

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Fourth
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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people. But considerable work has been done on it, and therefore I would like to keep it alive so that I could add an amendment on the third reading. Therefore, I move that we accept the Minority "Ought to pass" Report.

Thereupon, the Minority "Ought to pass" Report was accepted, the Bill read twice and assigned for third reading tomorrow.

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

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Repealing the Provisions which Establish the Treasurer of State as a Constitutional Officer (H. P. 14) (L. D. 14)

Tabled — March 21, by Mr. Marsteller of Freeport.

Pending — Motion of Mr. Donaghy of Lubec to indefinitely postpone.

Mr. Donaghy of Lubec withdrew his motion to indefinitely postpone.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Belgrade, Mr. Sahagian.

Mr. SAHAGIAN: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I rise in support of this L. D. 14, and I move for its adoption, and I would like to speak on it if I may.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Belgrade moves for its final passage, and the gentleman may proceed.

Mr. SAHAGIAN: Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I sponsored this bill, and I offer my reasoning for sponsoring L. D. 14, Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Repealing the Provisions which Establish the Treasurer of the State as a Constitutional Officer.

This bill proposes to abolish the State Treasurer's office and with enabling legislation the responsibility would be transferred to the bookkeeping department, so-called, or Accounts and Control.

Throughout all my years that I have served as a State Legislator, I have noted that we are always willing to create new departments, programs, new state employees,

issue bonds, build new buildings, and generally to allow the programs to grow beyond our citizens ability to pay; however, seldom, if ever, have I seen us willing to abolish or substantially change any of these programs or departments.

As I view the State Treasury Department, I cannot help but feel that in this day and age it has become a record keeping department, and if I am right in my assumption then I feel the responsibility should be incorporated in our records and bookkeeping department, mainly Accounts and Control, where it seems to me it more properly belongs.

Let me make it clear, here and now, that I hold our present State Treasurer in very high esteem and I feel that he has served us well. My idea of sponsoring this bill came long before the present term of our State Treasurer started.

In conclusion, all I am saying, is that I believe the present function of the State Treasurer's office could be combined with that of the Accounts and Control Department and this would result in greater efficiency and money saving.

My purpose in introducing this bill is to help in some small way to build economy into state government. This we can do if you will join me in supporting this bill.

It seems to me that we should at least give the people of Maine a chance to decide by allowing this bill passage and thereby letting the issue go out to referendum vote. We can then abide by the people's decision.

Now, I move for the acceptance of the Majority Report "Ought to pass."

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Freeport, Mr. Marsteller.

Mr. MARSTALLER: I would like to ask the gentleman from Belgrade, Mr. Sahagian, if he can tell us if there is any legislation before this Legislature which will transfer the duties that the Treasurer now does to the other department. I am not aware that there is any such legislation, but I would be glad to have an answer to that question.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Freeport, Mr. Marstaller, poses a question through the Chair to the gentleman from Belgrade, Mr. Sahagian, who may answer if he chooses. The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. SAHAGIAN: In answer to the question of my colleague the answer is no, but this will be done in the next session, in the 105th Legislature, and it will be enacted then—after the referendum.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Richardson.

Mr. RICHARDSON: In support of the bill introduced by Representative Sahagian, and in partial answer to the question that has been raised, we cannot by legislation assume that a certain set of circumstances will come to pass at a later time. The customary, normal method of handling this is to

put the Constitutional Amendment before the people. If they approve it, as I hope they will, then we can pass in response to that any legislation which may be made necessary. This is the standard legislative process, and I thought for the benefit of the gentleman from Freeport and others I might point that out.

This being a Constitutional Amendment and a two-thirds vote of the House being necessary, a total was taken. 103 voted in favor of same and 29 against, and accordingly the Resolve was finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Mr. Curtis of Bowdoinham,

Adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.