

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 5, 2012

beginning at Page 1

The Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on 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, 2014 and June 30, 2015" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1079 L.D. 1509

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-468)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-468) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "P" (H-499)** thereto.

Report **READ**.

On motion by Senator **GOODALL** of Sagadahoc, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#275)

YEAS: Senators: BOYLE, CAIN, CLEVELAND, CRAVEN, DUTREMBLE, FLOOD, GERZOFKY, GOODALL, GRATWICK, HASKELL, HILL, JACKSON, JOHNSON, KATZ, LACHOWICZ, LANGLEY, MAZUREK, MILLETT, PATRICK, SAVIELLO, SHERMAN, TUTTLE, VALENTINO, WOODBURY, THE PRESIDENT - JUSTIN L. ALFOND

NAYS: Senators: BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, HAMPER, MASON, PLUMMER, THIBODEAU, THOMAS, WHITTEMORE, YOUNGBLOOD

25 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, the **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-468) **READ**.

House Amendment "P" (H-499) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-468) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **THOMAS** of Somerset, Senate Amendment "A" (S-276) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-468) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset, Senator Thomas.

Senator **THOMAS:** Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I have no illusion that you are going to attach this amendment. It is probably as likely as me being cast in a major movie. I want people to have the opportunity to actually help homeowners and Maine residents and taxpayers in the state of Maine. The people that I represent are strapped. They've got all they can do to keep a roof over their head and food on the table. We know what fuel prices are doing and we know what grocery prices are doing and we know what the cost of living is doing. I don't care what federal CPI numbers say. What I would do is I would end revenue sharing and I would take that money and I would give a \$25,000 homestead exemption that was fully funded by the State. There would be no participation from local government, Mr. President, because a homestead exemption goes to Maine residents who live in their home year-round and it's all Maine residents. If you give revenue sharing then a certain percentage of that has to go to people's second homes. I've got towns in my district where 70% of the property is second homes. A big percentage of that property is owned by people from out-of-state. For roughly the same money we could give everyone in the state of Maine a \$25,000 exemption on their property tax valuation. If you've got a mill rate of 20, that's a \$500 tax break. None of it would go out-of-state. All of it would stay in Maine and all of it would stay to help people who live here year-round. No snowbirds. That's the way, if we really want to reduce property taxes, and is the best vehicle available to us. Really, I'll say one more thing. Revenue Sharing, if you look at the formula, the formula is mill rate times population. If you were going to have a theme song for revenue sharing it would be "Hey Big Spender." Thank you.

Senator **GOODALL** of Sagadahoc moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-276) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-468).

On motion by Senator **THIBODEAU** of Waldo, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

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

Senator **WOODBURY:** Thank you Mr. President. I'd just like to compliment the Senator from Somerset, Senator Thomas, on his very well thought out amendment.

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

Senator **GOODALL:** Thank you Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I just rise briefly to say that we, too, appreciate the effort that Senator Thomas is putting forth, but in light of the overall budget and the deal that has been crafted by the hard work of the Appropriations Committee over months of hard work, I

think it's important that we Indefinitely Postpone this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is the motion by the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Goodall to Indefinitely Postpone Senate Amendment "A" (S-276) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-468). A Roll Call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#276)

YEAS: Senators: BOYLE, CAIN, CLEVELAND, CRAVEN, DUTREMBLE, FLOOD, GERZOFSKY, GOODALL, GRATWICK, HASKELL, HILL, JACKSON, JOHNSON, KATZ, LACHOWICZ, MAZUREK, MILLETT, PATRICK, TUTTLE, VALENTINO, WOODBURY, THE PRESIDENT - JUSTIN L. ALFOND

NAYS: Senators: BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, HAMPER, LANGLEY, MASON, PLUMMER, SAVIELLO, SHERMAN, THIBODEAU, THOMAS, WHITTEMORE, YOUNGBLOOD

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **GOODALL** of Sagadahoc to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-276) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-468), **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-468) As Amended by House Amendment "P" (H-499) thereto **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

RECESSED until 7:45 in the evening.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

Senator **HASKELL** of Cumberland requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Session.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

HOUSE REPORT - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Lower Costs to Municipalities and Reduce Energy Consumption through Increased Competition in the Municipal Street Light Market" H.P. 885 L.D. 1251

Report - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-472)**

Tabled - June 13, 2013, by Senator **CLEVELAND** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT**, in concurrence

(In House, June 12, 2013, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-472)**.)

(In Senate, June 13, 2013, Report **READ**.)

Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-472) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (6/11/13) matter:

HOUSE REPORT - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Establish a Pilot Natural Gas Utility District in Maine" (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1036 L.D. 1442

Report - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-419)**

Tabled - June 11, 2013, by Senator **GOODALL** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT**, in concurrence

(In House, June 10, 2013, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-419)**.)

(In Senate, June 11, 2013, Report **READ**.)

Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-419) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.