

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature
State of Maine

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beginning January 5, 2022

beginning at Page 1311

Senator **CLAXTON**: Thank you, Mr. President. I offer an amendment. After working with the Revisor's Office yesterday, of course I can't find it right now, that strips out any reference to the Obesity Advisory Board and committee and retains the public health portions of the bill that were considered when we passed the Majority Report.

On motion by Senator **CLAXTON** of Androscoggin, Senate Amendment "A" (S-573) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-993) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-993) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-998) and Senate Amendment "A" (S-573) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

On motion by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec, 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 (#776)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY, SANBORN, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, ROSEN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, WOODSOME

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-993) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-998) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-573)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/14/2022) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act Concerning Equity in Renewable Energy Projects and Workforce Development"
H.P. 1464 L.D. 1969

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-971)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (4 members)

Tabled - April 14, 2022 by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In House, April 13, 2022, 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-971)**.)

(In Senate, April 14, 2022, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec, 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 Somerset, Senator Farrin.

Senator **FARRIN**: Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, ratepayers ask us daily what is driving the increases in their electric bills and my response is legislation like L.D. 1969 does. By enacting this legislation, we increase regulations, limit Maine people from work, and reduce the ability for fair competition. This bill is complicated but the result isn't. This simply increases the cost of building renewables. Many even cited this bill would provide more opportunities for out-of-state firms to be more competitive, taking work from companies right here in Maine. While this bill doesn't require the developer to include the labor conditions, it's naive to think that every avenue to get an advantage in the selection process will not be used in a competitive market. It's also not clear how a developer can bid with confidence that they can even meet these conditions. Typically, a contract would be executed between the builder and the developer after the energy procurement process is complete. We, as a Legislature, embrace small businesses in Maine. How can we turn our backs on them and their hardworking employees? The Maine Renewable Energy Association made it clear when they said we must be extremely cautious with introducing any additional requirements that will drive up the cost of electricity for future renewable energy projects. Any effort to direct energy construction work away from some companies or towards others will only have the ultimate effect of a decrease in competition and increase in prices. They also asked another vital question: why does this only apply to renewable projects? Some of the largest contractors, employers, in the state, like Cianbro, Shaw Brothers, H.E. Sargent, and others, have agreed with Jack Parker from Reed & Reed who said, 'L.D. 1969 would bring irreparable harm to our employee, owners, our company, and the state of Maine.' Let the market work and allow for fair competition by rejecting this bill. We owe it to the Maine people to lower electricity costs, not increase them, and this bill will surely add cost to our ratepayers. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY**: Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise in strong support of the pending motion but also in that Parliamentary Procedure gray area to say that there is a amendment coming, if we are able to accept the current motion in front of us, that addresses a lot of concerns that have been expressed not only by the good Senator who spoke before me but from others during the process. I have to say this is one of those bills that is a perfect example of compromise and it's been worked by all sides and I hope that you will accept this report so that I can tell you about how the next motion will be amazing. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#777)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCIO, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DESCHAMBAULT, DILL, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY, SANBORN, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, ROSEN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, WOODSOME

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-971) **READ**.

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, Senate Amendment "A" (S-570) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-971) **READ**.

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY**: Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I urge strong support of the amendment before us. This amendment does two main things. It removes certain requirements regarding apprenticeship and it changes where the language goes in the statute. It removes the requirement that apprenticeship on these projects have 3,000 on-the-job hours and 216 classroom hours. It also removes the requirement that a contractor have a registered apprenticeship program that is connected to a registered pre-apprenticeship program. I have to say, most importantly, I'm very impressed with the different stakeholders who worked on the amendment that's before you and brought everyone to the table and, currently in

conversations, the Chief Executive is amenable to the amendment in front of us and I urge you to vote for this.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair wonders why the good Senator from Androscoggin rises?

Senator **TIMBERLAKE**: My button didn't work and I keep pressing the red one. I couldn't press the white one. I would like to request a roll call, Mr. President.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Adoption of Senate Amendment "A" (S-570) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-971). Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#778)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCIO, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY, SANBORN, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, ROSEN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, WOODSOME

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-570) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-971) **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-971) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-570) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-971) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-570)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/18/22) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Ensure Transmission and Distribution Utility Accountability"
S.P. 697 L.D. 1959