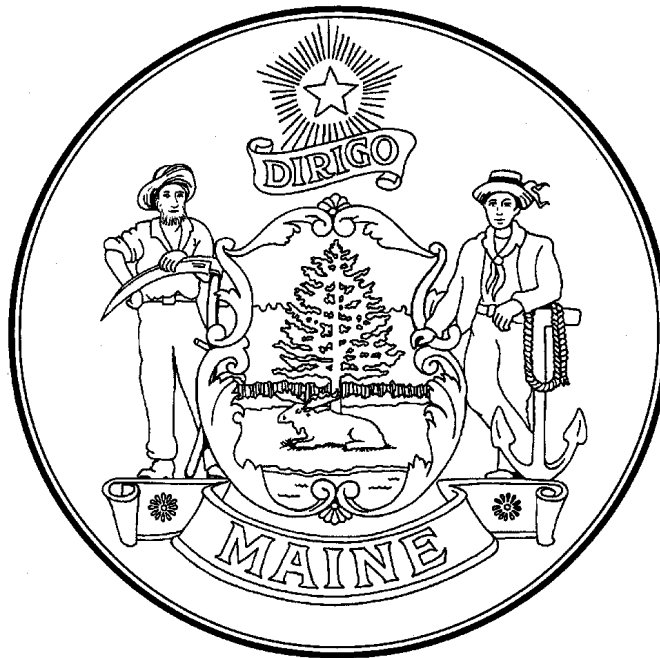


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session  
beginning December 3, 2014

beginning at Page 1

**ROLL CALL (#271)**

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WILLETTE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senator: HASKELL

34 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 1 Senator having voted in the negative, was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-415) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-287) and "B" (S-288)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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**RECESSED** until the sound of the bell.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

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The following proceedings were conducted after 12:01a.m., Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

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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**

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, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017

H.P. 702 L.D. 1019  
(S "A" S-287; S "B" S-288  
to C "A" H-415)

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Hamper.

Senator **HAMPER:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, a new day. We missed my birthday. That's the way it goes. Now is my opportunity to say a little bit

about the budget. November 5, the die was cast. November 5, 2014 the die was cast. Votes were counted and we were a divided government. We've all, and will continue to, live for another year and a half under the specter of division between the bodies. As I've said many times, House blocks the Senate and the Senate blocks the House. My goodness, just look at the calendar that comes to you every day with the non-concurrent matters in the number ones in the front of the calendar. It's very obvious what we deal with on a daily basis. The budget did not have that option. We had to get it done. Within the committee we found unity where we could and compromised on so much of everything else. When we closed the budget at about 12:10 in the morning on June 6th, a full five weeks after my target date of getting the budget done, I spoke to the committee and I said there was absolutely no need for us to get to the point that we were at and, that late in the game, there was no need for it in a year where there was enough money to take care of what we needed to do, but we got hung up on policy. So much policy. I also told the committee that I could see a way, that there was a way, that I could see it. There was a way for compromise. There was a way for us to bring it together. My hat's off to leadership tonight for bringing that final bit of compromise to the budget process. We reached an agreement. We're at this point tonight. Thank you, leadership, for sticking with the task. There's plenty in this budget for me to like and there's plenty in this budget for me to dislike, as it is with everybody else in this Body. It's not one of those things that can end up on the non-concurrent part of the calendar. We've got to get it done. We've got to run state government. It has to happen.

The Senator from York, Senator Valentino, I've come to very greatly appreciate your abilities over the past six months. Your thoroughness is exemplary. Senator Katz, the Senator from Kennebec, it was good to have legal advice. We had a good team. I just really appreciate my Senate colleagues from the committee. I think we worked together well. I'll wrap it up. Let's get this job done. Let's go home. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Senator **KATZ:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I'll be brief. During the last week I think there were a lot of doubts around here, with a divided government, tough issues before us, that we would be able to get to "yes" and fulfill our most basic obligation, to keep government up and running and providing services critical to our citizens. We all know we've lived in the shadow of a shut-down now for weeks, but eventually we were able to get there. I think it's a budget that both parties can take pride in because it has the stamp not only of both parties but I think of each individual in this Chamber on that document. We debated. We argued. We challenged each other the last six months. Despite our differences, despite the distractions, and despite the attacks from without this Chamber, we were able to get our job done and get to "yes". This budget is no more perfect than any one of us in this Chamber who helped form it, but we did our best and I think that we did well. Thank you, Mr. President.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 31 Members of the Senate, with 4 Senators having voted in the negative, and 31 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.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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Off Record Remarks

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

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On motion by Senator **MASON** of Androscoggin, **ADJOURNED** to Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 10:00 in the morning.