

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature
State of Maine

Volume 3

Second Regular Session (Continued)
March 25, 1998 to March 31, 1998

Second Special Session
April 1, 1998 to April 8, 1998

Second Confirmation Session
August 18, 1998

Senate Legislative Sentiments

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The Sergeant-at-Arms escorted the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **MURRAY** to his seat on the floor.

Senate called to order by the President.

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

Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and Changes to 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. 1397 L.D. 1950

Tabled - March 31, 1998, by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox.

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1098) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "E" (H-1109) AND "G" (H-1111)** thereto, in concurrence

(In House, March 30, 1998, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1098)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1098) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "E" (H-1109) AND "G" (H-1111)** thereto.)

(In Senate, March 31, 1998, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1098)** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence. **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1098) READ. HOUSE AMENDMENTS "E" (H-1109) AND "G" (H-1111)** to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence. Senate Amendment "U" (S-671) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**. Senate Amendment "R" (S-668) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **FAILED ADOPTION**. Senate Amendment "B" (S-647) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **FAILED ADOPTION**. Senate Amendment "J" (S-656) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**. Senate Amendment "D" (S-649) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **FAILED ADOPTION**. Senate Amendment "Q" (S-667) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**. Senate Amendment "X" (S-675) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**. Senate Amendment "E" (S-650) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **FAILED ADOPTION**. Senate Amendment "O" (S-665) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**. Senate Amendment "K" (S-657) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ** and **FAILED ADOPTION**.)

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, Senate Amendment "Y" (S-680) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you Mr. President, men and women of the Senate. Senate Amendment "Y", I assure you today, because it incorporates the points that were presented yesterday in an effort to come to some closure on this Budget in a bipartisan way. I drafted this as an Amendment not only for Members of the Senate to see who might not have been aware of the particulars of the proposal that Republicans put on the table for consideration in or out of the CHAMBER meetings, but also that members of the public could see that there is room for common ground, and that there are a lot of issues that we could, I think, come to terms on. The proposal in Senate Amendment "Y" includes a number of changes in the tax package from where the Republicans were and some from where the Democrats were. It includes the Super Circuit Breaker changes. It includes the Personal Exemptions on Income Tax. It includes the repeal of the Snack Tax. Those issues we've talked about already. It also includes a number of other items including, most notably, the inclusion of the Bonds, the three Bonds which are sitting on our Unassigned List, the Maine Public Broadcasting, the Environmental Bond and Land for Maine's Future Bond. It includes some spending initiatives in the area of education. Some de-appropriations and some compromises on the number of positions which come in this Budget. It's certainly not the position that the Republicans on the Appropriations Committee took, but it is certainly, and I think should be recognized as, a good faith effort, to put something on the table which would provide an opportunity for consensus. This, as I say, was proposed yesterday in a meeting among Legislative Leadership, and I put it out there for public consumption. Increasingly today, I have come to the conclusion with a number of 20 to 15 votes on this Budget, that the results of today's activities are a forgone conclusion. I think that's a shame. I think that we, as I said at the outset, could do better, should do better, and must do better. The ingredients for compromise in Senate Amendment "Y" offer, I believe, a path toward compromise for this Legislature. But I am also a realist. I understand that this will be a Majority Budget, that course has already been charted and is being followed, and so with some sadness and having put this document out officially for the Senate and the public's consumption, I now move the Indefinite Postponement of Senate Amendment "Y".

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "Y" (S-680) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098) as Amended by House Amendments "E" (H-1109) and "G" (H-1111) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING LATER TODAY.

On motion by Senator **GOLDTHWAIT** of Hancock, **RECESSED** until the sound of the bell.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.
