

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Fifth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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port was read and accepted in concurrence, Committee Amendment A was indefinitely postponed in concurrence; House Amendment A was read and adopted in concurrence; the bill was read once and tomorrow assigned for second reading.

The Committee on Judiciary on "Resolve, in Favor of Helen G. McShea, of Fort Fairfield," (H. P. 1585) (L. D. 1157) reported that the same ought to pass.

Comes from the House, the report read and accepted, and the bill passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "B." (Amendment Filing No. 340)

In the Senate, the report was read and accepted in concurrence and the resolve read once; House Amendment B was read and adopted in concurrence, and the resolve as so amended was tomorrow assigned for second reading.

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on Bill "An Act to Provide for the Issue of State of Maine Building Construction Bonds for the Construction and Equipment of State Buildings," (H. P. 1297) (L. D. 855) reported the same in a resolve under title of "Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Clarify the Provisions That Relate to the State's Borrowing Power," (H. P. 1782) (L. D. 1320) and that it ought to pass.

Comes from the House, the report read and accepted, and the resolve passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A." (Amendment Filing No. 345)

In the Senate, the report was read.

On motion by Mr. Leavitt of Cumberland, the report was accepted in concurrence and the bill read once.

Thereupon, Mr. Haskell of Penobscot presented Senate Amendment A to House Amendment A and moved its adoption.

The Secretary read the Amendment.

Senate Amendment A to House Amendment A: "Amend said amendment by striking out in the second paragraph thereof, the following: 'and to place a limit of ten

million dollars on the right of the legislature to borrow'.

Further amend said amendment by striking out the figure ten million dollars in next to the last line thereof and inserting in place thereof of the following: '\$2,000,000.'

Further amend said amendment at the end thereof by the following: "Further amend said resolve by striking out the underlined words 'ten million dollars' in the 6th line of that part designated Section 14 thereof and inserting in place thereof of the underlined words 'two million dollars.'"

Mr. HASKELL of Penobscot: Mr. President, I certainly would not rise to vote against a tabling motion but I would like to explain the intent of the amendment. It, in honesty, cuts the heart out of the Constitutional Resolve by striking the words ten million dollars out and replacing it with the figures two million dollars which two million represents the figure that now exists in the Constitution. I preferred that motion to the motion of indefinite postponement because the draftsmen have, in my opinion, made an improvement in that section of the Constitution. They have made it a clear issue.

But I do not agree with the theory that we ought to increase from two million to ten million the debt as expressed in the Constitution. I offer no objection to any resolve that states the purposes for which the debt is to be created and if that debt to be created receives favorable consideration of two-thirds of both branches voting on it and then is voted favorably by the people, that is the orderly procedure.

I would recite briefly to you the history of capital expenditures finance in the State of Maine. We have had sufficient general fund income at least in the last seven sessions of the legislature to provide out of general fund surplus, the dollars necessary to finance capital expenditures. Following this new trend, I think it is simply opening up the door whereby this legislature or a future legislature without tax dollars sufficient to finance capital expenditures will continue to increase that limit, first from two to ten, then from ten to twenty and we will have

that finance structure that faces us in our federal government balance sheet, and there is no other words for it in my book than deficit financing.

This thing happens to come up on a day following an action of this legislature that in spite of the thing, it probably will produce dollars to build that surplus back to a reasonable figure to permit future legislatures to continue financing capital expenditures out of surplus.

I don't believe at this time, having just taken unto ourselves a new tax source, as substantial as it is, we ought to look with favor upon any bill of such substantial amount seeking to borrow it to further finance the things we haven't got the dollars to finance out of income and this amendment does cut the Constitutional Resolve back to the two million that is in the document now. That is how it has been for 130 years. We have made capital expenditures out of revenues raised by succeeding legislatures and it seems to me that is what we ought to keep on doing. I oppose the ten million dollar proposition.

Mr. LEAVITT of Cumberland: Mr. President, I believe this matter is of great importance to the State of Maine. The borrowing of two million dollars in the State of Maine, the right to borrow it, back 130 years ago was a tremendous undertaking. In those days two million dollars would buy what twenty million will buy today. When our founding fathers put that two million in there, they meant to put in a large sum, a sum large enough to build the buildings which were necessary.

We have changed our economy since then. As everybody knows, the things we could build then for a small amount of money, now cost from five to ten times as much.

Therefore this figure is simply bringing the Constitution up to date. Actually it is no increase over what the founding fathers had in mind back 130 years ago. I believe there should be quite a lot of discussion about this bill and a lot of chance to talk it over among ourselves. Therefore, I

move that the amendment and the accompanying papers lie on the table until we have had time to think it over.

The motion prevailed and the resolve and accompanying papers were laid upon the table pending motion of Senator Haskell to adopt Senate Amendment to House Amendment A.

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on bill, "An Act to Provide a Plan for the Administration of Certain Welfare Funds" (H. P. 1298) (L. D. 856) reported that the same ought not to pass.

The Committee on Claims on "Resolve, to Reimburse the Town of Wells for Support of Laura Gregoire and Louis Lindquist," (H. P. 183) reported that the same ought not to pass.

The Committee on Highways on Bill "An Act Relating to Controlled Access Highways," (H. P. 464) (L. D. 284) reported that the same ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill "An Act to Authorize the Construction of a Bridge Across the Penobscot River," (H. P. 184) (L. D. 115) reported that the same ought not to pass as it is covered by other legislation.

The same Committee on Bill "An Act to Provide for the Issue of State of Maine Highway Bonds for the Construction of State Highways," (H. P. 1078) (L. D. 681) reported that the same ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill "An Act Relating to Controlled Access Highways," (H. D. 1342) (L. D. 917) reported that the same ought not to pass.

The Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game on Bill "An Act Relating to Crop and Orchard Damage by Protected Wild Animals," (H. P. 1532) (L. D. 1125) reported that leave be granted to withdraw the same as it is covered by other legislation.

The Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act Relating to Beano," (H. P. 930) (L. D. 530) reported that the same ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill "An Act Prohibiting Sunday Stock Car