

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**House Legislative Record**  
of the  
**One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature**  
of the  
**State of Maine**

**Volume I**

**First Regular Session**

December 4, 1996 - March 27, 1997

**First Special Session**

March 27, 1997 - May 15, 1997

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
25th Legislative Day  
Thursday, March 20, 1997

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Reverend Evelyn S. Hale, The North Wayne Church.

National Anthem by the Great Salt Bay Wind Ensemble, Great Salt Bay Community School, Damariscotta.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

Recognizing:

Susan Buckland, of Great Salt Bay Community School, who has been nominated as the 1998 Teacher of the Year, and who will be honored by a ceremony in the Hall of Flags in the State House by Governor Angus King. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to her; (SLS 42)

Was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bremen, Representative Pieh.

Representative PIEH: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. What I would like to tell you is that Susan Buckland is now the midcoast finalist for the Teacher of the Year along with nine other distinguished and excellent teachers from Maine. She is also a member of today's band. Thank you.

Was passed and sent up for concurrence.

The House recessed until 10:00 a.m.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment yesterday, have preference in the Orders of the Day and continue with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 832) (L.D. 1137) (Governor's Bill)

PENDING - Adoption of Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)

Doctor of the day, Mark W. Foure, M.D., Cape Elizabeth.

Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach presented House Amendment "HH" (H-75) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) which was read by the Clerk and adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Kerr.

Representative KERR: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This deals with the State Board of Education. It provides funds for the State Board of Education for the development of the implementation plan for funding essential programs and essential services to the tune of \$75,000. Thank you.

On motion of Representative LINDAHL of Northport, the House reconsidered its action whereby House Amendment "HH" (H-75) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Northport, Representative Lindahl.

Representative LINDAHL: Madam Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative LINDAHL: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am sorry about not jumping up a little sooner. I am not trying to do this to delay the process or anything, but I am curious. Is this the same \$75,000 that we were talking about to fund this commission to look at the roster report and other such reports?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Northport, Representative Lindahl has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Richard.

Representative RICHARD: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is the same \$75,000 that the Education Committee originally had in the budget for this purpose. This is just restoring that and that was put in with a blue ribbon commission later on. The blue ribbon commission has been eliminated. This is the same \$75,000 that was in the budget. This does not add to the budget. This does do what the Education Committee asked for it to do in the first place.

Subsequently, House Amendment "HH" (H-75) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) was adopted.

Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach presented House Amendment "FF" (H-73) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) which was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Kerr.

Representative KERR: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This amendment provides for the allocation of funds for a grant to the Northeast Dairy Council for the sum of an appropriation of \$100,000 each of this biennium. This comes from other special revenues and it was at the request of the good Representative Spear, who will be more than willing to answer any questions dealing with the Northeast Dairy Council. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Nobleboro, Representative Spear.

Representative SPEAR: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Back about three years ago, the courts, when we had the Agriculture Stabilization Act go into affect, there was money when the court struck down the act, at that time, there was money coming in and there is somewhere between \$350,000 and \$400,000 sitting in an account that technically belongs to the farmers here in the State of Maine, but by the courts it can't be touched. We feel by taking some of this money and letting the Northeast Dairy Compact, which is trying to get off the ground right now, which is to enhance all the milk prices here in New England. It will be of a big benefit. We feel that there is no better way because this money, by the courts, cannot be distributed to the farmers, where it belongs. You can