

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Fourth
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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KENNEBEC JOURNAL
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decided prior to entertaining the motion to table.

All in favor of a roll call will vote yes; those opposed will vote no. The Chair opens the vote.

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

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, tabled pending the motion to reconsider and assigned for later in today's session.

The Chair laid before the House the second tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Increasing the Gasoline Tax" (H. P. 1217) (L. D. 1549)

Tabled—May 29, by Mr. Susi of Pittsfield.

Pending—Motion of Mr. Fecteau of Biddeford to reconsider passage to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" (H-398).

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Fecteau.

Mr. FECTEAU: Mry I speak to my motion, please?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may speak to his motion to reconsider.

Mr. FECTEAU: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: After speaking with Mr. Nadeau on the Highway Department I realized that I had made a mistake in voting the other day, and I feel that we should maybe go on and put the two cents back on the gasoline tax instead of bonding the Highway Department again for a twenty million bond.

There are a lot of people on this gasoline tax that they can deduct it at the end of the year, like traveling salemen, business officials, people that travel to work—sometimes they have passengers, and they can absorb this, this small amount. And I really think—what's 15 gallons of gas, it is probably thirty cents a week that we might pay extra. And then we have to recognize that we are going to have a lot of transients, a lot of strangers that are going to visit our lakes and parks and

beaches, and we might have a lot of help from them.

So I really think that we should go on and keep the two cent tax and save us from a lot of interest on bonds.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pittsfield, Mr. Susi.

Mr. SUSI: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I understand that the Highway budget is going to be before us in the next day or so, I understand tomorrow, and I believe that it would have considerable influence on us if we knew what we were buying with this tax; so I would hope that someone would table this until tomorrow so that we could consider the budget at the same time as the tax.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Lee of Albion, tabled pending the motion of Mr. Fecteau of Biddeford to reconsider and specially assigned for tomorrow.

The Chair laid before the House the third tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Revising the Motor Dealer Registration Law" (H. P. 1185) (L. D. 1506)

Tabled—May 29, by Mr. Crosby of Kennebunk.

Pending—Motion of Mr. Lebel of Van Buren to reconsider insisting.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Van Buren, Mr. Lebel.

Mr. LEBEL: Mr. Speaker, I present an amendment and I move its adoption, House Amendment "A".

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman that the motion to reconsider is pending.

Thereupon, the pending motion to reconsider insisting prevailed.

On motion of Mr. Lebel of Van Buren, the House voted to recede.

The same gentleman then offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" (H-439) was read by the Clerk and adopted and the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the fourth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Provide Mandatory Penalties for Commission of a Crime with a Firearm" (H. P. 1031) (L. D. 1361)

Tabled—May 29, by Mr. Hewes of Cape Elizabeth.

Pending—Motion of Mr. Carter of Winslow to reconsider receding and concurring.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Lund.

Mr. LUND: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This L. D. is an attempt to solve a problem which has been causing a great deal of difficulty in this state as other states, and that is a problem of carrying weapons in the course of commissions of crime, and implementing the solution by specific legislation is one that has become rather complicated.

It seems to me that we can agree in substance on a solution and I have an amendment which is being reproduced which I would hope to offer and would like to discuss later on in today's session. I would hope that some member might table this until later in today's session so we could give consideration to an amendment that would I think provide a fair solution to this problem.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Eastport, Mr. Mills.

Mr. MILLS: Mr. Speaker, I so move it.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire what the so move gentleman is moving? (laughter)

Mr. MILLS: The request of Representative Lund, sir, to table for one legislative day or later in the session.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, tabled pending the motion of Mr. Carter of Winslow to reconsider receding and concurring and assigned for later in today's session.

The Chair laid before the House the fifth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Relieve Certain Elderly Householders from Extra-

ordinary Property Tax Burdens" (H. P. 1017) (L. D. 1325)

Tabled—May 29, by Miss Watson of Bath.

Pending—Motion of Mr. Ouellette of South Portland to reconsider indefinite postponement.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Bath, Miss Watson.

Miss WATSON: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I respectfully urge that you allow L. D. 1325, An Act to Relieve Certain Elderly Householders from Extraordinary Property Tax Burdens, to be reconsidered this afternoon. I do so because after giving this matter considerable study, I feel that this document is the only workable and equitable solution to the serious problem which confronts us.

A recent report prepared for the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging said that three out of ten Americans more than 65 years old were living in poverty yet "many of these aged people did not become poor until they became old." Thus it becomes clear that many of these senior citizens to whom I feel we now have a moral obligation to grant some relief, were once paying members of this society who contributed to the economy of this State and this Nation and now through a cutback in income and an increasingly exorbitant property tax find themselves under a severe financial hardship.

I would hope that by now everyone in this House realizes that a need clearly exists and that we no longer have to debate the desirability of such a program of relief, but rather only how best to implement it.

I would like to reiterate briefly why many of us feel that L. D. 1325 is far superior to the new draft by the Taxation Committee:

1. L. D. 1325 recognizes that people who rent also pay property taxes through increased charges by landlords; the new draft does not.

2. L. D. 1325 would provide relief for those whose property taxes are already too high; the new draft