

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Second Legislature
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SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

S/Sen. Joseph C. Perry
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Richard G. Woodbury
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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 Resolve

Resolve, To Reestablish the Health Care System and Health Security Board

H.P. 35 L.D. 32
(S "A" S-380 to C "A" H-513)

Comes From the House, **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE.**

On motion by Senator **MAYO** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES.**

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-513) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-380)** thereto.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES.**

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby it **ADOPTED** Committee Amendment "A" (H-513) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-380) thereto.

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "C" (S-405) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-513) **READ.**

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Mayo.

Senator **MAYO:** Thank you, Madame President. This amendment removes the emergency preamble from the bill.

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "C" (S-405) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-513) **ADOPTED.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-513) as Amended by Senate Amendments "A" (S-380) and "C" (S-405) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-513) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-380) AND "C" (S-405) thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Ordered sent down forthwith for 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:

Acts

An Act To Recruit and Retain College Graduates through Loan Repayment

H.P. 302 L.D. 399
(C "A" H-553; S "A" S-400)

An Act To Provide Relief from the Cost of Rescue Services to Certain Communities

H.P. 412 L.D. 557
(S "A" S-396 to C "A" H-317)

An Act To Protect Children Using Maine's Athletic Fields and Parks from Drug Dealers

H.P. 490 L.D. 670
(S "A" S-395 to C "A" H-258)

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

THE PRESIDENT: I'd like to take this opportunity, while we are waiting for the last little bit of things to come, to make a few remarks to my fellow Senators. I don't know about you, but 2:00 in the morning seems like a good time to look back over what we've done. I'd like to remind you of all of back in December when we hit the ground running. No sooner had members been sworn in that we had the formation of the Property Tax Reform Committee and the presentation of L.D. 1. I can't say enough about the hard work and commitment of our good pilot, Senate Chair Dennis Damon and Senators Joe Perry, Richard Rosen, and Peter Mills. In January we enacted L.D. 1, providing a \$250 million increase in K-12 school funding as the voters had demanded in passing the MMA initiative. We also greatly expanded the circuit breaker and homestead programs to help Maine homeowners keep their homes despite rising property taxes. January saw the Governor's submission of a new biennial budget, one that introduced us all to the term of 'lottery securitization'. During February the committee process heated up with public hearings on the budget and bond bills. I am hopeful we will return in the near future to enact the bond package that addresses Maine's transportation, environmental, and economic needs. I look forward to working with all of you to make that

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happen. March was dominated by budget discussions. We saw lottery securitization morph into revenue bonding. While the two parties ultimately parted ways on the budget, I especially want to thank Republican Leader Paul Davis and Assistant Leader Carol Weston and other members of the Republican caucus for their willingness to work respectfully and cooperatively on the budget and all the other matters before us. March also featured the passage of the civil rights legislation that finally prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation here in Maine. In April we turned our attention to the hundreds of bills remaining in committee. May brought Maine's sort of black Friday on the 13th when the Department of Defense recommended to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the DAF in Limestone be closed and operations at the Brunswick Naval Air Station be severely curtailed. This month we have completed our work, culminating earlier this evening when we repealed the revenue bond.

I mostly want to thank each of you for affording me the honor of serving as Senate President. I am very proud to be a member of this Senate, which is full of talented, experienced, and dedicated individuals. As we near the end of this long week and this extremely long day, it's also fitting to thank those staff people whose hard work keeps us moving forward. I can't tell you how important it has been to me to have the Secretary of the Senate Joy O'Brien and her fine staff always ready to help. I hope you will join me in thanking them. I especially want to thank Sergeant-At-Arms Bob Asselin and the Chamber Staff. Not only have they been efficient and proper but they have allowed us to have a great deal of fun and get a lot of work done. Again, I appreciate their hard work. I go home every night and I say to my husband, 'I have the best staff in the world.' I think that probably the Republican officers feel similarly. We have wonderful people who work for us. They keep us focused. They help us serve our constituents. I want to thank them and I also want to thank the non-partisan staff, they are the folks who keep this place going. I've always thought that they were the hidden gems of the legislature. To all our staff, I really give my heartfelt appreciation. I want to extend my appreciation to Governor Baldacci, his staff, and the members of the Executive Branch for their responsiveness to requests from the legislature and their commitment to work with us for the best interest of the people of Maine. Finally, I want to thank Senator Majority Leader Michael Brennan and Assistant Majority Leader Ken Gagnon for their support, their friendship, and their assistance not only over the last six and one half months but also over the many years. I have learned much from you and I am deeply grateful for your continued assistance. I expect we will all be back here in a few weeks to address bonds and tax issues. Until then, I just want to say to you it's really important, the work we do, and we don't always get it right every time, but I know that everybody in this room has enormous heart and soul and dedication. I take my hat off to all of you. I thank you so much for your good, hard, wonderful work. Thank you.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Study Methods To Improve Ballot Access (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 590 L.D. 1608
(H "A" H-712; H "B" H-718
to C "A" S-316)

In Senate, June 17, 2005, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-316) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-712)** thereto, in concurrence.

In House, June 17, 2005, **FINALLY PASSED.**

In Senate, June 17, 2005, **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE.**

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-316) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "A" (H-712) AND "B" (H-718)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

On motion by Senator **GAGNON** of Kennebec, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED.**

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:

Acts

An Act To Create a Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Maine

S.P. 530 L.D. 1528
(C "A" S-165; S "A" S-398)

An Act To Encourage the Use of Solar Energy

H.P. 1122 L.D. 1586
(S "A" S-403 to C "A" H-615)

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

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

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

ENACTORS