

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

***One Hundred and Eighth
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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as it came out of committee, it would mean that all of those people working mainly in the small towns as part-time plumbers, with journeymen licenses, would not be able to continue doing the repair work. If your sink doesn't work, you have to call a plumber, they would not be able to do that unless they were hired by a master plumber. In my town, we don't even have a master plumber, that a person could be hired by, so all the amendment does, is it keeps the definition of a journeyman plumber the same, one that has to be working under the direction of a master plumber or who does plumbing repair work as a regular part-time occupation.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Marshall.

Mr. MARSHALL: I would like to pose a question to the gentleman from South Berwick.

Also included under Section 2 which he refers to in his amendment, in defining journeymen plumbers, also the biennial renewal fee, I was wondering if his amendment would strike out that biennial renewal fee of \$30 or is that also included?

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Marshall, posed a question through the Chair to the gentleman from South Berwick, Mr. Goodwin, who may respond if he so desires.

The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. GOODWIN: Mr. Speaker Members of the House: I originally had passed out House Amendment "A", this was an oversight on my part, which did strike that out, but House Amendment "B" does include and would put into the existing law the biennial fee for journeymen plumbers licenses of \$30.00 so that is the difference between House Amendment "A" and House Amendment "B", and I am offering "B".

Thereupon, House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" was adopted.

Committee Amendment "A" as amended by House Amendment "B" and Senate Amendment "A" thereto was adopted.

The Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" as amended by House Amendment "B" and Senate Amendment "A" thereto in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

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

Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Require the State to Reimburse Municipalities for at least 50% of Property Tax Exemption Losses (S. P. 366) (L. D. 1227) (S. "A" S-274)

Tabled — June 22, 1977 by Mr. Curran of South Portland.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Curran of South Portland, under suspension of the rules, the House reconsidered its action whereby Senate Amendment "A" was adopted.

On further motion of the same gentleman, Senate Amendment "A" was indefinitely postponed.

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

House Amendment "B" (H-817) was read by the Clerk.

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

Mr. CURRAN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: An explanation of what I am offering here. The House Amendment "B" to the L.D. is a rewrite of the Senate Amendment with several people, including the member of the other body who sponsored the amendment. We were concerned that the language in the Senate Amendment was not appropriate language to be placed into the Constitution so there is some house cleaning of language in this particular amendment.

We also struck out the reference to the state municipal revenue sharing. We didn't feel that that should be locked into the Constitution of this state and there was some question as to whether or not, if that were in there, it would mandate that program by the Constitution. So, we have taken that out and have rewritten it in the House Amendment that I have just offered. The L.D., itself, is going to require that after April 1st of next year, which is the tax year for municipalities, that when the legislature grants exemptions in the municipalities, we will reimburse those municipalities 50 percent of the exemptions that we grant here. It also spells out that it can be done in a couple of ways, (1) By a direct grant for the municipality or by waiving the grant and giving the municipality the power to create revenue to make up that exemption in some other form other than property tax. There was a problem with the Senate Amendment in that the use of the word revenue in the Constitution could be construed that if, for example, the shade tree program was increased in your town, the amount of increase would be used to offset the exemption granted or the reimbursement of the exemption and this is another reason why we have rewritten the Amendment to the L.D.

I think it is a good idea. I am sure that all of us who grant exemptions on towns and force property taxes to go up, can look at this as perhaps a help to the communities.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Waterville, Mr. Carey.

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Speaker, did I hear the gentleman correctly from South Portland, that a municipality may get into another form of taxation by his amendment for instance, start a local income tax or a local sales tax?

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Waterville Mr. Carey, has posed a question through the Chair to the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Curran, who may respond if he so desires.

The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. CURRAN: Mr. Speaker, they could, if the legislature granted that power. They can't do it under this amendment. This amendment doesn't address what the new sources would be, they would have to be legislated in some session in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wells, Mr. Mackel.

Mr. MACKEL: Mr. Speaker, I too have a question. Assuming that an exemption is granted relative to property tax, and of course we all know that the property tax is continuing to rise, would that increase also be reflected in the 50 percent reimbursement?

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Wells, Mr. Mackel, posed a question through the Chair to the gentleman from So. Portland, Mr. Curran, who may respond if he so desires.

The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. CURRAN: Mr. Speaker, the only amount that would be reflected in the reimbursement would be that amount granted after April 1st of next year.

Thereupon, House Amendment "B" was adopted.

The Resolution was passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "B" in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the tenth tabled and today assigned Matter:

An Act to Provide Lifeline Electrical Services (H. P. 1669) (L. D. 1867) (H "A" H-561; H "B" H-656; S "A" S-235)

Tabled — June 22, 1977 by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

Pending — Passage to be Enacted.

On motion of Mr. Connolly of Portland, retabled pending passage to be enacted and tomorrow assigned.

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

House Divided Report — Majority (7) "Ought to Pass" — Minority (6) "Ought Not to Pass" — Committee on State Government on Bill, "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act" (H. P. 162) (L. D. 200)

Tabled — June 22, 1977 by Mr. Curran of South Portland.

Pending — Acceptance of Either Report.

On motion of Ms. Goodwin of Bath, retabled pending acceptance of either Report and tomorrow assigned.

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

House Divided Report — Majority (10) "Ought to Pass" as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-734) — Minority (1) "Ought to Pass" as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-735) — Committee on Transportation on Bill "An Act Relating to the Maine Turnpike Authority" (H. P. 343) (L. D. 388)

Tabled — June 22, 1977 by Mr. Strout of Corinth.

Pending — Motion of the same gentleman to Accept the Majority "Ought to Pass" Report.

On motion of Mr. Strout of Corinth, retabled pending the motion of the same gentleman to accept the Majority "Ought to Pass" Report and tomorrow assigned.

The Chair laid before the House the thirteenth tabled and assigned matter:

RESOLVE, to Appropriate \$8,956 to the Town of Milbridge to Reimburse it for Burglary Loss (Emergency) (H. P. 1759) (L. D. 1891)

Tabled — June 22, 1977 by Mr. Tierney of Lisbon Falls.

Pending — Motion of Mr. Green of Auburn to Indefinitely Postpone (Roll Call Requested)

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer.

Mr. PALMER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I think an explanation is due on this. This particular problem was brought to me by the gentleman from Franklin, Mr. Connors, due to the fact that there had been a robbery at the Milbridge Town Hall and \$18,000 worth of food stamps had been stolen and the town was insured for \$10,000, so they are about \$8,000 dollars due on the stamps. We took this up. I worked with him and took the problem up with the Department of Human Services and they said that it was not uncommon to have these things happen but they still had to ask for the payment and they suggested that we do one of two things. (1) To either roll back a bill which is on the Senate table which you may remember, which dealt with counties being reimbursed for mistakes which were made in the past about not applying the proper administrative factor to the administration of the food stamp program, either roll that one back and add this to it or to put a separate Resolve in in this amount. They certainly had to clear this in the books so I took this to the Joint Leadership Meeting and it was agreed upon that the best thing to do would be to put a special Resolve in not to refer it to any committee and move it along the way, this being a very common act.

So I just wanted to give that explanation because it looked to me as though this was getting into a hot bed the other day and I want you to know there is nothing nefarious or scheming about the idea at all. This was really the approach which the Department of Human Services suggested to us the time that Mr. Connors brought the problem to me.

So I hope we will not indefinitely postpone and move this along and take care of the matter for the town.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair