown, D.N.; Carrier, Carroll, Carter, Chonko, Clark, Cooper, Cote, Diamond, Duffy, Farnum, Foster, Gwadosky, Harper, Hayden, Higgins, H.C.; Higgins, L.M.; Jacques, Lacroix, Lebowitz, Lord, MacBride, Manning, Mayo, McGowan, McHenry, McSweeney, Melendy, Michael, Michaud, Murphy, E.M.; Murray, Nadeau, G.G.; Nadeau, G.R.; Paradis, P.E.; Parent, Perry, Pines, Priest, Racine, Rice, Richard, Rioux, Roberts, Rondoni, Ruhlín, Scarpino, Sproul, Stevenson, Swazey, Tammara, Tardy, Telow, Walker, Whitcomb, The Speaker.

NAYS:—Armstrong, Beaulieu, Bell, Bonney, Bost, Bott, Brannigan, Brown, A.K.; Cahill, Callahan, Coles, Connolly, Crouse, Crowley, Daggett, Davis, Dellert, Descoteaux, Dexter, Dillenback, Erwin, Foss, Greenlaw, Hale, Handy, Hepburn, Hitchborn, Hickey, Hoglund, Ingraham, Jackson, Jalbert, Joseph, Kimball, Lander, Law, Lawrence, Lisnik, Macomber,

Martin, H.C.; McCollister, McPherson, Mills, Mitchell, Moholland, Murphy, T.W.; Nicholson, Nickerson, O'Gara, Paradis, E.J.; Reeves, Rydell, Salsbury, Sherburne, Simpson, Smith, C.B.; Smith, C.W.; Soucy, Stetson, Stevens, A.G.; Stevens, P.; Strout, Taylor, Theriault, Vose, Warren, Webster, Wentworth, Weymouth, Zirkilton.

ABSENT:—Baker, H.R.; Cashman, Conners, Drinkwater, Hillock, Holloway, Masterman, Matthews, Paul, Pouliot, Randall, Ridley, Rolde, Seavey, Small, Willey.

PAIRED:—Kane-Nelson.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 70 in the negative with 16 being absent and two paired, the motion did not prevail.

On motion of Representative Cahill of Woolwich, the House voted to adhere.

The Chair laid before the House the following matter: An Act Concerning Employment of Certain Individuals in Contact with Children (H.P. 963) (L.D. 1384) (C. "A" H-389) which was tabled earlier in the day and later today assigned pending passage to be enacted.

On motion of Representative Nelson of Portland, under suspension of the rules, the House reconsidered its action whereby this Bill was passed to be engrossed.

The same Representative offered House Amendment "A" (H-421) and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" (H-421) was read by the Clerk and adopted.

The Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-389) as amended by House Amendment "A" (H-421) in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

The following item appearing on Supplement No. 10 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent.

Petitions, Bills and Resolves Requiring Reference

The following Bill was received and, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, was referred to the following Committees, Ordered Printed and Sent up for Concurrence:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Promote Industrial Stability" (H.P. 1145) (Presented by Representative DIAMOND of Bangor) (Cosponsors: Representative HAYDEN of Durham, Senators VIOLETTE of Aroostook and CLARK of Cumberland)

(Ordered Printed.)

Sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon requiring Senate concurrence were ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

(At Ease)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The following item appearing on Supplement No. 13 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

Orders

On motion of Representative DIAMOND of Bangor, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1147) (Cosponsors:)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that Bill, "AN ACT to Clarify the Discretionary Authority of the Harness Racing Commission to License Parimutuel meets and Assign Racing Dates," (H.P. 790, L.D. 1120), be recalled from the Governor's desk to the House.

Was read and passed and sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, was ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

The following items appearing on Supplement No. 12 were taken up out of order by

unanimous consent:

Papers from the Senate

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 638)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that Bill, "AN ACT to Amend the Reapportionment Law" (S.P. 619, L.D. 1630), be recalled from the Governor's desk to the Senate.

Came from the Senate, read and passed.

Was read and passed in concurrence.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Judiciary reporting "Ought Not to Pass" on Bill "An Act to Establish Confidential Communications Between Certified Public Accountants and their Clients Concerning Tax Matters" (S.P. 620) (L.D. 1635)

Signed:

Senators:

CARPENTER of Aroostook
SEWALL of Lincoln

Representatives:

COOPER of Windham
ALLEN of Washington
DRINKWATER of Belfast
KANE of South Portland
PRIEST of Brunswick
STETSON of Damariscotta
LEBOWITZ of Bangor
MacBRIDE of Presque Isle
PARADIS of Augusta
CARRIER of Westbrook

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-292) on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CHALMERS of Knox

Came from the Senate with the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report read and accepted. Reports were read.

Whereupon, the House voted to accept the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Amend the Maine Certificate of Need Act to Require More Timely Decision Making on the Part of the Department of Human Services (S.P. 214) (L.D. 572) (C. "A" S-270) which was passed to be enacted in the House on June 14, 1985.

Came from the Senate passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-270) as amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-293) thereto in non-concurrence.

On motion of Representative Diamond of Bangor, tabled pending further consideration and specially assigned for Monday, June 17, 1985.

Consent Calendar

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 49, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(S.P. 504) (L.D. 1364) Bill "An Act Establishing a Commission to Study Family Matters in Court and the Establishment of a Family Division of Court" (Emergency) Committee on Judiciary reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-291).

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given, the Senate Paper was passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the following matter: Bill "An Act Relating to the Administration of Vocational Education" (S.P. 628) (L.D. 1645) which was tabled earlier in the day and later today assigned pending passage to be engrossed.

Representative Gwadosky of Fairfield offered House Amendment "B" (H-422) and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "B" (H-422) was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Gwadosky.

Representative GWADOSKY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Sometimes when we are serving in this Legislature, we find out that no matter how strongly you feel about a particular issue and no matter how committed you are, that your train gets derailed and you get knocked down to the mat. I guess when that happens you have two choices, you either stay on the mat and don't get up for the count or you get up and start swinging again and try and do the best you can.

Clearly, the original bill to create a Department of Vocational Technical Institutes or agency outside the Department of Education has some overwhelming support, both in this body and in the other body. However, like it or not, the VTI's are not going to be separated from the Department of Education. That is the way it is. So, both committees, the Education Committee and the State Government Committee, were able to get together yesterday and try to work out differences we may have and what we could do from now on since we were fortunate to have a companion piece of legislation dealing with VTI's from the Education Committee.

We took the consensus of that group yesterday and this morning we met with the Governor's Office and the Department of Education and tried to hammer out what we think now is a pretty good piece of legislation that the Governor's Office now supports.

Essentially what we have done, if this amendment is adopted to this bill, is this allows us to provide the greatest amount of help that we can to VTI's without having a separate department.

This bill, as amended, would provide for a separate Board of Vocational Technical Institutes so it would be like every other secondary, post-secondary institution. It would have a separate governing board which would become fully operational in July of 1986.

Also, because it is going to become operational in July of 1986, we have put together a committee to further study for the next six months the recommendation of the Education Committee and the State Government Committee in offering more flexibility to VTI's having direct appropriations before the Appropriations Committee which everybody felt was crucial for the survival of VTI's.

Secondly, the ability to collect fees that they generate.

Thirdly, a greater flexibility in personnel structures. Also the ability to invest funds which they may acquire from gifts.

This bill, if this amendment is adopted, would create a little subcommittee that would meet at this time and that would be made up of the Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Personnel, the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Vocational Technical Institutes and one committee member from the Joint Standing Committee on Education, one committee member from the Joint Standing Committee on State Government and one from the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations, would meet and review, recommend, and submit legislation to the Governor in December of this year in regards to the form of appropriations for the vocational technical institutes, the authority and procedures governing personnel and labor relations functions of the vocational technical institutes, other administrative authority and functions including staffing relating to the VTI's. The bill then says the Governor will review and submit legislation that comes out of this particular group by February 1, 1986.

In other words, those recommendations to solve the various problems, which we have