

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 5, 2018

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

An Act To Prevent Discrimination in Public and Private Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women in Maine

(H.P. 594) (L.D. 820)
(S. "A" S-275 to C. "A" H-210)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative STEWART of Presque Isle, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion, probably for the final time this session.

Sixty-two percent of Mainers oppose taxpayer-funded abortions. The fiscal note on this bill is \$1.3 million. The people of our districts most likely are heavily opposed to this use of taxpayer funds, and no one in this chamber represents the two people in that corner or the two people in that corner or the one behind that podium. We represent the people from our towns and municipalities and they overwhelmingly oppose this. I urge the Members to vote against the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Tepler.

Representative **TEPLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this motion. As chair of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I heard the stories of dozens of women who came forward to talk about their decisions to have an abortion and the hardships that they faced when their coverage was denied. They were honest and their stories were heartbreaking.

We heard about women dealing with addiction, women in violent relationships, women desperate to find the money to pay for an abortion, women who were struggling to raise a family and knew they could not afford another child, and women who received tragic news about their health or the health of their pregnancies that meant that abortion was the safest option. We also heard about women who experienced miscarriage and were denied coverage because of the similarities in the procedures and medications used in miscarriage and abortion.

All these women knew that their decision to have an abortion was the right one for them, for their families and for their future. The decision about whether to have an abortion is a deeply personal one. It involves a complex weighing of a woman's unique circumstances, her medical needs, her private morality and her own body. That is why it is a decision that must be made by a woman and her healthcare provider.

LD 820 will allow women regardless of their income level to make decisions about their pregnancies in consultation with their medical providers without the fear of being denied coverage. Fifteen states already provide comprehensive coverage within their Medicaid program and eight others provide expanded coverage. More than half the country's Medicaid-insured population are afforded broader coverage or

abortion than women living in Maine. Maine women deserve the same basic healthcare that others receive across the country. This body has already voted in favor of this legislation twice and I hope we will again. If we don't, women and families will bear the consequences. Also, I might add, I have the bill open, I am looking at the fiscal note, and it is \$227,000 in FY 19/20 and \$375,000 some-odd dollars in FY 20/20, 20/21. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We have \$847 million worth of good bills on the table. It is absolutely absurd to consider funding elective abortions when people are suffering, when there's not enough funds to pay enough direct care workers, you have people biting themselves, smearing feces on the walls, nobody's taking care of them, I just can't believe we're even considering funding this in light of the other really good bills that need to be funded. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caribou, Representative DeVeau.

Representative **DeVEAU**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I'm sure that everybody is wondering what I'm going to say about this, especially after the normal shock and awe that I give. What I did want to mention is that we have roughly 33 minutes before the game and we're debating something that we're going to ask taxpayers to pay for. Let me ask you this; how many of you are willing to pay for veterans who are homeless or going into a transitional facility? Because that is something that we're not funding. That bill is sitting on the table right now, waiting for some kind of a funding source to take care of it, and yet we're going to be told here shortly, as probably the third time and final time, that we're going to pay the taxes for somebody to have an elective surgery, operation, procedure. It's ridiculous. We can't even take care of our veterans but we're going to pay for this with our tax dollars.

Big applause for those that vote for this, and keep that in your mind while you're doing it.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Knox, Representative Kinney.

Representative **KINNEY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise because I've heard this more than once here that a woman can't get services for a miscarriage because it's just like an abortion. I'm a woman who's had a miscarriage. After my miscarriage, I was severely hemorrhaging, I almost died, I had a D&C, and it was covered. It's a false premise that it is not covered and taxpayers don't want to be funding this. Even those who are pro-choice don't agree that we should be using their dollars to pay for someone else's choice to murder a baby. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative **PICKETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'll be brief. As I said in the original debate, I believe that life begins at conception. I stand here to vote as a voice for the baby in the womb. I cannot and will not support taxpayer-funded abortions, which is simply killing of babies. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative McCreight.

Representative **McCREIGHT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Women and Men of the House. I rise in support of LD 820.

This bill provides fair and equitable healthcare for all women, regardless of their income or their type of insurance.

This bill requires that any insurer, public or private, that covers prenatal care must also cover complete pregnancy care including abortion. It gets politicians and insurance companies out of the way of peoples' right to make their own medical decisions by ending an unfair and arbitrary policy. A person's insurance coverage or level of income should never be used as a barrier to restrict anyone's access to complete pregnancy coverage. Unless we remove these barriers, we are continuing policies that have created systemic injustice. This bill puts women's health first, and we should not stand in the way. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 246

YEA - Ackley, Austin B, Babbidge, Babine, Bailey, Beebe-Center, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carney, Cloutier, Collings, Cooper, Craven, Cuddy, Daughtry, Denk, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fay, Fecteau R, Foley, Gattine, Gramlich, Grohoski, Handy, Harnett, Hepler, Hickman, Hobbs, Hubbell, Hymanson, Ingwersen, Jorgensen, Kessler, Kornfield, Landry, Madigan C, Mastraccio, Matlack, Maxmin, McCreight, McDonald, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Moonen, Morales, Moriarty, O'Neil, Paulhus, Pebworth, Peoples, Perry A, Pierce T, Pluecker, Reckitt, Riley, Roberts-Lovell, Rykerson, Schneck, Sharpe, Sheats, Stover, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, Warren, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Alley, Andrews, Arata, Austin S, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Corey, Costain, Curtis, DeVeau, Dillingham, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, Fecteau J, Foster, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Higgins, Javner, Johansen, Keschl, Kinney, Kryzak, Lockman, Lyford, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Perry J, Pickett, Prescott, Reed, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Swallow, Tuell, Wadsworth, White D.

ABSENT - Cebra, Crockett, Grignon, Hutchins, Riseman, Skolfield, Theriault, Verow, White B.

Yes, 82; No, 59; Absent, 9; Excused, 1.

82 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 204)

STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

I, the Secretary of State of Maine, certify that according to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, the Department of the Secretary of State is the legal custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Maine which is hereunto affixed and that the document to which this is attached is a true copy from the records of this Department.

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at

Augusta, Maine, on the twelfth of June in the year two thousand and nineteen.

S/Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

June 12, 2019

I, Matthew Dunlap, Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of the proclamation issued by the Governor on March 28, 2019, calling for a Special Election to be held on June 11, 2019, to elect a State Representative in District 45 and having tabulated the returns of the votes cast;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS: In accordance with Title 21-A MRSA Section 711, having tabulated the total number of State ballots cast, the number of voters participating in this election is 2,097; and that Stephen W. Moriarty of Cumberland, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected a State Representative in the 129th Legislature in District 45:

Hughes, Kevin C.	804
Moriarty, Stephen W.	1,289

I, Matthew Dunlap, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast at the Special Election, as reported to me on the returns from the municipalities of Cumberland and Gray.

S/Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

On motion of Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, the House adjourned at 7:35 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 13, 2019.