

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-303)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Pouliot.

Representative **POULIOT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Permission to speak on the record?

The SPEAKER: The Representative has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, the Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **POULIOT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I'm fortunate to represent hundreds of state employees. These are hardworking men and women. They are the people responsible for keeping the operations of state government moving forward. They are loyal and they go to work every day, doing the best job that they can for the State of Maine. Many of these men and women have bills to pay. They've got families to provide for, just like you and I. For weeks now, many of these folks have been wondering when the heck this body is going to do its job and pass a budget. I'm right there with them. I want the opportunity to vote on a reasonable budget. So far the only budget we've had a chance to vote on would have raised spending over 500 million dollars from just two years ago and kept in place the highest income tax rate for small businesses in the United States. That was not a budget that my constituents could afford. None of them have had a nearly 10% raise in the last two years; why should government be more prosperous than them? We seem to be so close on a deal. Based on hundreds of conversations I've had with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I honestly don't think we're as far apart as the media portrays us to be, so it leads me to ask; what is the holdup? Madam Speaker, I don't believe any one of us in this body wants to have a shutdown. I really don't. I surely do not. I'm asking for an opportunity to vote on a budget that is reasonable and realistic so that we don't repeat the disastrous shutdown of 1991. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Friday, June 23, 2017, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act Regarding Solar Power for Farms and Businesses"

(S.P. 529) (L.D. 1504)

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-276) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-293)** thereto.

TABLED - June 21, 2017 (Till Later Today) by Representative HERBIG of Belfast.

PENDING - ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-293) to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-276).

On motion of Representative HARVELL of Farmington, **Senate Amendment "A" (S-293)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-554) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Farmington, Representative Harvell.

Representative **HARVELL**: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this amendment is a stepdown but it's just to create, more or less, a baby step. For the ratepayers, it eliminates the gross metering at a cost of \$500 for a meter that gets socialized to all rate payers, and it maintains this 10% step-down in T&D, which was designed by the PUC. For solar, it creates predictability and business-like environment, it requires the PUC to do a cost and benefit adjudicatory proceeding and to complete a CMP rate case as we look to move away from net metering towards a time of use. Thank you, and I request a roll call.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT House Amendment "B" (H-554) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)**.

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 Bowdoinham, Representative Berry.

Representative **BERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Men and Women of the House, while this compromise amendment before us does not live up to Maine's full potential for solar jobs and for control of our energy future, it is a step in the right direction. At a time when we are in danger of falling even further behind, I am pleased that my Committee has been able to reach a reasonable compromise and to work across the aisle to get the job done. I want to thank all of my colleagues on the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, and, in particular today, the Representatives from Farmington and from Hiram for working in a bipartisan fashion and with a focus on what is best for ratepayers, for jobs, and for our energy future. I urge support of the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Strom.

Representative **STROM**: Madam Speaker, there's a lot of confusion around me right now. This is an amendment that most people I know sitting around me have not seen, have not been able to review thoroughly, and I believe we're taking a vote now on something that's going to lock this state into a 15-year contract, and I think most people around me would really appreciate some time to look at this bill. Thank you.

Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending **ADOPTION of House Amendment "B" (H-554) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)**.

Representative HERBIG of Belfast **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **TABLE** until later in today's session pending **ADOPTION of House Amendment "B" (H-554) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)**.

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

Subsequently, Representative HERBIG of Belfast **WITHDREW** her **REQUEST** for a roll call.