

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session
January 4, 2012 to May 31, 2012

Pages 1594 - 2357

An Act To Clarify the Minimum Wage Law as It Relates to People with Disabilities

H.P. 1279 L.D. 1729

An Act To Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2013

S.P. 595 L.D. 1736

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (2/21/12) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act To Change the Statutes of Limitations on Prosecution for Crimes of Sexual Abuse and for Civil Actions for Sexual Abuse When the Actor Is a Person in a Position of Authority"

H.P. 1346 L.D. 1825

Tabled - February 21, 2012, by Senator **PLOWMAN** of Penobscot

Pending - **REFERENCE**, in concurrence

(In House, February 16, 2012, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.)

On motion by Senator **MASON** of Androscoggin, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (2/22/12) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act To Promote Jobs in the Motor Coach Industry by Providing a Sales Tax Exemption for Certain Buses"

S.P. 594 L.D. 1735

Tabled - February 22, 2012, by Senator **ALFOND** of Cumberland

Pending - **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED**

(In Senate, February 21, 2012, **READ A SECOND TIME**.)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (2/22/12) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act To Create a Sales Tax Exemption for the Sale and Delivery of Off-peak Electricity for Electric Thermal Storage Devices" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 554 L.D. 1655
(C "A" S-383)

Tabled - February 22, 2012, by Senator **ALFOND** of Cumberland

Pending - **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-383)**

(In Senate, February 22, 2012, **READ A SECOND TIME**.)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-383).

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Senator **COURTNEY** of York was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Senator **LANGLEY** of Hancock was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (2/16/12) Assigned matter:

Emergency

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Streamline and Prioritize Core Government Services Task Force for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 and To Make Certain Other Allocations and Appropriations and Changes to the Law Necessary to the Operation of State Government

H.P. 1339 L.D. 1816
(H "D" H-707)

Tabled - February 16, 2012, by Senator **COURTNEY** of York

Pending - **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence

(In House, February 16, 2012, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.)

(In Senate, February 16, 2012, **FAILED ENACTMENT**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**. On motion by Senator **COURTNEY** of York, **RECONSIDERED**.)

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

Senator **ROSEN:** Thank you Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I encourage your support of the budget bill that lays before us. It is the product of considerable effort and work from two different sources. A streamline task force met last Summer and Fall to produce the document that is the foundation of the bill that we have before us. An excellent piece of work benefiting from a breadth of people inside and outside of State government and across the state of Maine. Attached to the task force report is a portion of the Department of the Health and Human Services supplemental budget, primarily designed to address the critical issues that we face in the current fiscal year. Both are consensus documents. Both are products, particularly in the case of the budget, after having held public hearings with nearly 350 people testifying at the public hearing. Input from all members of the Appropriations Committee. Valuable input from members of the Policy Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, members of leadership in all four corners of both Chambers, and the Executive Branch. Like any consensus document, it has its imperfections, but it is a product of good faith and it is a product produced by the Appropriations Committee, taking very seriously our charge to be problem solvers, to do our best work possible to address the difficult issues that we are confronting. This clearly is one of the more difficult, but to present, hopefully, solutions oriented documents and proposals for your consideration and ultimately your final approval. I thank you for your consideration and ask for your support.

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

Senator **HOBBS:** Thank you Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, last Thursday Democrats expressed their feelings, strong feelings, that the budget did not go far enough and did not reflect the values of what are the principles and core values of our party. Last Thursday our caucus decided to slow the process down in an attempt to help others that might have been affected that weren't taken care of with the language of the budget. Since then my colleagues and others have been working to find solutions that would soften the landing. We were not looking to move mountains here. Democrats wanted to create a softer landing for the people of Maine transitioning off MaineCare. One of our proposals helps give veterans, during this transition, a softer landing and reflects many of Maine's core values. Mainers helping Mainers. Neighbors helping neighbors. We believe the urgency of taking care of our veterans can wait no longer. We cannot allow even one veteran, not even one veteran, to slip through the cracks. We had expected to get language as part of the budget to address these concerns, but now what's most important is not where or how veterans get protected, what matters is that it gets done now. I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee: especially the gentleman from Hancock for his tireless efforts in handling the budget; the

Senator from Kennebec who worked hard. He is a person who really was put in a difficult position through the whole process; the Senator from York and all the members of the Appropriations Committee. With that, I want to say that I hope that efforts that will be made through cooperative efforts regarding our veterans will help them with a softer landing as a result of certain aspects of this budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **COURTNEY:** Thank you Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I, too, want to thank the appropriators, Senator Rosen, Senator Katz, and Senator Hill. Your leadership, especially during the last week, has really been a tribute to this institution. I also want to thank our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Senator Alford and Senator Hobbins, I think we have worked very hard to get to this point in the last week and appreciate your efforts and all the goodwill that has come along with it. I, too, want to just comment briefly on the additional proposal that came forward, I think it was Monday, on the veterans and to try to create a softer landing for those who may not qualify for continued services. This has been something that has been worked on for a long time in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. I want to compliment you folks for bringing this to the forefront. I also want to compliment the Chief Executive, who I understand there was a meeting this morning and I think we are all working together in good faith to try to make sure the veterans get the benefits that they deserve and that they are entitled to. With that, today with that issue there are no Republicans and there are no Democrats in here, there are people who are fighting for all veterans in Maine. I want to thank you all.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 27 Members of the Senate, with 8 Senators having voted in the negative, and 27 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.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Senator **CRAVEN** of Androscoggin was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Senator **SULLIVAN** of York was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks
