

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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House of Representatives
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After Midnight

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

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, 2008 and June 30, 2009" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 383) (L.D. 499)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative PINGREE of North Haven pending **ADOPTION** of **Committee Amendment "A" (H-412)**.

Representative FISCHER of Presque Isle **PRESENTED** **House Amendment "T" (H-445)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-412)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Fischer.

Representative **FISCHER**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. If you will remember earlier this evening, I described House Amendment "Q". This Amendment is virtually identical to House Amendment "Q," except if you turn to Page 4, line 18, this act, if you look, it is talking about 80 regional units or into a number of units that meets the administrative efficiencies established by this part. A lot of hard work obviously went into this amendment by many people, and I want to thank them for making this product better. I hope that we can adopt this amendment and then engross this bill, and we can all go home and get a good night's sleep. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winslow, Representative Fletcher.

Representative **FLETCHER**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I will be brief, I promise. I really appreciate the good work of all the people who have worked on this to make a document that I think will move us forward and achieve the efficiencies in administration that we know are there. I would ask you all to support it. We have a lot of work to do, but I think that we have the right intent, we have the right people to work on it, and we are going to take a very important step forward. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **PIEH**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Good morning. You know, all of you know how many of us had concerns and how hard people have worked to bring this together, and I am rising in support of the motion. I think something that was confusing for many of us was around the density descriptions of how many people would need to be in a district and you will see some changes there.

What I need to say is that while many of us thought that the 100 per square mile population density was a viable position to use for determining district size, we found in the studies, they found in the studies and that I learned today, are that that does not work. The reason why it does not work is that it is population density, not student density. Some of our rural districts would find themselves trying to meet numbers that would not be practical, so what we did add is consideration of the rural nature of our communities, and that districts may be somewhere between 1,200 and 2,500, with of course the hope to be as close to 2,500 or over that as possible.

I rise in support of this and great appreciation. I know that you have all waited a long time, while language was sorted out and printing was done, and I thank you and I hope you will support it. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Crystal, Representative Joy.

Representative **JOY**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It was my intent to get up and move to Indefinitely Postpone this, to be keeping with the rest of them tonight, but instead I would like to remind you that all of the effort that has been put into it is a lot of hard work; there is no question about it. Many, many hours have been poured over in this, but I hope that you realize, and I noticed here that is says Notice of Intent, and I hope the intent is to bring something out of it that is going to improve education, but I have heard no discussion of improving education. All I hear is we are going to consolidate everybody, and I hope that you realize by taking action and passing this, that you are signing a death will for many of the communities in Maine. When you lose your institutions, you lose you identity as a community. When these schools are moved down the road, as they surely will be, then you are not going to have Maine, as we know Maine, left. I hope that you remember that as you push your button to vote. Mr. Speaker, I request of roll call.

Representative **JOY** of Crystal **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT** **House Amendment "T" (H-445)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-412)**.

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 Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "T" (H-445) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-412). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 114

YEA - Adams, Annis, Austin, Babbidge, Barstow, Beaudette, Beaudoin, Beaulieu, Berry, Berube, Blanchard, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Browne W, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Canavan, Carter, Casavant, Cebra, Chase, Clark, Cleary, Connor, Conover, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Crosthwaite, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dunn, Eaton, Eberle, Emery, Faircloth, Farrington, Finch, Finley, Fischer, Fisher, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gerzofsky, Giles, Hamper, Hanley S, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Hotham, Jackson, Kaenrath, Knight, Koffman, Makas, Marley, Mazurek, McDonough, Miller, Millett, Mills, Miramant, Moore, Norton, Pendleton, Peoples, Percy, Perry, Pieh, Pilon, Pingree, Piotti, Plummer, Pratt, Priest, Rand, Rector, Richardson D, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Samson, Saviello, Schatz, Silsby, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Strang Burgess, Sutherland, Tardy, Theriault, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Wagner, Walcott, Watson, Weaver, Webster, Weddell, Wheeler, Woodbury, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Ayotte, Cotta, Curtis, Edgecomb, Gifford, Gould, Greeley, Grose, Jacobsen, Joy, Lansley, Lewin, Lundeen, MacDonald, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Muse, Nass, Pinkham, Prescott, Rines, Savage, Thibodeau, Tibbetts, Vaughan, Walker.

ABSENT - Blanchette, Cressey, Duprey, Marean, Patrick, Pineau, Richardson E, Sykes, Thomas.

Yes, 114; No, 27; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

114 having voted in the affirmative and 27 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "T" (H-445)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-412)** was **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) as Amended by **House Amendment "T" (H-445)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) as Amended by House Amendment "T" (H-445)** thereto and sent for concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

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

On motion of Representative ROSEN of Bucksport, the House adjourned at 1:10 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 6, 2007.