

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*Ninety-Seventh Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1955

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
Augusta, Maine

Improvement Company" (H. P. 707) (L. D. 775)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, all passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

#### Recommitted

Bill "An Act relating to Sale and Use of Electric Fences" (H. P. 729) (L. D. 791)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bingham, Mr. Shaw.

Mr. SHAW: Mr. Speaker, there was an error in the manner whereby Legislative Document 791 was reported out by the Judiciary Committee and after having discussed the matter with the Senate Chairman of the Committee and with his approval, I now move that Legislative Document 791 be recommitted for their attention.

The Speaker pro tem: The gentleman from Bingham, Mr. Shaw, moves that Legislative Document 791 be recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and the Bill was recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary and sent up for concurrence.

Bill "An Act relating to Sale of Unused Forest Fire Warden Headquarters Sites" (H. P. 786) (L. D. 869)

Bill "An Act Regulating Abandonment of Iceboxes, Refrigerators and other Airtight Containers" (H. P. 836) (L. D. 927)

Bill "An Act Regulating the Taking of Alewives in the Town of Bristol" (H. P. 850) (L. D. 936)

Bill "An Act Regulating the Taking of Clams in the Town of Penobscot" (H. P. 851) (L. D. 937)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Act Providing for the Board of Commissioners of Police for the City of Augusta" (H. P. 916) (L. D. 1024)

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Creation of the Office of Director of Public Works for the City of Waterville" (H. P. 917) (L. D. 1025)

Bill "An Act relating to Power to Hold and Purchase Property by the City of Waterville" (H. P. 918) (L. D. 1026)

Bill "An Act Amending the Slum Clearance and Redevelopment Authority in Portland" (H. P. 920) (L. D. 1028)

Bill "An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Brewer" (H. P. 923) (L. D. 1031)

Bill "An Act relating to the Digging of Clams in Freeport" (H. P. 936) (L. D. 1039)

Resolve Regulating Fishing in Mousam Lake, York County (H. P. 267) (L. D. 251)

Resolve Regulating Fishing in Square Pond, York County (H. P. 268) (L. D. 252)

Resolve Regulating Fishing in Goose Pond, York County (H. P. 269) (L. D. 253)

Resolve Regulating Fishing in Little Ossipee Pond (H. P. 270) (L. D. 254)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, Bills read the third time, Resolves read the second time, all passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

#### Tabled and Assigned

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Change the Qualifications of Citizenship of the Governor (H. P. 432) (L. D. 478)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the second time.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie.

Mrs. CHRISTIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer an amendment to this resolve and I move its adoption and I would like to speak to the amendment.

It is my firm conviction that if we are to preserve our American way of life, we must have leaders who are familiar with that way. I believe that this way cannot be fully understood by immigrants, no matter how worthy or intelligent they may be until they have lived for some time in this country. Many countries from which we accept people into our citizenship are those which have a very different background and different ideolo-

gies. Mississippi and New Jersey require 20 years citizenship as a requirement for Governor of their states. New Jersey has what is considered a modern constitution. It was used as a model for states desiring constitutional revision. That state required citizenship for 20 years of which at least 7 years must be in that state.

It seems to concern those in favor of L. D. 478 that a person would be too old to become governor if he had to have 20 years citizenship before he could run for office. The requirements of this amendment is that he would have to be in this country for 25 years. Any immigrant coming into this country at 30 years of age or under would certainly be in the prime of life when he had fulfilled the requirements of this amendment. Even people of greater age would undoubtedly be acceptable if they had the other qualifications for this office. The minimum requirements of L. D. 478 would permit a person who had been in this country not more than ten years to be eligible for this high office. The background of many who come to us from other countries is very different from the American background.

If you believe as I do that we have the best country in the world, let us help to make sure that those who are eligible to become our leaders are familiar with this background and sympathetic with American ideals. The President of the United States must be a native-born American; why should we lower the standards in our State? Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, offers House Amendment "A" and moves its adoption.

The House may be at ease until the return of the Clerk.

#### House at Ease

Called to order by the Speaker pro tem.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Clerk will now read House Amendment "A".

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. MacDonald.

Mr. MacDONALD: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: When this resolve was be-

fore our Judiciary Committee, I spoke in public at that time, although it is the usual practice for a member of a committee to talk with the committee in executive session. But I spoke at that time publicly because I am an alien born citizen. I said then and I say now that when the United States at the beginning passed the law giving aliens the right of naturalization, it was not their intention to make them quasi-citizens. It was their intention to make them citizens of the United States. And I think something has been said that really hurt me at least about a naturalized citizen.

I have tried to be an American in every sense of the word and I want to refer to my little town of Rumford where the majority of the people in that town are either foreign born or are the children of foreign born. I want to call to your attention that during World War I when it got around to drafting the people there, there were only 19 left to be drafted. In World War II — you have probably read that article in Readers Digest shortly after the end of World War II that Rumford had the largest percentage in the United States in the armed services. It had the largest per cent of casualties. It had the largest per cent of fatalities. That little town with 146 killed in the service. I doubt if there were many more than that from your large cities in this State and the majority of them were either naturalized citizens or the children of naturalized citizens. I know one man by the name of Fortier. He had fourteen children. He worked for the town. He sent five of those children through college and he had seven of them serving overseas at one time. He was a naturalized citizen but the mother never got naturalized because of her inability to read or write until the change in the law just a few years before she died. And she went into court and she said: "I want to die as an American citizen."

Now, are you going to put limitations on those kind of people? We have families up there where two of their children never came back. We do not know where they are and God alone knows where they are. I ask you in fairness to the naturalized

citizens that this amendment be defeated.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Childs.

Mr. CHILDS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: From what I read in the amendment, I see nothing which is attempting to deprive naturalized citizens of anything but to give them a certain amount of time in this country for the purpose of becoming familiar with state government and national government. As we all know, if persons come in here from another country, it does take time for them to familiarize themselves with our ideas of democracy. I certainly hope that the amendment of the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, will be adopted and when the vote is taken I request a division.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Roundy.

Mr. ROUNDY: Mr. Speaker, I only wish to make the statement that I wish to go along with the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, in the matter of this amendment and I should think that when the national constitution makes it necessary that no person born outside the United States shall be eligible for President of the United States that this is certainly mild and very real in its importance in having this amendment introduced whereby we can in this measure at least go for a period of time that is necessary in order to qualify in the fullest and wisest sense for the high office of Governor of the State.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Wade.

Mr. WADE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As the son of a naturalized citizen, I go along with the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller.

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to go along with the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, in that I think the original constitutional law is a little severe in that a person must be born in

this state, but I think this is going a little bit too far the other way and I think that the amendment of the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, is a compromise and a good one. It would take an alien certainly more than five years to know the intricacies of democracy and in twenty years, you certainly do not know them all and I think that the amendment of the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, is a good one and I hope that it may receive passage.

Mr. MacDONALD (of Rumford): Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair has not recognized the gentleman from Rumford. He is out of order.

The Chair thinks to save confusion the Clerk should first attempt to read the amendment and then the House will be ready for debate.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 432, L. D. 478, Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Change the Qualifications of Citizenship of the Governor.

Amend said Resolve by inserting in the 9th line thereof, after the words "United States" and before the ", ", the underlined words 'for at least 20 years'

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair will now recognize the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. MacDonald.

Mr. MacDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I want to inquire through the Chair of the gentlewoman from Presque Isle, Mrs. Christie, if she would be willing to change that to ten years.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair might ask the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. MacDonald, if he wishes to offer an amendment to an amendment.

Mr. MacDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I have not got it made out. All I can do is offer a verbal amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair is informed that it cannot be a verbal amendment. It must be in writing.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Malenfant.

Mr. MALENFANT: Mr. Speaker

and Members of the House: I have got a record here of the forty-eight states. There are only two or three states that ask men or women to be a resident of the United States ten years before they become Governor of the state. All the rest of the states do not mention the limits that he has got to live in the United States. It mentions certain states say that a man has got to be a resident of the state five years, some other states, seven years, and it does not say, only two states, there are two states here that they have to be a resident of this country for ten years. If a man or woman who wants to run for governor of the state cannot learn the laws of a country inside of ten years, he is not qualified to run. It seems to me that it does not take twenty years to learn our ways in this country. You all know, when God came into the world he treated us all alike, all equal, he did not discriminate. He did not say, "You will have to stay twenty years in the United States in order to be Governor of Maine." He did not say that. We all know, during the War, World I and II, I left many of my relations on the battlefields. When they wanted them to fight on the battlefields, they did not ask them how long they had lived in the United States. They were right there and they died to save their country and save the state.

I agree with the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. MacDonald, that ten years ought to be long enough. Also, if a man or woman is intelligent enough to be a candidate and qualified and they are intelligent enough to run for governor of the state, they can learn in ten years. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Totman.

Mr. TOTMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that this resolve lie on the table and be specially assigned for tomorrow to provide time for the gentleman who wishes to introduce an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair will inform the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Totman, that the amendment should lie on the table.

Mr. TOTMAN: Mr. Speaker, if

that is the correct procedure, I will so revise my motion.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Totman, moves that Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Change the Qualifications of Citizenship of the Governor, House Paper 432, Legislative Document 478, lie on the table pending adoption of House Amendment "A" and be specially assigned for tomorrow.

All those in favor will please say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the Resolve with accompanying papers was tabled pending adoption of House Amendment "A" and specially assigned for tomorrow.

Resolve Regulating Fishing in Flagstaff Lake in Franklin and Somerset Counties (H. P. 477) (L. D. 522)

Resolve Regulating Fishing in East Pond Stream (H. P. 656) (L. D. 733)

Resolve Regulating Fishing in Pemaquid River, Lincoln County (H. P. 658) (L. D. 766)

Resolve Opening Porter Lake, Franklin County, to Taking of Smelts (H. P. 659) (L. D. 735)

Resolve Authorizing Certain Monies in Possession of the Augusta State Hospital to be Added to the Hospital's Trust Funds (H. P. 700) (L. D. 768)

Resolve Authorizing Forest Commissioner to Renew Lease to Passamaquoddy Lumber Company (H. P. 738) (L. D. 871)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third reading, read the second time, all passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

#### Amended Bills

Bill "An Act relating to Time of Examination by Board of Veterinary Examiners" (H. P. 513) (L. D. 577)

Bill "An Act to Create the Brunswick Parking Authority" (H. P. 622) (L. D. 623)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" and sent to the Senate.