

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

VOLUME II

1957

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

House at Ease

Called to order by the Speaker.
Order Out of Order

On motion of Mr. Hatfield of Orrington, it was

ORDERED, that Mr. Warren of Saco be excused from attendance because of illness.

Finally Passed Constitutional Amendment

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of State for Guaranteed Loans for Industrial Purposes (S. P. 580) (L. D. 1581)

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon.

Mr. **BRAGDON**: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am surprised that a measure of this importance has reached the emergency enacting stage without any discussion of the matter at all. I am not going to attempt to influence anybody's vote, but I feel that the measure is unsound, impractical and unworkable, and I shall be obliged to vote against it.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Turner.

Mr. **TURNER**: Mr. Speaker, I don't like this bill at all, this \$20,000,000 a year to back up building buildings for Tom, Dick and Harry, I can't see where — we will pass a three per cent sales tax and drive them out of the state and now we are going to pass this to try to call them back in again. I move indefinite postponement of this outfit.

The **SPEAKER**: The question now before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Turner, that Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of State for Guaranteed Loans for Industrial Purposes be indefinitely postponed. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Freeport, Mr. Crockett.

Mr. **CROCKETT**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: We have a Development Commission here that is trying to bring new industries into the State of Maine. We have raised last session \$480,000

to spend annually to bring business in. Now there are several people that would be probably willing to come into the state that have been investigated, that are a good risk if we only had the buildings for them to move into. Rental would be charged on these buildings and eventually they would be paid off by the industrialists that come here to our state. Now if this is going to stop our progress I am not for the bill, but I think that it would help our Development Commission of Industry, economic conditions, to bring industry in and I hope the resolve does pass.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Buxton, Mr. Bruce.

Mr. **BRUCE**: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen: Just this morning in conversation with the Mayor of Augusta seated at my left, he mentioned the fact that approximately two-thirds of the graduating class of the University of Maine have been offered and have accepted jobs outside of this state with various large companies. We are paying money to educate these boys and we do not have employment for them here in the State. Just this morning the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Couture, lamented the state of the textile and the shoe industry in the State of Maine. Now here is a bill which will cost the state nothing. It will enable us to offer to industry, and I do not mean fly by night industries, I mean good, sound substantial industries, in keeping with the trend of the times, to attract these industries to this state, to keep our boys and our girls here in the state, to stop the tremendous migration of working men and people out of the state, to help the prosperity of the state. It is one of the — I would classify it as one of the most important bills for the State of Maine, and I certainly hope that the motion of the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Turner, is not even considered. Thank you very much.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bowdoinham, Mr. Curtis.

Mr. **CURTIS**: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen: I just can't go along with the thinking expressed by my good friend from Buxton, Mr. Bruce, because we are having peo-

ple that are folding up all the time and going out, and I have been wondering if the passage of this bill and we say we will pick up the tab for them if they can't make a go of it, will they come back in, and then we will have to pick up the tab. He says it is not going to cost anyone anything. Well now if that were so the bill wouldn't be here, that's sure. Sure it is going to cost someone something. And I am just wondering how many of you folks here ever had anybody to pick up the tab for you if you didn't make a go of it. I am sure I I didn't have and I started just about as low down on the ground as anybody possibly could start, and the only thing that was said to me as was said to each one of you who started a business, was "root hog, or die". Now what this bill proposes to do as I understand it, it says to me if I am outside of the state, come in here and take a whack at this thing. You can't lose anything because if you do why we will pick up the tab. I think it is unsound and unfair to the people of the State of Maine, and I hope that we do not enact it, although I am glad it does have to go to the people for I feel very sure they feel very much the same as I do.

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

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen: I think it is somewhat unfortunate that the State of Maine must remain so conservative as compared to other states. Just this past week, as I was telling the gentleman from Buxton, Mr. Bruce, prior to this particular bill coming up, I have talked with industrial representatives from two industries. In the conversation they have pointed out the advantages that other states will offer.

This is really not a pick up the tab proposition which other states really do have. Other states come pretty close to picking up the entire tab for establishing an industry at extreme cost to the states as well as state organizations. This bill here will allow for financial aid to industries. It is true that if industries fold and the entire

amount is not recoverable, I would assume that the state would lose some funds in this proposition. It is also true that we have extremely good men in our Department of Economic Development. I have great confidence in them. I spent some time with them since the first of the year. They are rooting for this bill very much. They realize that it can offer the State of Maine a great potential. I feel likewise. The city of Augusta is about ready to join the flock in losing the textile industry. I can visualize a time not too far away when we will have no textile industries left in the state. We are losing ground fast. The population of this city has been practically static for the last forty or fifty years. If we don't get off our hands here in the State of Maine, we can anticipate a further static population. It brings tears in my eyes to see our experienced and qualified people leaving the State of Maine in droves. The only way that we can keep them here and build the State of Maine to what it should be is through progressive action such as this. I hope that you can see the merits of this bill. I can't see where it can cost the State of Maine any terrific amount. I can see great benefits from it, and I urge its passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Rancourt.

Mr. RANCOURT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I also rise in opposition to that motion to indefinitely postpone this bill. I concur with the Mayor of Augusta, Mr. Carey. In my opinion this is one of the best and the most important and the most far reaching bills that has been presented to this House so far. It cannot be analyzed in dollars and cents, but it can be analyzed in importance to the cities. You have in most all cities, Augusta, Waterville, Lewiston, Portland, Biddeford, Saco, you have plenty of available space, but when you come right down to it, what do you have? You have these multi-story buildings, old factories that nobody wants, nobody wants to lease them because they are not the trend any more, they are too expensive to operate. They want sin-

gle story units that spread over a lot of land with plenty of parking space. No city in this state right now can afford to build these buildings and you can't find the backing to build them. I could name you a couple of industries, if it was kosher to do so, that would have moved to Lewiston, and I am talking now about businesses like electronics and machinery, machine shops, that could have moved to our city if we had had the available single story buildings that they require. We cannot do that and we cannot find sufficient backing for these buildings, so we have to go without and we have to lose these industries. This bill would certainly help a lot all over the state, and I am very much in favor of passing this bill as it is one of the most important bills to hit this legislature.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Tevanian.

Mr. TEVANIAN: Mr. Speaker, I think that the matter has been very well covered by the two preceding gentlemen, the two leading speakers and Mayors from Augusta and Lewiston, Messrs. Carey and Rancourt, but I would like to point out that in this type of loan you are actually only risking thirty per cent of \$20,000,000 because a bank would always lend you up to at least sixty per cent on commercial property and under this bill the industry must put up ten per cent, therefore leaving only a maximum thirty per cent risk. Besides that in the merits of the matter, I would like to point out that many states that are in competition with us for industry have enacted similar legislation. We have got to follow along if we are going to survive in this competitive field. The State of Pennsylvania within the last six or seven months, as was pointed out in the Committee on Judiciary of which I am a member which heard this very measure, has approached four or five of our industries with the same type proposal if they would move to their state they would guarantee their building costs and single floored units, and I feel that it is a matter not whether we think it is sound, but to enter in, although I do think it is sound, we have got to enter into the competitive business with

other states of bringing industry into this state. It is not a question of whether we like it or not, it is a question that we have to do it. We have no choice if we want additional industry in the State of Maine.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Falmouth, Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. SMITH: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: It is my understanding, and the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Tevanian, can correct me if I am wrong, that this goes to a vote of the town and that the town approves these. I thought the original bill did at least and then the bank has to approve it. I know that some of the people in my town were very much interested in this bill and I would hate very much to see it defeated.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Turner.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: What I don't like about this is the financial aid to the out-of-state boys. Now if you have got a company in here and they are just hanging on and it is a question of whether they can get some aid or go out of business, under this bill they can't get any help and I think the thing should be amended if we have got to have it to protect some of the industry we have already got in here. And the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Tevanian, spoke about thirty per cent. Of course the state is going good for the thirty per cent that you are going to lose anyway. I never have seen many of those big buildings that they put up but what they have got to go into bankruptcy two or three times before they really got down to where somebody could afford to own them, and of course in this case the state would be losing their percentage. Still the thing is no good.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Buxton, Mr. Bruce.

Mr. BRUCE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the impression that may have been given the House by the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Turner. This bill would of course include industries that are already

in operation in Maine and need expansion or new facilities.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Turner that Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of State for Guaranteed Loans for Industrial Purposes, Senate Paper 580, Legislative Document 1581, be indefinitely postponed. The Chair will order a division.

Will those who favor the motion to indefinitely postpone this Resolve please rise and remain standing until the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division of the House was had.

Nineteen having voted in the affirmative and one hundred and two having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

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

Mr. CHILDS: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire from the Clerk if there was an amendment put on this making it an emergency matter?

The SPEAKER: This is not an emergency matter, it is a constitutional amendment. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon.

Mr. BRAGDON: Mr. Speaker, I did not vote on the motion to indefinitely postpone assuming that I was going to vote against emergency enactment. I hope I was not mistaken.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the House that this is not an emergency enactor but it is a constitutional amendment.

Thereupon, this being a Constitutional Amendment and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a division was had. 104 voted in favor of same and 19 against, and accordingly the Resolve was finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Passed to Be Enacted
Emergency Measure**

An Act Amending the Town of Milbridge School District (S. P. 594) (L. D. 1600)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emer-

gency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a division was had. 124 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Passed to Be Engrossed

An Act Directing Review of Election Laws (S. P. 23) (L. D. 14)

An Act relating to Salary of Official Court Reporters (S. P. 40) (L. D. 55)

An Act to Correct Inconsistencies in State Highway Laws (S. P. 66) (L. D. 113)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Enactor

Passed Over Temporarily

An Act relating to Expending Aroostook County Funds for Ricker College (S. P. 224) (L. D. 567)

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

At the request of Mr. Carey of Augusta, passed over temporarily.

An Act Increasing Certain Fees of Sheriffs and Their Deputies (S. P. 226) (L. D. 569)

An Act Increasing Compensation of Clerks of the Law Court (S. P. 290) (L. D. 789)

An Act relating to Registration of Dealers in Boat Trailers and Temporary Registration Plates (S. P. 391) (L. D. 1087)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Enactor

Passed Over Temporarily

An Act relating to the Unfair Sales Act (S. P. 555) (L. D. 1551)

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Tevanian.