

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Second Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Volume III**

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The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Blanchette.

Representative **BLANCHETTE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Frank was one of the freshmen that entered this House, with myself and any number of you that are sitting here, in the 120th. We're here today to pay homage to Frank because he has left us in his body, his spirit will never leave us. I had the privilege of staying at the same hotel that Frank did the first term down here and we had side by side rooms. We spent many an afternoon sitting out on the patio talking and having a good time. A more gentle man you will never meet. A more companionate man that loved his wife, his children and his grandchildren to almost a fault. They were his life. He loved them dearly and they, in turn, loved him and respected him. We have to celebrate the joy of Frank's life as we remember him. There was nothing anything more dear to him than the years that he spent coaching hockey and having one on one contact with the children that passed through his school system. This is a legacy that can never be taken away from him because every member and every child that passed through Frank, whether he was the Principal, the hockey coach or playing football will remember this gentle giant. He was a gentle giant. The face was always smiling. Soft spoken, ever the gentleman. He was one of the Maine Legislatures brightest stars. I was very, very sad when Frank was not reelected because he had great promise to serve the people of his district. But Frank, you're serving us now, you're serving your family and you have served your community. God rest dear friend, we do miss you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Davis.

Representative **DAVIS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Frank Tarazewich sat behind me in the 120th Legislature. Above and beyond that, we both played on the Portland Seahawks and we went out to lunch many times and, as you can imagine, talked football. I liked him very much. He was a strong man, a real gentleman and a very, very good companion. I did go to the wake. I talked to his family. I talked to his grandson and I didn't know what to say. I said, "Be a strong person like your grandfather," and I got a little smile from the boy. Anyway, I will miss him. He was a very, very fine man. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Babbidge.

Representative **BABBIDGE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It's with regret that I rise today, but with pleasure that I remember this man. Frank Tarazewich was my first Principal. Actually, I'm going to tell a story in which I was a little aggravated with Frank. As a 24 year-old having to do lunch duty in the basement of Greenville High School, I recall a boy named Rocky who was misbehaving in some way and challenging the new teacher. Finally, I sent him to the office and he said, "I'm not going to the office," and I said, "Do you want to bet?" There were two sets of doors, a stairway, down the hall and into the main office. Ten minutes later, the boy flew into the main office and I arrived at the doorway holding on to the woodwork, totally spent and sucking oxygen. Frank roared with laughter for five minutes. This was not the reaction that I wanted from my Principal at the time. Laughter was very much a part of Frank's life. During my eight years in Greenville, he was my Principal for the first half of that and we shared many laughs. I remember during my entry interview he said, "We work hard up here, we play hard up here." His laugh could be heard for miles. He had a gruff exterior. He was indeed a gentle man. I want to

also mention that his wife Judy is a wonderful woman. One thing I'll be indebted to her for is, she stepped aside in 1980 so that I could attend my first political convention. Their daughter Kelly was my student council leader and one of the most able young students I've ever known. My heart goes out to Judy, Kelly and their young son Chris who's no longer young but when I knew him he was toddler. My life has been enriched by Frank Tarazewich and the world is a better place because of it. It's wonderful to have a visual, remembering people always with a smile. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Hutton.

Representative **HUTTON**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. In the 120th, I remember that there were 4 freshmen Democrats serving on the Labor Committee. Representative Norton, Representative Smith, myself and Representative Tarazewich. It was a bond that we formed very quickly, not knowing what we were doing or how we were going to approach labor issues. The one thing that I remember about Frank was that he always had a smile no matter what the subject was or how depressed we were getting about what we were doing, he always had a smile. I just want to thank his family for allowing him to come up here and serve with us. I wish that he had won a second election. I do know that we will miss him. I will always remember that smile.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Twomey.

Representative **TWOMEY**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I had not heard of his passing until I was just out in the other room. I said "Who are they talking about?" and they told me and I said, "Oh my God!" We sat together. Monica McGlocklin was my seatmate and Frank was her seatmate. We always commented on his ties. He always had the greatest ties. You know, you get to know your seatmates better than most of the people in the House because you get to share things and he really liked to smile and he really liked a good joke. It was very hard, sometimes, when Representative Muse, when we had the Muse boys, they would sometimes come in and have little snacks that we're not supposed to have and set up a little table cloth on their desk. It looked like a little picnic. Frank got a big kick out of that. We worked hard, but there are times when there are lighter sides. When he lost his election, Monica was really upset. I was upset, I remember talking to her on the phone. We really, really loved him. So, in celebration of your life, Frank, I hope you're smiling. God bless you Frank. We will miss you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Jacobsen.

Representative **JACOBSEN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Frank Tarazewich was a neighbor, a friend and I won't say opponent because we didn't run against each other. We both ran for the same office. He was very hard to run against because I knew what he believed in, I knew what he wanted to do and I knew his obligation to his family. The day after the night that I decided that I would run, after being asked, I went down to see Frank and, like any of us, he was disappointed that he had an opponent. We weren't really opponents. I'll say it again, we were running for the same office. He was a real decent family man. I know the family, I know Judy, I know the kids and I know how much they all mean to each other. I know how much Frank meant to the community and to the students and faculty that he presided over. After I won the election, I saw Frank and he said, "You know, I really wanted to go back." I almost said, "Frank, I really wanted you to go

back." He was a great man. He was a quiet man. He was a craftsman. The past couple of years he's been spending time working on his house. He was spending time with his wife Judy in Florida. He was spending time with his family. I guess life balances things off. Although he wasn't here with the many friends that he made and the dedication he wanted to exhibit, he did get to spend the last few years with his family. I guess everything has a purpose. Frank will be missed and Frank has contributed to all of us. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Bowles.

Representative **BOWLES**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I've often thought about my own mortality, as I know all of my colleagues have thought about this as well. I've often thought about, you know, what will people say about you when you're gone. Frankly, one of the best things that people can say about me or anyone else, I think, is just simply he was a good person. If you can get people to stand up and sincerely say, "He was a good person, he was a good man." I think that says an awful lot for your life. Frank Tarazewich was a good man. He was our friend and colleague during the time that he was here, for those of us who were here in the 120th. He was a friend to us back home in the community. I had many dealings with Frank on a professional level back in York County. Frank was also a family member of mine. Frank's son, Christopher, who's a wonderful young man, married my ex-daughter-in-law and became the step-father to my grandson. I think all of you who have that sort of family situation can understand the trepidation that one has when you're turning over someone you love, in this case my grandson, to another set of parents and grandparents. I could not have personally selected more wonderful people to be surrogate grandparents to my grandson than Frank and Judy Tarazewich. They were decent, honest, God-fearing people who raised their son and family with values and helped to do the same for my grandson. I'm grateful for that. In addition to everything that was said, all the good things that were said, Frank Tarazewich was a good man.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

**ENACTORS**

**Constitutional Amendment**

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Limit the Rate of Change in Taxable Value of Primary Residences

(H.P. 7) (L.D. 2)  
(C. "C" H-1014)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative CUMMINGS of Portland, **TABLED** pending **FINAL PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

**Emergency Measure**

An Act To Amend the Boundaries between the City of Saco and The Town of Old Orchard Beach

(S.P. 861) (L.D. 2115)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-

thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 106 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

An Act To Amend the Charter of the Starboard Water District

(S.P. 862) (L.D. 2117)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 105 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Acts**

An Act To Provide Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence

(S.P. 860) (L.D. 2116)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

**ENACTORS**

**Emergency Measure**

An Act To Make Additional Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of State Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2006 and June 30, 2007

(H.P. 1382) (L.D. 1974)

(H. "A" H-1053 and H. "B" H-1054 to C. "B" H-1037)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

Representative TARDY of Newport **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 568**

YEA - Adams, Annis, Ash, Austin, Babbidge, Barstow, Beaudette, Berube, Bierman, Bishop, Blanchard, Bliss, Bowen, Bowles, Brannigan, Brautigam, Brown R, Browne W, Bryant, Bryant-Deschenes, Burns, Campbell, Canavan, Carr, Cebra, Churchill, Clark, Clough, Collins, Cressey, Crosby, Crosthwaite, Cummings, Curley, Curtis, Davis G, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dudley, Dugay, Dunn, Duplessie, Duprey, Eberle, Eder, Edgecomb, Emery, Faircloth, Farrington, Finch, Fischer, Fisher, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gerzofsky, Glynn, Goldman, Grose, Hall, Hamper, Hanley B, Hanley S, Harlow, Hogan, Hotham, Jackson, Jacobsen, Jodrey, Joy, Koffman, Lansley, Lerman, Lewin, Lindell, Lundeen, Makas, Marean, Marraché, Mazurek, McCormick, McFadden, McKane, McKenney, McLeod, Merrill, Miller, Millett, Mills, Moore G, Moulton, Muse, Nass, Norton, Nutting, O'Brien, Ott, Paradis, Patrick, Perry, Pilon, Pingree, Pinkham, Piotti, Plummer, Rector, Richardson D, Richardson E, Richardson M, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Saviello,

Schatz, Seavey, Sherman, Shields, Smith N, Smith W, Sykes, Tardy, Thomas, Thompson, Trahan, Tuttle, Twomey, Valentino, Walcott, Webster, Woodbury, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Blanchette, Craven, Hutton, Marley, Percy, Rines, Watson, Wheeler.

ABSENT - Cain, Daigle, Davis K, Greeley, Jennings, Kaelin, Moody, Pineau, Sampson, Simpson, Stedman, Vaughan.

Yes, 131; No, 8; Absent, 12; Excused, 0.

131 having voted in the affirmative and 8 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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**Acts**

An Act To Establish the Hospital and Health Care Provider Cooperation Act

(S.P. 852) (L.D. 2110)

(C. "A" S-654)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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The House recessed until 3:00 p.m.

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(After Recess)

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The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** and today assigned:

**TABLED AND TODAY ASSIGNED**

Resolve, Establishing an Apportionment Commission To Develop New Cumberland County Commissioner Districts (MANDATE)

(H.P. 1236) (L.D. 1728)

(S. "A" S-639 to C. "A" H-840)

**TABLED** - May 22, 2006 by Representative BARSTOW of Gorham.

**PENDING** - Motion of Speaker RICHARDSON of Brunswick to **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**. (Roll Call Ordered)

On motion of Representative BARSTOW of Gorham, the House voted to **RECEDE**.

On further motion of same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby **Senate Amendment "A" (S-639)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-840)** was **ADOPTED**.

On further motion of same Representative **Senate Amendment "A" (S-639)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-840)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-1107)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-840)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-840)** as Amended by **House Amendment "B" (H-1107)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

Subsequently, the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** as Amended by **Committee Amendment "A" (H-840)** as Amended by **House Amendment "B" (H-1107)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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

**ENACTORS**

**Acts**

An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters

(H.P. 706) (L.D. 1021)

(S. "G" S-660 to C. "B" H-1007)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative BOWLES of Sanford, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Van Buren, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This bill, which passed this morning with a vote of 72 to 70, was never really debated so that the membership could understand exactly what was going to happen. Senate Amendment 660 creates a different scheme than the previous bill, but still a scheme which is going to be creating liabilities for the State year after year in increasing amounts. What we're talking about is one of the legacies of this Legislature. This bill, as amended by the other body, is going to create a legacy where we are going to be funding for, starting off, 950 law enforcement and firefighters, and increasing every year as the pool or retirees grows and going on for the life expectancies of those retirees. Certainly they're projecting \$2 million starting off. Certainly we know as the pool grows, the costs will grow for the State. We're doing this for one segment of our population, one group of workers in our population who already have pension plans, who already have opportunities to retire at the age of 50 and who have the strength and the ability to be here every day this Legislature met for at least the last three months. So, we're dealing with creating a continuing liability for the State, essentially recognizing the strength of a lobbying group and the persistence of a lobbying group. I find it an unwise policy for us to be looking to provide health insurance benefits primarily to the stronger groups in the State. We have too many equally deserving industrious citizens in this State who have no access to the health insurance. I ask you, think very carefully before you vote on this, do you want to create a continuing growing unfunded liability on our general fund? Keep in mind it is such an unfunded liability, that will not allow many of the programs that we use for our poorer people, that will be sacrificed year after year when the Appropriations Committee meets and has this block of money that's already been committed by us for years and years to come and generations to come. I ask you to consider whether the way we should implement our health insurance policy in the State is to take the more vigorous, strongest groups and insure them while leaving behind all those people equally deserving who don't have the lobbying strength to come here and spend three months here. I ask you to defeat this enactment so that when we do provide

health insurance, we do it for everybody, not just the strong. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Blanchette.

Representative **BLANCHETTE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It's not often that I find myself in disagreement with the good Representative Smith from Van Buren, but I couldn't disagree any stronger than I am right now with what he has said. We have had a very intense and very active lobbying group out here in the halls since we came back into session for this very important bill. This has not been a paid professional lobbying group. If you think for one minute that these firefighters and these police officers that are out here standing at attention being very courteous to you and respecting your right to disagree with them in a very cordial manner are being paid, think again because they're not. They're using vacation days. I have firefighters standing out here in the hall right now that are leaving to go back to do a 24 or 48 hour shift in the Bangor Fire Department. They have come down here because they feel, not for their benefit personally, there are some of them out there that are years and years away from retirement, but they also know that the job pool in the police and fire not only in Bangor and in Portland, it's statewide, has become stagnant because people cannot afford to retire. We had made an adjustment and I'm not uncomfortable with this amendment that the other body submitted that raises the age to 50. Neither the police nor the fire are uncomfortable with this. I have to tell you, the liability on your municipalities and your county sheriffs and everyone else when an officer or a firefighter goes to fight a burning blazing building at age 55 or 60, the workers comp will eat you alive. It is a lifetime thing. Ladies and Gentlemen, vote for enactment on this. We need to take care of people that have taken care of us and that will continue to take care of us. I have to tell you, up or down, in or out, funded or not, these people will not drop their dedication to save your lives, your children's lives, your grandparent's lives or anybody's life that you want. In fact, they may even step up to the plate and save your puppy dog's life if it needs to be that way because they are public servants. I have empathy for everyone in this State. God knows I've dealt with the low income people that have no benefits and have nothing to fall back on. I would dearly, truly love to be able to sign the check to give universal health care to everybody in this State. It just isn't going to happen now and it won't happen until the United States Government steps up to the plate and says this is needed. Vote for enactment. This is a good bill. It's a fair bill to public servants that put their lives on the line to save yours every day of the week. Three hundred and sixty-five days per year, seven days per week they work 24 and 48 hour shifts. They're not asking for a handout. They're asking for the ability, the ability to go and open up the job market in law enforcement and firefighting throughout this State. We have 50 or 60 graduates graduate from the academy over here in Vassalboro every year and there are no jobs because the inn is full. We're going to have a large amount, if this is enacted, retire soon because they are of that age. But, then it's a graduated period the same as every other retirement is. Not everybody was hired the same day, not everybody will retire the same day. Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for your attention.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waldoboro, Representative Trahan.

Representative **TRAHAN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. First, I'd like to thank the Representative from Van Buren for his dedicated, I

guess, loyalty to his position on this issue. It took a lot of courage to stand by your conviction. This legislator appreciates that. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, for those members that will be returning in the next biennium to face the next budget shortfall I just wanted to list a few items for you that you'll need to pay for. Also, I'd like to make a statement to the firefighters that are promoting this legislation. In no way do I want to restrict their ability to get access to healthcare, but we have to, as legislators, put every issue before us in context with all of the priorities that we have. We have to make tough decisions. Again, thank you to the Representative from Van Buren, Representative Smith for your courageous position. In the next biennium, we owe the hospitals \$400 million. The 55% education commitment that we have dedicated ourselves to fund is another \$280 million. There's a \$500 million shortfall in our general fund budget and another \$80 million to \$90 million shortfall in the highway budget. The new Medicaid expansions will cost us another \$146 million Ladies and Gentlemen. We have no money to pay for it. Personal service costs for employees, because of our new collective bargaining, agreement has gone from \$712 million to \$915 million and is climbing rapidly. The Maine State Retirement unfunded liability is \$2.5 billion and after 2018 blocks of \$300 million per year from that point on through 2025, we will have to find that money as well. The Maine State Retired Health Insurance Plan has a \$1.2 billion unfunded liability. Ladies and Gentlemen, that's not counting any increase in our biennium, the 3% increase that we might have to come up with to meet our general obligations. That's not counting any new programs that we may pass in this Legislature and have to fund. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm not voting against this legislation because I'm against firemen, I'm voting against this legislation because I'm trying to be responsible with the taxpayers' money. We have obligations we cannot even begin to meet now. We will have two options facing us in the next Legislature, cut essential programs or raise taxes. That is the reality, that is the bottom line and when you vote today, don't think otherwise. You're going to have that option facing you. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Webster.

Representative **WEBSTER**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I will not repeat a number of the arguments that have persuaded me to vote in favor of this. I will simply say that what comes to my mind is having lived in Biddeford a number of years ago and watching a man about 65 years old go into a burning building because he thought someone was in there. There was no one in there but he came back out coughing and fell and collapsed on the porch and died of a heart attack. That man should never have been in that building. This is a young man's business. I got to know, a little bit, the family. He was hanging on to retirement to provide his family with insurance. So, I will be voting for this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As we were told would happen, there's already a pool of worthy recipients of this benefit who are just lining up with their hands outstretched saying, "Where's mine?" This is fiscally irresponsible. We have already, as far as I'm concerned, usurped the authority of our municipalities by doing this. It's going to hamstring their own negotiations at the municipal level. We have placed a cap on LD 1 on spending. We are already trying to jump through hoops to try to negate that. This is exactly what the people back home

look at and say, "What are they doing up there? That is irresponsible." That is why TABOR is looking so wonderful to the people back home. I implore you, do not put us in this situation where we're constantly trying to search for money to pay for this. It is irresponsible.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Twomey.

Representative **TWOMEY**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. It's not about money. We are the richest country in the world. You've heard that come from me all the time. It's about pitting one segment of our population against another. It's about saying firemen and policemen are more important than other people back home. When are we going to stop this? Does it pull at your heartstrings? Of course. Did they get to me? Of course. Who wants to go against firemen and policemen? That's the emotional issue. Then we bring in 9/11. Then we bring in burning buildings. None of us want to do that. It's all emotional. At the end of the day when I went home after I gave that letter, I talked to Mr. Laverriere who lives on Green Street in Biddeford who worked for the Humpty Dumpty potato chip factory for thirty-some-odd years. Then the Humpty Dumpty got sold out and now he's in his 70s and he's working at Shop 'n Save. He works there five days per week. When he saw me on the street he said, "Joanne, you know how much money I bring home for a paycheck? I said, "How much?" He said, "One dollar." I said, "One dollar?" He said, "Because the rest of it has to go for my health insurance." How do I go home and say that I had to balance his need against those very nice people who already have something. I want to tell you, you all know I'm running for the other body and I was just told, a few hours ago, this would be the end of my race. I will go back home and I will have to face this face on and I will lose. What am I thinking about? I am thinking about being fair to the people I represent. I told that person if that means I go down in an election, so be it. My friend behind me, who I love and respect, said will you be a politician or will you be a statesman? I choose to be a statesman because I can look at their faces and tell them why I'm voting the way I am. I cannot pit one group over another. That Mr. Laverriere who worked just as hard is having to face his reality and women who are alone with two children, who have no healthcare, how do I face them? Back home if you get a firemen's job, you're really lucky because it's almost like people who are in there get their family in there. It's really great if you can get one of those firemen jobs. There are other things to it. Retiring at 55 when I still see seniors working at 70 and 80. When I see women at the cash with their faces all red and I know they're exhausted, but they have no money and they have no choice. What did we get elected for here? Who are we supposed to represent? Just the powerful? The people who can organize? Or everyone in our district? Who wants to go against firemen and policemen? Who would dare? Oh my God, it's about the next election. It's about doing the right thing for all the people in Maine. If that means I lose a Senate race, so be it, because I can sleep at night. I can go home and tell those who don't have anything, those who usually don't vote, those are the people that don't vote, but I was their voice. Somebody from this House has to be that voice. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newfield, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. My good friend across the aisle just said about voting for special interests. I understand about the elderly people that are bagging groceries,

but these gentlemen that have been out in the hallway haven't put any pressure on anybody. They turn around and try to do a good job and save people's lives. The other day, my good friend across the aisle was speaking against the teachers. She said the superintendent was going to support her so, she's probably already lost the firemen and the teachers, but she still has that superintendent to support her. I go back to when I praised you in the 121st of being one of the few who would stand up over there and vote against tax and Social Security at the State level, and that's why you're probably the Speaker and she's still sitting on the end of the aisle over there. Maybe I'd better say no more.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Holden, Representative Hall.

Representative **HALL**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. That's a hard act to follow, but I'm going to try. I came here two years ago as a naive freshman legislator thinking I was going to come down here and make a difference. For the most part, I don't know that I've been able to do that. It's hard in a body of 151 people for your one vote to make a difference on most occasions. I've gone on, I've tried and I've done my best for the people that I represent and for the people of the State of Maine. One thing that I've found here as we're winding down our session, there are a lot of people here that aren't going to be here anymore. People who I've grown to have a great deal of respect for. One of them is the good Chair of the Labor Committee, Representative Smith from Van Buren. I haven't always agreed with him, in fact, most of the time I've been in disagreement with him. One thing I have found from Representative Smith is he looks at everything with an open mind. He's honest and he gives everything a fair shake and when something is not right, he votes against it even though a lot of people want him to vote for it. I respect him for that. I've enjoyed working with him and I thank you Representative. Another one who, and I'm probably going to take a lot of ribbing for saying this, but someone who I respect a great deal is the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Twomey. You may not agree with her, I think I disagree with her 98% of the time on things that happen in here, but there's one thing for certain, she says what she means and she means what she says. Nobody but Representative Twomey tells Representative Twomey how to vote. I appreciate that. Another person who I've found a great deal of respect for is Representative Sawin Millett from Waterford. Representative Millett classified this amendment that's in front of us quite nicely when he said, "It's a fiscal train wreck that's coming right straight at us. It's going to be a mess." In this chamber, on the 13th of April, I offered an amendment which was a good amendment. This body overwhelmingly supported it 84 to 61 we passed an amendment that was fiscally responsible and that was a vehicle for the brave men and women that do this job to provide themselves with health insurance when they retire. It was a vehicle for the State, in better times, to provide more of a subsidy for them. A great many people on the other side of the aisle supported that amendment and I spoke to them and I thanked them for supporting my amendment. To the person they said, "Well, I had to support it. It was a good amendment. It makes sense. It's fiscally responsible." I don't know what happened between April 13th and this morning. I'm not going to speculate what happened, but I know that my amendment is still the most fiscally responsible thing. It's the only way this bill is going to get funded. I really, really urge everyone to vote against this bill at this point in time because quite frankly it's a fiscal train wreck. If we're going to fund this bill, where are we going to get the money from? Are we going to take money away from prescription drugs for seniors? Are we

going to take money out of the Dirigo program? Are we going to take money away from the hospitals? Are we going to shirk our responsibility to fund 55% of education? I was downstairs in the Hall of Flags today for an awards ceremony. One of my schools, the Dedham School, won an award for excellence in coordinated physical education. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts that they're facing, that program is being eliminated next year. How many more programs are going to be eliminated? We stood in this chamber this morning and yesterday and debated on a transportation bond to fix our roads, \$60 million. We decided no, it's too much. Now we're going to throw \$90 million or \$100 million at this. It's the wrong place to spend the money. We have a limited amount of money. This is the wrong place to put it. I'm all for putting it out there to fix the roads. What are we going to do next year? We're not going to have money for roads. Are we going to take money from the highway fund and use it to fund the firefighters health insurance and then look to be borrowing money for roads again? I ask you, please don't listen to me, but listen to the good Representative from Van Buren, listen to Representative Twomey from Biddeford and listen to Representative Millett and press the red light here on enactment. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Bishop.

Representative **BISHOP**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Aside from the issue of how much these brave men and women deserve for retirement, aside from the issue of whether or not this retirement should be a local or a state issue, aside from the addition from our unfunded liabilities when next years structural gap is already estimated to be between \$425 million and \$450 million, aside from all that I'm voting against this bill because it is my understanding that this bill itself creates a grossly unfair situation for all the people of Maine. If passed as is, this bill favors workers who choose not to sign up for retirement at an early age. Let me repeat this because that's what this bill does. If passed as it is right now, it encourages workers not to sign up for this retirement benefit at an early age. The reason it does that is because those who choose to contribute at that early age and would be helping the State of Maine by offsetting the State's contributions don't have to. Rather, they can wait until the very last five years of their working career and sign up at that point. So, all that early time that they would have been contributing to their own retirement, in fact, will be picked up by the State of Maine if this bill is passed as it is in front of us. It encourages non-participation until the very last five years with no penalty. Is this fair to all of us who pay for retirement on an ongoing situation with ongoing contributions during our whole working career? Again, this is aside from all those other considerations. This bill, as written, in itself is not a good bill. It's not fair. It's not fair to the people of Maine. It's just not fair. For that reason, I'm voting against it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Blanchette.

Representative **BLANCHETTE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I think I just need to put some correct information out here on this bill. This bill does not allow people to wait until the last five years until their retirement to jump in and participate. This bill will allow, if enacted today, firefighters that are eligible now, under all other circumstances, to retire to pay in their amount of money for the five years and retire. Once you are employed tomorrow, if this bill was enacted tonight and became law, if you applied to a fire department or a police department within the State of Maine

tomorrow, you would have exactly 60 days from your date of hire to make a decision as to whether were going to participate in this plan. No exception. No exceptions. So, you are not funding an unfunded liability on this. These people are going to sign up within 60 days of their date of employment. They're going to contribute to this fund all of the time that they are employed either in the police or fire department. I just think the people, before you vote to enact this, need to know what the facts are. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monmouth, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I'd like to address the question that was raised a little bit ago about is this fair to all of us. It's kind of a different perspective on this. My perspective is as the daughter of a firefighter for 25 years and as the mother of a firefighter for about 2 years. I'm also the sister-in-law to about three firefighters. I want to touch briefly on two parts of my dad's experience. He was a volunteer firefighter for about 25 years before he retired from that. I will forever remember the day that he was paged out of church to go fight a fire and by the time my mom got herself and us kids home, my dad's chief showed up on a tear at the house saying my dad had collapsed and took mom to the hospital. That day is forever in my psyche. The other memory of my dad's experience is my mom telling me, one of the few times she'd seen my dad cry, is when one of his firefighters came out of a burning building, collapsed in front of him and died of a heart attack. There's something about firefighting and police work. There is a physical strain. There is a mental strain. Even though one of the things I've heard is, "Yea, but they only have to do that very rarely." But they're on call all the time for the potential to do it. If we have people who have been on this job for 25 years or more and are now 50 years or older, there is a strain, mentally and physically, that comes with 25 years of wondering what's going to happen today and of going into burning buildings. So, the question, "Is it fair to us all?" My other perspective of this, I've been sitting thinking through this. I've had two chimney fires in the house I live in now. When I lived in Mattawamkeag in an apartment at Opal Troutt's house, her house burned to the ground. My apartment over the garage was nearly destroyed. In 1998, we had a barn fire where my boys were there at the time, spontaneous combustion with the hay and we lost about 10 calves. All of those were fairly horrifying experiences. All of you, I'm sure, have, if not your own experiences, friends and neighbors who have needed these emergency responders. People become firefighters and police officers, I believe, for the same reason we are lawmakers, the same reason I am a farmer and the same reason one of my friends is a pastor. You sure don't do it for the money. You do it for a calling. If people have been at these jobs of police and fire for 25 years and more and are at the age of 50 and find that it is time for them to retire because either bodies or their psyches or both have given all they can give, then I think it's appropriate for allowing that to happen. The Representative from Bangor, Representative Blanchette mentioned the fact that there are fresh graduates from, I know Southern Maine Community College has a great program, more graduate from there than can find jobs here. In order to allow the guys who have put in, who have paid their time in these jobs, to retire and the young guys to come in, look at it form the, "What's best for all of us." There's no polite way to say it. Do you want the 60 year old who's been doing it for 30 years, who's knees are shot, to be the one who shows up at your house or in this building if there's a calamity? It makes sense for all of us to pass this bill. Thank you.