

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

One Hundred And Fifteenth Legislature

OF THE

State Of Maine

VOLUME V

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

July 11, 1991 to July 18, 1991

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FIRST CONFIRMATION SESSION

October 2, 1991

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SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

December 18, 1991 to January 7, 1992

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

January 8, 1992 to March 9, 1992

Emergency

An Act Providing Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1991, June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1993

H.P. 1393 L.D. 1979
(H "A" H-762 to S
"D" S-468; S "C"
S-467)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Dutremble.

Senator **DUTREMBLE:** Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is the Budget, the two year Biennium that we have been trying so hard to pass. It has been debated enough. It is time to vote and get the state back on the road. I would encourage everyone to support the Bill that is before us.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Cahill.

Senator **CAHILL:** Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I, too, would urge passage of the two year Budget, which is appearing before us on Supplement 1. Today has really been a tough day, we have all worked very hard to try to come to some agreement. The agreement that was worked out between the Governor, and the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House on July 14th, states that if the points of agreement on the Workers' Compensation Package are satisfactory, that a majority of both caucuses, including all of leadership, will go ahead and give the necessary 24 votes in the Senate to Enact this Bill. I am encouraging you to do that today.

I would like to state that we have been working up until this very minute on language, verifying that this language is necessary. There are still a couple very small areas of agreement, but we are willing today to work on faith. We are going to work on the word of each and every one of you here, that the language that is about to be worked out is, indeed, satisfactory to both sides. I am assuming that it will be, but after the vote is taken, this will go directly to the Governor's Office for his signature upon agreement of that language. There are still several small things that have yet to be agreed on. It will go to his office, and as a member of the Republican leadership, I am hoping and encouraging you all to work in good faith, which many of you have done in the last twenty-four hours, and I think that everything will be done satisfactorily. I would request a Roll Call.

On motion by Senator **CAHILL** of Sagadahoc, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll call was ordered.

The President requested that the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **CLARK** to the Rostrum where she assumed the duties as President Pro Tem.

The President took a seat on the Floor of the Senate.

Senate called to Order by the President Pro Tem.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Pray.

Senator **PRAY:** Thank you Madam President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is a moment that the members of the 115th Legislature has long awaited, an opportunity to pass a Biennial Budget for the operation of our government. Not a Republican Government or a Democratic Government, but of our government. I think in a sense we owe an apology to the people of this state, taking us so long to get to this particular point. The action is, as I have stated before, that this Chamber needed to act responsibly, and to respond to the oath of office that we had taken. Today we will have that opportunity.

The good Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Cahill, raised concerns that there are still a few specific pieces of language that need to be worked out. In pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement, which does state that the legislative representatives and the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulations will establish points of agreements on Workers' Compensation Reform language and savings, this is the particular point of language that she is referring to, just so that everybody clearly understands, the Memorandum of Agreement that was signed by the Governor, the Speaker, and myself, was penned by myself. Obviously, one can read a fair amount into that agreement. But it was an attempt to break the impasse that we were at, so that we could move forward. I think that the remaining points of language are minor. I will hope they are minor in nature, and that the Governor of this state will be able to, this evening, sign this document so that the people of the State of Maine can start receiving their services, and those who are employed by the citizens of this state, can return to work, because they have been unfairly, truly unfairly, held at a degree of disrespect, hostage to the situation. I hesitated, because I don't want to be inflammatory to any one, because I do respect the political convictions, even though I may disagree with them, to those who had concerns about the points of differences. The necessity to offset Representative Marsano, the sponsor of the tax proposals legislation of increase in taxes by \$300 million to the citizens of this state, it is something bipartisan that we have equally shared a concern about sponsored on behalf of the Governor of our state. I want to compliment him on recognizing the necessity of both revenues and the reduction of spending. Those members of the Appropriations Committee who labored for many hours in putting together a document that was so unanimously agreed to on the second floor in the Appropriations Room, as well as the Chief