

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007

Pages 1 - 1266

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (6/11/07) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act To Amend the Conservation Easement Laws"
H.P. 1220 L.D. 1737

Tabled - June 11, 2007, by Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-490)**, in concurrence

(In House, June 11, 2007, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-490)**.)

(In Senate, June 11, 2007, Committee Amendment "A" (H-490) **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **HOBBS** of York, Senate Amendment "A" (S-270) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-490) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

On motion by Senator **DAMON** of Hancock, Senate Amendment "B" (S-305) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-490) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Damon.

Senator **DAMON:** Thank you, Madame President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. This amendment that I am offering was a agreement that was reached by the parties involved in this bill, L.D. 1737, after the bill was voted out of committee. I believe it was, and I'll defer to the good Senator from York, Senator Hobbins, to confirm this, I believe it was the opinion of the committee that if there was a further compromise agreement after the bill was voted out it would be offered. That is what is being offered at this time. This compromise agreement, I believe, was between the Forest Products Council and the conservation groups involved. It has sufficiently addressed all of the concerns that they had and I would move its adoption into L.D. 1737. Thank you, Madame President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Hobbins.

Senator **HOBBS:** Thank you, Madame President, men and women of the Senate. The good Senator from Hancock, Senator Damon, is correct. What occurred was, because of the deadline of getting bills out of committee, that we urged the stakeholders who were having ongoing negotiations to continue those negotiations, and in the event that they reached a compromise that was acceptable and consistent with what was being discussed when the bill was reported out, we would recommend that either or both Bodies adopt the amendment. This is the result of those negotiations. I commend both parties for continuing their negotiations to reach this amicable resolution.

On motion by Senator **DAMON** of Hancock, Senate Amendment "B" (S-305) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-490) **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-490) as Amended by Senate Amendments "A" (S-270) and "B" (S-305) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME**.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-490) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-270) AND "B" (S-305) thereto, in NON-CONCURRENCE.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (5/29/07) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act To Enable the Dirigo Health Program To Be Self-administered"

H.P. 347 L.D. 431
(C "A" H-285)

Tabled - May 29, 2007, by Senator **DIAMOND** of Cumberland

Pending - **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-285)**, in concurrence

(In House, May 24, 2007, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-285)**.)

(In Senate, May 29, 2007, **READ A SECOND TIME**.)

On motion by Senator **DIAMOND** of Cumberland, Senate Amendment "D" (S-309) **READ**.

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

Senator **DIAMOND:** Thank you, Madame President, men and women of the Senate. This whole issue came about when we first debated L.D. 431, which was the self-administered, self-insurance bill for Dirigo. I had raised the question, if this bill had passed would it have any effect on the General Fund? That question became somewhat complex and took a lot of time to find an answer to. Finally, I realized that it did or could impact the General Fund. This amendment does three things. It provides more protection for the General Fund. It also asks the Bureau of Insurance to do a more extensive review of all the financial areas of Dirigo. It also makes another change in the four new members that L.D. 431 would add to the Board of Trustees. This would allow the four-corner appointment. This would allow the Speaker, the President, and the two Minority Leaders in both Bodies to make recommendations to the Governor and he or she would have to choose from those recommendations. The idea there is to try to open this whole process up a little bit more so that there is more involvement by more people and a little more sunshine shining on the process itself. That is what the amendment does. It provides those three things. Thank you, Madame President.

On motion by Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **DIAMOND** of Cumberland to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "D" (S-309).