

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record  
One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

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Pages 1 - 1266

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

**ENACTORS**

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

**Emergency Measure**

An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007  
 H.P. 186 L.D. 215  
 (C "A" H-3)

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madame President, men and women of the Senate. The emergency FY07 budget before you is about keeping promises to the people of Maine. This is a responsible budget which keeps our promises to health care providers as well as consumers by providing them with the payments for services owed to them. The budget, which came out of the Appropriations Committee with a unanimous report, provides \$20 million for hospital settlements and a \$30 million appropriation to pay for increased payments for hospitals beginning July 1, 2007. In addition it provides up to \$52 million more for the hospitals from the FY07 cascade. This \$102 million for the hospitals provides for an earlier payment of the settlement money owed then the Chief Executive had initially agreed to. The budget also restores an \$8 million deallocation made by the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature from the Fund for a Healthy Maine and makes good on a promise to provide the state match to communities for Federal Disaster Relief. I urge you to support the budget before you and help us, as a legislature, meet our obligations to the people of Maine. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Turner.

Senator **TURNER:** Thank you, Madame President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. I couldn't let the opportunity go by without putting something into the record. I think our committee worked very hard to come to consensus on the emergency supplemental as before you today. We were guided, in fact, by the words from the Health and Human Services Committee which had given us the unanimous report back expressing grave concerns about what had transpired with respect to Health and Human Services and the transparency that we all hoped to have on a go-forward basis with respect to solving our problems with Health and Human Services. I think, as the good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo, indicates, it makes a down payment on the monies that we owe to the hospitals for services already rendered. It puts a mechanism in place to up tick the prospective interim payment that will allow us to stay abreast of the services that they provide us on a go-forward basis and we

will be paying for those in a timely manner. Many of us, on both sides of the aisle, were very concerned about the run rate of payments to providers as we go through FY07 towards June 30<sup>th</sup>. We do have a safety mechanism built into our thinking where, after monitoring closely on a weekly basis payments that are flowing through the MAP account in the Department of Health and Human Services, we will, if necessary, revisit FY07 one additional time in order to make sure we land correctly in a balanced form by June 30<sup>th</sup>. I think this is a budget that warrants your support and I would strongly encourage you to support it by your vote. Thank you very much.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#18)**

**YEAS:** Senators: BARTLETT, BENOIT, BOWMAN, BRANNIGAN, BROMLEY, BRYANT, COURTNEY, DAMON, DIAMOND, DOW, GOOLEY, HASTINGS, HOBBS, HOBBS, MARRACHE, MARTIN, MCCORMICK, MILLS, MITCHELL, NASS, NUTTING, PERRY, RAYE, ROSEN, ROTUNDO, SAVAGE, SCHNEIDER, SHERMAN, SMITH, SNOWE-MELLO, STRIMLING, SULLIVAN, TURNER, WESTON, THE PRESIDENT - BETH G. EDMONDS

**NAYS:** Senators: None

**ABSENT:** Senator: PLOWMAN

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

**ENACTORS**

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

**Emergency Measure**

An Act Regarding the Certification of the Required Driving Time for a License for Certain Persons under 21 Years of Age  
 H.P. 362 L.D. 478  
 (H "A" H-4)