

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Nineteenth Legislature
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Under suspension of the Rules, all matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Acts

An Act to Clarify the Standard for Cause in the Request for Proposal Process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

H.P. 692 L.D. 959
(C "B" H-709)

An Act to Require Disclosures in Connection with Transfers of Residential Property

H.P. 1368 L.D. 1966
(C "A" H-712)

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

An Act to Provide Equal Treatment in the Taxation of Public Pensions

S.P. 431 L.D. 1268
(C "A" S-348)

On motion by Senator **MICHAUD** of Penobscot, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE**, pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

**Emergency Measure
Confirmation Procedure**

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2000 and June 30, 2001

H.P. 454 L.D. 617
(H "K" H-732 to C "A" H-713)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Michaud.

Senator **MICHAUD:** Thank you Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, hopefully before we Enact this Bill, I would like to make a comment about the members of the Appropriations Committee who helped to put this package together. Truly this was a lot more difficult actually than the Part One Budget. I think the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Cathcart, and the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Harriman, were able to put together a package where everyone gave in a little bit. It is a package that could not have been put forth if it wasn't for the cooperation of everyone on the Committee in both political parties. I know the Minority party was very helpful and very respectful of the process. They were also very helpful to us in trying to resolve our differences among members of the Committee. And for that I'm very grateful for the work that Senator Harriman has done as far as being able to get this package put forth. I also rise to comment on the statement of fact which is incorrect in that it talks about General Purpose Aid being \$664 million. That is incorrect, there will be an increase in the next Budget, but that statement of fact is incorrect in that it is not \$664 million, that was probably an assumption that they hoped that we would get there, but clearly we are not there. So I just want to clarify, that is not correct. Once again I want to thank the members of the Minority party and the members of the Majority party who worked together in crafting a Budget that I think we all can be proud of. When you look at the Budget, we definitely increased more money to education, we dealt with children issues, and we dealt with tax reductions. It's a good package. I hope that this Body will endorse it unanimously. Thank you.

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

Senator **HARRIMAN:** Thank you very much, and good morning Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I think today is indeed a proud day for the State of Maine, and most especially for the institution we call the Legislature. Since January we have been toiling away at well over 2,300 Bills or more. Thousands of Amendments, and one in amongst those is the blueprint for the State of Maine for the next two years, that we call the State Budget. This blueprint is crafted in a way, to the outside observer at times, that may not look very pleasant or pleasing. But I would submit to you that the work of this Legislature will go down in history as one that decided to join together and govern together, rather than being a Legislature where one tries to govern and the other tries to oppose and point out the weaknesses and flaws. It is indeed, on the edge of the new millennium, an opportunity for future Legislators to follow our lead and to join together and work through the difficult issues when it would be much easier to walk away from the table and point blame. The catalyst for this opportunity, in my view, falls directly on the compliments of the Legislature to the good Senator from Penobscot, Senator Michaud. In each and every turn when it would have been easier to use the gavel to remind us that some are in the Minority party, he chose not to. When it would have been easier to bury everyone in paper and details, he chose to pause and take a moment and make sure that everyone had their question answered and their ideas presented, however frivolous at first it may have appeared. And so on behalf of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, and indeed the Legislature, I want to extend my personal appreciation to the good Senator from Penobscot, Senator Michaud, for his leadership and to extend those warm regards as well to the House Leadership on the Appropriations Committee. For those of you who came into this

Session with a notion that we couldn't have a Budget that cut taxes enough, you would be right. For those of you who came here this Session thinking that the unmet needs for Maine's citizens are so great that we could not spend the revenue resources fast enough, you would be right. But at the end of the day, we have to govern, and we have proposed a document before you that I believe finds the balance between the journey towards tax rate reduction for hard working Maine citizens and a helping hand for those who need our help. This Budget also sends a message to all of Maine that we want to help you join Maine's journey into the next millennium. From education to Special Ed class, to school renovations, to Technical Colleges who will finally be able to respond to the hundreds of jobs that are out there, but just need a well trained worker, looking to the future for research and development, we've responded. To our elderly and disabled who are struggling to meet the cost of prescription drugs, we've heard you and have responded. To those that feel we need to pay attention to reducing our debt, we've heard you. To those who say you should use one-time money, or one-time capital expenditures, we've heard you. To those who say that we should be careful about the unbonded indebtedness that we allow institutions in the state to undertake, we've heard you. To those who say we need to pay attention to a rainy day fund, we've responded. To those who believe Maine's future is highly dependent upon access to our natural beauty and resources, we've responded. For those who believe that Maine's heritage of agriculture needs a shot in the arm for marketing efforts, we've responded. I could go on and on talking about the relief of income taxes, sales taxes, the message of preserving our historic downtowns and way of life. To those who are looking for an opportunity to adopt children, those who are concerned about Community Based Mental Health for children. To those who are concerned about the restoration of the Atlantic Salmon in Maine, this Budget responds to all of those and more. I think, Mr. President, what we should all be most especially proud of is that this Budget was passed in daylight, not at midnight. It was passed with due deliberation, and not in haste, and for that I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to be part of it and I thank you Mr. President.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 30 Members of the Senate, with 3 Senators having voted in the negative, and 30 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matter 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 (5/26/99) Assigned matter:

JOINT ORDER - relative to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs reporting out, to the Senate,

an emergency bill to provide additional funding of \$24,557,795 for general purpose aid for local schools for fiscal year 1999-00 in accordance with the recent votes of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
S.P. 844

Tabled - May 26, 1999, by Senator **MICHAUD** of Penobscot.

Pending - motion by Senator **MILLS** of Somerset to **PASS**

(In Senate, May 26, 1999, on motion by Senator **MILLS** of Somerset, **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **MILLS** of Somerset, **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, all matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

Senator **PINGREE** of Knox was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Senator **AMERO** of Cumberland was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, **RECESSED** until the sound of the bell.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Act