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One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature

State of Maine

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Pages 1 - 1266

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** on Bill "An Act To Improve Home and Commercial Building Energy Efficiency"

H.P. 1164 L.D. 1655

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-331)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not To Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo

Pending - motion by Senator **BARTLETT** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 1, 2007, 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-331)**.)

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **BARTLETT** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committees on **NATURAL RESOURCES AND UTILITIES AND ENERGY** on Bill "An Act To Establish the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Act of 2007"
H.P. 1290 L.D. 1851

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-321)** (15 members)

Minority - **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-322)** (9 members)

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-321)**, in concurrence

(In House, June 1, 2007, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-321)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-321) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-380)** thereto.)

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, Reports **READ**.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Martin.

Senator **MARTIN:** Thank you Madame President. Madame President and members of the Senate, this bill was a bill that ended up being assigned to two committees. I hope it's a practice that we don't continue. It really creates confusion because in part the Natural Resources Committee dealt with environmental issues and then the Energy Committee dealt with issues dealing with energy. I think to demonstrate the confusion, when we had it in the Natural Resources Committee, we went through what was our responsibility and then we had a straw poll. Every single member voted for it. Then it went to the Utilities Committee and the push back started. I think that if it had been in one committee or the other, we would have been by far better off, and I think both committees would have been better off.

I would love to be able to say that I could speak for the entire Natural Resources Committee, because we were unanimous to begin with, and we feel strongly that this is an issue who's time has come and would urge everyone in this body that it is one of those times you can vote where you know that most of industry is very supportive of this process, and feels very strongly that it follow the rest of the east coast in order to accomplish something dealing with greenhouse gasses. And so I would urge everyone to be voting for this in a roll call, and not being requested, I request that a vote be taken by the yeas and nays.

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 PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Bartlett.

Senator **BARTLETT:** Thank you Madame President. I rise in support of the pending motion. First of all I want point out a clarification. The Utilities Committee had also, in a straw poll, unanimously supported the bill. It was when we all got back together that we had a slight mishap. I think that has been actually fully corrected as part of an amendment that was put on by the other body. So hopefully we can come together united on this very important piece of legislation. Let me first give you a little bit of background on what this bill does, because it is such an important piece of legislation, perhaps one of the most important initiatives this year. Maine has joined nine other states as part of a regional greenhouse gas initiative. This bill would implement our participation. A regional greenhouse gas initiative seeks to cap the amount of carbon emitted from power plants. When we talk about greenhouse gases and global warming, one of the biggest contributors in this region is energy production. It sets a goal of reducing the amount of energy produced by ten percent. And it does that. Instead of using the old command-and-control regulation that everyone acknowledges is a very costly way to control environmental pollution, it adopts the economic model of cap-and-trade. This is widely supported and touted by Congress as the least costly way of achieving reduction. The cap-and-trade system works simply. Every state involved will have permits based on their current level of emissions. Those permits will be going to an auction and be sold. For power plants to continue to emit carbon dioxide, they have to buy one permit for every ton of carbon they emit. In Maine we have about six million permits, which is about three percent of the total in the ten-state region. When these permits are sold, revenue will flow back into the state from those six million permits we've sold. The money will be

used, initially, very judiciously. The first five dollars from any permit sold will go directly to energy efficiency to help Maine businesses and consumers become some of the most efficient users of electricity in the country. This will help them reduce the total cost of their energy use; it can be used on both the electricity side and for some other fossil fuel energy that they produce. It will also help them lower their usage and their cost of electricity. In the event that prices rise much higher than expected and exceed the five dollar per ton price, anything over five dollars received by the state will be credited directly back to ratepayers. That means that if prices go higher than expected, consumers will be held harmless, because there will essentially be a rebate for the cost of those permits.

The reason that this initiative is so important is that in addition to reducing carbon dioxide, which is the core contributor to global warming, this fits nicely with the energy policy we've been working to create here in Maine over the last several years. As part of the Maine Energy Council's work we developed four major goals that we needed to work toward in our energy policy. One, we wanted to lower the total cost of electricity produced. Two, we wanted to reduce the volatility of energy prices, which are hurting a lot of businesses and folks with fixed incomes. We also wanted to make sure we were minimizing the environmental impact of our energy production. And fourth, we wanted to make sure we were maintaining the reliability of our transmission system. By reducing carbon emissions, we are clearly contributing the environmental friendliness of our energy production. But beyond that, the investment energy efficiency through this initiative will help us to lower the total cost of energy to consumers, individuals, and businesses both small and large. It will help us reduce the volatility of prices, by helping us to shift away from fossil fuels.

The reality is that fossil fuels emit a lot more carbon than other forms of energy. The regional greenhouse gas initiative will help us to shift from the most polluting kinds of electricity generation to a much more diverse portfolio, including a lot more renewable energy. By doing so, we can help reduce the volatility of our energy prices. And finally, it will help us to maintain the reliability of our transmission system, because as electricity usage grows, we have to invest more and more money into the infrastructure to support growth, costing us a lot more money on our electricity bills. Through this effort, by investing energy efficiency, lowering the amount of electricity, and lowering the increase in the demand for electricity, we are helping to save ourselves the cost of building out our transmission system all the more. We believe that this policy fits very nicely with what we're trying to do locally. By working together, we will help put in place the policy in this ten-state region that can be copied nationally. Already we have several western states looking to do something very similar to the regional greenhouse gas initiative, and increasingly at a national level, Congress is talking about implementing some sort of cap-and-trade system. By getting out a little bit ahead of that curve, we will position our businesses, our generators, far better to deal with that national system than if we sit on our hands and wait. The investments we will make in energy efficiency will minimize the impact of any increased electricity costs down the road. By putting this in place, we will encourage the kind of generation Maine people want. Currently, sixty percent of electricity generation is through natural gas. There's no wonder we have serious price volatility problems. Because renewable energy like wind, solar, and tidal energy do not need to buy permits, they are benefited by the cap-and-pay

system. They won't have to buy a single permit. Those kinds of generation will be promoted through this effort. By having that kind of diversity in our portfolio in the coming years, we will again down the stretch be better situated as time goes by.

The final benefit of this bill is that we currently have serious air quality problems, not from our own generation of electricity, our own pollution, but from pollution that flows in from other states. From the mid-west, from New York, New Jersey, which have some very dirty electric generation. Because they are part of this, their generation from coal production, will become a lot more expensive. There will be a shift away from those dirty older plants to newer, cleaner technologies. That will help us to clean up the air we breathe. So whether you believe in global warming or not, whether you think that this ought to be pursued on the basis of reducing carbon emissions, one thing you know for sure is that we will all be able to breathe easier by shutting down some of the most polluting electricity generation in this ten-state region. And that will benefit us for generations to come. As a final note, some folks have asked me, and I've gotten e-mails from constituents saying, 'Gee, we don't know whether global warming is real and we don't think Maine should head down this avenue. Why are we doing this?' And the answer to that question is simple. We are part of a ten-state region; three percent of the electricity generation in this ten-state region comes from Maine. If Maine does not participate in RGGI, we will not have any permits to sell on this market, and the price of electricity which is set regionally, will go up anyway. When you have Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, when you have all of these states in the initiative, the cost of electricity, if there is a price impact, it will be felt by Maine. We buy our energy on a regional market. So by participating, we get to sell the six million permits, we get money back that we can then use for best energy efficiency, or again, if prices go really high, there will be direct rebates to Maine consumers. So whether you like RGGI or not, or are a big fan of it or not, you should be supporting it. If you don't, if this does not succeed, Maine consumers will bear the brunt of the cost of the initiative and reap none of the benefits. This bill allows us to maximize the benefits to Maine consumers. That's what committees set out to do. The Utilities and Energy Committee and the Natural Resources Committee worked hard to develop a unanimous recommendation within the committees and I believe with the amendment offered by the other body we could have unanimous support for this bill in terms of the committee members. I sincerely hope you will join me in supporting this bill. It's a great day for Maine, it's a great day for the ten-state region, and it's a great day for the environment and for the cost of energy here in Maine. We are taking steps to lead the way and making sure to position ourselves as best we can for what's coming down the pike on a national basis. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Piscataquis, Senator Smith.

Senator SMITH: Thank you Madame President and members of the Senate. I concur with the comments of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Bartlett. I think he's given you a very good background on what this bill is all about. I am not rising in opposition to the pending motion. There are, however, a few additional comments that I think are warranted, and I hope that when the Senate votes on this today that it will feel that it's had all of the information that is available to it. One additional fact that

did not come out, at least in the part of the debate that I heard, I've been in a committee hearing outside the chamber, is that the revenue that is going to be produced here is going to be somewhere between 24 and 60 million dollars based on a cap of five dollars per ton. That is going to be reflected in the rates that you are eventually going to pay for electricity, so there is a real cost to this. It is not something that is going to be a freebee or that is not going to have an impact on our economy. It is definitely going to have at least that much of an impact that we know of.

Reports that you have before you today, Majority and Minority reports, have been more or less joined to become the other body's amendment that's been spoken of. The reason for the two reports today is that I believe that this bill was in committee and placed on two fast tracks and there were a number of questions that at least the Minority of the committee were not able to satisfy themselves to on the fast track that we were on, and took the time to adopt a Minority report, which upon discussion later on with the chairs of the two committees, was found to be a fairly reasonable Minority report, and in essence we were able to come to terms on those additional items. The Minority report builds on the Majority report and adds a few items to it. The biggest concern in that Minority report, which is going to be reflected in the other body's amendment is that the oversight of this is very important. What the minority did not want to do is to see the bulk of the work get done late in 2008 when we were all off campaigning and nobody was really tending the shop here. It's critically important that these conservation and energy efficiency programs get put together in a way that is highly supported by the people of this state and by its representatives. By way of specifics, we were concerned about the development of specific timelines to establish the Maine Energy Conservation Board that would administer the efficiency programs. We wanted that to be moved up into an earlier timeframe that was indefinite in the original legislation. We now have a definite time on that. We were concerned about the specific timeline for the development of the major substantive rules that would be critical to lessening the impact of increased electric prices that are certain to flow from the implementation of this program. And again, it was indefinite in the original bill, we have some definite timelines there now.

The Minority report also calls for the restructuring of all of the energy efficiency programs that currently exist and will eventually exist under RGGI in one program that can be efficiently administered and overseen by the legislature, and duplication and redundancy will hopefully be minimized. The Minority report also called for a borrowing of necessary funds from the existing Efficiency Maine program to temporarily fund the start-up of the Energy Conservation Board which had been greatly delayed in the original LD because of these financial considerations, and these funds will be repaid when the RGGI tax kicks-in in 2009. The Minority report also called for a series of timely reports from agencies charged with overseeing the development of this program, including the efficiency criteria to be used in developing energy efficiency programs, and the evaluation measurements and systems that are going to be used to measure their effectiveness. Finally, the Minority report also calls for a summary of the estimated economic impacts of increased electricity costs through review of existing studies and by asking the State Planning Office to join that effort. When these aspects of the report were made known to the chairmen, much to their credit they agreed to much of it, and what we have is the other

body's amendment which takes a portion of these things and puts them into the bill. Much of the unallocated language that was in the Minority report is going to be handled through a letter which both sides have agreed is adequate, to go to the PUC and the DEP. That letter has been reviewed and is agreeable as well.

Finally, I want to make a few final comments that there are many in this legislature who are skeptical of the wisdom of leading Maine into a regional greenhouse gas initiative. Nonetheless, the governors of the Northeast region have done so and we are now confronted with the reality that we as Maine have little choice, as chairman Bartlett has suggested, but to do the very best job that we can in implementing this program. It is ironic that Maine has already met its 2018 CO₂ emissions goal under RGGI. It is also ironic that Maine will, in all likelihood, be called upon to increase the generation of electricity to offset generation curtailment and demand of other RGGI states. Since our generation capacity is now largely based on natural gas, our CO₂ emissions will likely increase to meet these demands. I predict that in the very near future, legislation will be required to amend this bill in order to bring Maine into compliance with a larger production of CO₂ than this bill presently contemplates. Electric rates are already too high in Maine and are one of the several factors that are causing businesses, and particularly manufacturers with high electric utilization, to fail and to leave the state. The fact is that electric rates are now 100 percent higher in Maine than they were just a short while ago in 2002, and this costs the Maine economy directly 500 billion dollars a year. According to testimony heard before the committee, RGGI will cost Maine consumers an additional 24 to 60 million dollars per year in higher electric bills. It is not at all clear that the efficiency programs contemplated by this legislature will be sufficient to offset the economic effect of these higher electric rates which will be felt under this legislation. Furthermore, small commercial and residential consumers will be at greater risk than most because they will perhaps be unlikely to take significant advantage of efficiency programs that have been spoken of. Furthermore, it is a simple fact that global warming and CO₂ emissions are still not well understood despite the political rhetoric that has surrounded this issue. There is great uncertainty about many aspects of it. To the extent that this is a problem, it is one that must be tackled on a global basis and simply cannot be dealt with effectively on a regional basis within the United States. Attempting to do so will place at risk the regional economy and many jobs within our region. You need only to look at current literature in this field. For instance, some time ago an economic study by the Charles River Associates suggested that the job loss as a result of implementing RGGI could well be over 120,000 jobs lost in this region between now and the year 2018. This is a very heavy price to pay for a program that may have no direct effect on global warming. I was interested to read of a paper recently published in the Geophysical Research Letters which talked with the National Center for Atmospheric Research that calculated that if the Kyoto Protocol, which has even loftier goals than RGGI, were fully implemented, it would avert only about seven one-hundredths degrees Celsius of global warming by the year 2050. I am not certain that all of this is correct. I am not certain that any of us have the real answers on global warming. But there is, to be sure, a great debate going on about it still and if we live to the year 2050, perhaps some of us will have the answer. With respect to the regional greenhouse gas initiative, Maine finds itself in a very unfortunate position where it cannot extricate itself from the effects of higher electricity cost because of the way

electricity pricing is set through ISO New England. In effect, if the other states, which are party to RGGI, proceed to implement it, the increased costs incurred by the sale of emissions allocations will be reflected in the regional price-setting mechanism at ISO New England, and Maine will be required to pay these higher prices, whether Maine is in or out of RGGI. Therefore, the only hope Maine has is to off-set these higher electric costs through these efficiency programs, as Senator Bartlett has indicated. Maine is in essence trapped into this program from which it cannot escape and would be paying higher electric prices, and our hope is that we can do a very, very good job of constructing these efficiency and conservation programs. And it is on that basis that I agreed that it is in the best interest of the State of Maine at this time, given the choices that we have, that we accept the Majority Ought To Pass report with the assumption that the other body's amendment is going to be very shortly adopted. Thank you for your time.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Dow.

Senator DOW: Thank you Madame President and ladies and gentlemen of the chamber. I would like to thank the good senator from Cumberland, and the good senator from Piscataquis for talking about the monetary values of this bill and in pointing out that there probably will be some increase in costs. But I want to talk about environmental factors today. And I want to talk about costs that we may have to pay for should we not attempt to do something like this. And it isn't like Maine has to go it alone, because we've got nine other states in the Northeast with us. But it has been asked, 'Why Maine?' 'We're just a small state. How can Maine affect the global climate?' I would say to you that the leadership that Maine can show as a small state, as a small community, is as important as the larger states in bringing all small nations and states on-board this, what I consider, ethics bill. I think it's kind of ironic that the TV cameras aren't in here today for this bill. They're going to be here for the budget, but to me this is one of the most important bills that we can be on. I think Maine is ready to do its part. I am always happy to see the list of manufacturers that have signed on to this important bill, and the businesses that support this bill because they realize that the efficiencies that we can develop because of the benefits of the monies, and that this bill will help decrease our carbon dioxide input into the air. So to me, it's environmental, and it's about global warming. It's about our manufacturers and our businesses, and the people that live in our homes who can affect these changes even if it's one light bulb at a time. We can all play an important part in this goal. You don't have to be a multi-millionaire to affect the world. Every person gets to benefit every other person, even if it's one person at a time. It is interesting to note that even countries like China are now starting to talk about carbon dioxide problems that they are going to face as they grow. They are second in emissions right now and I think they realize that they are going to surpass us as a nation because of their large coal reserves. They are also concerned about this global warming. I will admit the science isn't exact, but it seems to me quite a large contingent of scientists throughout the world, in the last ten years, have come on board and say the carbon dioxide emissions we are producing are causing some global changes. Finally, to shorten this up, I want to not only speak for manufacturers, businesses and homes that are on board, but for the new generation. My 12-year-old son came home one day and

said, 'Dad, we learned about global warming and that thing that causes it.' I said, 'carbon dioxide?' and he said, 'that's it.' All across the state and all across this nation, in all the schools, children are learning about global warming. They're doing it through the news stories that come into their classrooms regularly, whether they be historical, economic, or current events, they're learning about these things. Should we not act? That may be the crime – to not act. They are going to have the right to ask, in 10 or 15 years, 'if you knew there was a problem, why did you fail to act on it?' Today is a historical day. Today Maine people are going to act on this bill, and we are going to be leaders. We're not out there alone, but we are going to be leaders and we are going to show the world that it's important. Even this tiny state must come on board and support environmental concerns. And I can't resist recognizing where my environmental concerns come from. It all has to do with my family ties to Teddy Roosevelt, who I consider to be the greatest conservation president we ever had. I don't speak on his behalf, but I speak on behalf of my family who learned a great deal from that great president. Thank you Madame President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN: Thank you Madame President. Madame President it really is my pleasure to listen to the remarks of the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Dow because he is absolutely correct. I won't repeat any of the comments, but I do want to make three additional points. One, RGGI has cop-out ability for Maine as do the other states. Second, when we talk about higher electricity rates, we can just go back to the 60s as to why we are in this box today. It is because the Northeast refused to accept electrical power generating with taxpayer money as the rest of the country has done so effectively. We are paying the cost of that today in Maine. Finally, I am totally convinced that the American Legislative Exchange Council will only be able to accept global warming when Florida is under water.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#108)

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

NAYS: Senators: None

35 Senators having voted in the affirmative and No Senator having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook to ACCEPT the Majority OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-321) Report, in concurrence, PREVAILED.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-321) **READ.**

House Amendment "A" (H-380) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-321) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-321) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-380) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator **SAVAGE** of Knox requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Session.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Concerning Certain Flavored Cigarettes and Cigars"
S.P. 475 L.D. 1361

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-180)**

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, Committee Amendment "A" (S-180) **READ.**)

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "A" (S-180).

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act To Exempt Nationally Accredited Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Care Organizations from State Licensing Requirements"
S.P. 418 L.D. 1170

Majority - **Ought Not to Pass** (10 members)

Minority - **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-194)** (3 members)

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo

Pending - motion by Senator **BRANNIGAN** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Reports **READ.**)

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

Senator **NASS:** Thank you Madame President and men and women of the Senate. This is a bill that I sponsored at the request of one of the largest mental health agencies in the state. I am just using this opportunity, although it's a minority, to at least make their point. There is a lot of pressure on our social service providers, there's no doubt. Certainly, all of us know that, and we have seen it through the budget process when we have heard from our providers. And it's not going to get better in the future. I don't see anything on the horizon that indicates we're going to come into a lot of money quickly to ease their issues, or provide them with more resources. So, Madame President, we've got to do something else, it seems to me, and this is one of the things. Relieving the pressure, letting them do less than they do now, and this accreditation thing is one of those things. As I understand it, this provider who gets accredited nationally, that is a costly venture. The requirements on their staff to get accredited nationally are significant. At the same time, the State of Maine wants to do the same thing. Well, maybe not quite the same thing, but we could make it the same thing. Why don't we think in terms of letting up, reducing their costs, allowing them to devote resources to other things, like taking care of whatever they take care of? Paying their people more, paying their electric bill, instead of duplicating. This is a situation of duplication, and I believe unnecessary duplication. So, not only is this a mental health provider problem, I have been involved in this same discussion in years past with nursing homes, the same thing. Requirements of the State that go on these providers are duplicative, and never seem to let up. We never have figured out a way to ask them to do less. This is one of those opportunities that is specific. We are going to hear more about this in the future. Madame President, thank you.

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

Senator **BRANNIGAN:** Thank you Madame President and members of the Senate. I certainly, absolutely agree, as someone who runs an agency. I agree with the senator that not only can we try to free-up what's going in the agency, but also all the resources that the state uses as they go about licensing, if we can make that happen. The whole issue of deemed status, meaning if you have this accreditation, then you don't go through as much licensing regulation. That is on the way. We have a group called the Administrative Process Advisory Committee that has been working on this. They are working on it. They're working on it more with hospitals first because that is the biggest chunk, and therefore the easiest because the JCAH is such a reputable group. Before we can get to just throwing off licensing, we've got to get to a point where each one of these accreditations and their very standards are approved, because there are differences. My organization was asked to take over a group, and when we walked in the place it looked like people had just got up and walked out. Coffee cups were still in the sink, and they had accreditation. The same one we have. We are very much in favor of this, and the state is underway with what they call crosswalk – looking between what their regulation is and what JCAH and what other accreditation organizations are. We felt comfortable in letting them go on to do their work, and I believe