

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require the Election of the Secretary of State in Statewide Elections.

S.P. 122 L.D. 401

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-73)** (11 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (1 member)

Tabled - April 1, 1997, by Senator **NUTTING** of Androscoggin.

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report

(In Senate, April 1, 1997, Reports **READ**.)

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Nutting.

Senator **NUTTING:** Thank you Madam President, men and women of the Senate. This particular bill calls for the Secretary of State to be elected via statewide popular election. I voted against this. I'm asking this Body to go along with my motion of Ought Not to Pass. I feel the Secretary of State is the person who's in charge of all the elections in Maine. I don't feel as though it's healthy or proper for that person, him or herself, to be running for office and soliciting campaign contributions. The committee was given copies of campaign fund raising letters written by other Secretary of State's running for offices in other states. I felt that was totally inappropriate and so, for that reason I voted against this particular L.D., L.D. 401 and voted Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **RAND** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **NUTTING** of Androscoggin to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (4/7/97) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Include Nontraditional Medical Alternatives under Health Maintenance Organization and Medicaid Coverage and to Allow the Patient to Choose the Method of Treatment"
H.P. 1226 L.D. 1738

Tabled - April 7, 1997, by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of York.

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(In House, April 3, 1997, referred to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.)

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of York, referred to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (4/7/97) Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Direct Popular Election of Constitutional Officers. H.P. 290 L.D. 354

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-137)** (10 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (2 members)

Tabled - April 7, 1997, by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox.

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report in **NON-CONCURRENCE**

(In House, April 3, 1997, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-137)**.)

(In Senate, April 7, 1997, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford requested a Division.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Nutting.

Senator **NUTTING:** Thank you Madam President, men and women of the Senate. This particular bill, and I hope you can keep track, some of these bills I couldn't help but get the feeling that the bills were submitted and you, maybe, could lump them all together under the heading of "Anything, But What We Do Now". Some of the bills call for the Governor to appoint the Treasurer. The same people would sponsor a bill for the direct popular election of the Treasurer or in this case, the Attorney General. I'm not sure if there was a priority of the sponsors to have these constitutional officers appointed or elected by statewide popular election but both points were argued in the affirmative, almost at the same time, before the committee. Once again, I'll be brief. I think the Attorney General selection process is working. I've been very proud of the Attorney Generals we've had over the last ten years that I've been involved as an elected official. I think it keeps the balance between the executive and the legislative and the judicial system in proper balance. And for those reasons I feel as though, to quote my grandfather, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it." Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you Madam President, men and women of the Senate. We have obviously heard a lot of bills in State and Local Government Committee regarding local qualifications of these positions and the way they're chosen. And this particular bill, I think it's important to discuss here in the Senate, the way that these constitutional officers are chosen. It seems to me that each of the constitutional officers really should be directly accountable to the people of Maine and currently they