

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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benefit, which is so important given that, unfortunately, this will not help Noel at all but it will help future families and future individuals who receive this devastating diagnosis because Noel wants to ensure that his wife is taken care of after he's gone. He wants his family to be okay after he's gone. Nothing can make anything perfectly okay but this bill will help make a difference. So I want to commend Noel Levasseur for his courage and his bravery and meeting with the Governor and meeting with me and meeting with DHHS and yielding a unanimous report in the Committee and working so hard to help families that come after his to make a difference and make change. Thank you.

Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-761) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Establish the Total Cost of Education and the State and Local Contributions to Education for Fiscal Year 2018-19 and To Provide That Employees of School Management and Leadership Centers Are Eligible To Participate in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System"
S.P. 712 L.D. 1869

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

Signed:

Senator:
MILLETT of Cumberland

Representatives:
KORNFELD of Bangor
DAUGHTRY of Brunswick
FARNSWORTH of Portland
FULLER of Lewiston
McCREA of Fort Fairfield
PIERCE of Falmouth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-469)**.

Signed:

Senators:
LANGLEY of Hancock
MAKER of Washington

Representatives:
GINZLER of Bridgton
SAMPSON of Alfred
STEWART of Presque Isle
TURNER of Burlington

Reports **READ**.

Senator **LANGLEY** of Hancock moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (S-469)** Report.

On motion by Senator **MILLETT** of Cumberland, 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 Millett.

Senator **MILLETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise in opposition to the motion before us. The report that is being moved would result in a slight decrease in the mill rate but there is an option that we would be able to have if we defeated this motion that would reduce it even further and provide property tax relief to our districts. There is a sheet on all of our desks that help walk everybody through the proposals that are before us. This report increases the amount that is dedicated to a line item within Enhancing Student Performance and Opportunity above what the Department had asked. Another approach could be that money is saved from property taxes having to pay for it, lowering the mill rate, and providing the Department with funds, more funds, without having to ask for a separate appropriation to cover some shortfall in other areas of their budget. I hope you will join me in opposing this motion so that we can consider another report that presents a more fiscally responsible approach. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Langley.

Senator **LANGLEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, this bill that's in front of us, in its totality, is what's known as Section C language of the budget. So we're just going to give you a little bit of history of this. In Section C usually that is education funding. So in the majority of the bill are the allocations for this upcoming year for school systems. The item that we disagreed upon in the two reports is a \$5 million allocation for middle school CTE experiences. What the report that's in front you, that I moved, that was the Minority Report, took that \$5 million allocation for middle school CTE experiences which we voted in last session and reduced that allocation to \$500,000 because it's so important that we could reach down into our lower grades, in 6th through 8th grades, and we provide opportunities for students to be able to see what's out there in the world of work. As we all know, Mr. President, there is a workforce crisis in our state and having our young students be able to get those

experiences early on has proven, certainly, to be very beneficial. So \$500,000, we reduced that to. We took \$2.5 million in this report and put it back to the taxpayers' side to reduce the mill rate that our local citizens would have to contribute through their taxes. Then we put \$2 million into the line item inside of this for equipment - upgrading equipment in our CTE centers. We've had a lot of discussion in and around CTE and the need for upgraded equipment to be able to teach 21st Century work skills on equipment that's being used today. So, Mr. President and men and women of the Senate, we stayed within the confines, I think, of the intent of the majority of that funding at \$5 million, but we also realized, too, that reducing that mill rate was equally as important. So I would like you to follow this report because it does make sure that our students in our middle school grades have an opportunity to experience CTE programs. Thank you.

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

Senator **MILLETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to rise one more time. There is another piece of information that I would like to share and that is the Department did provide the Committee with information that, at the moment, it is not prepared to accept grant applications, nor has a process to review those applications for the Career and Technical Education Middle School Program. Certainly all of us in the Education Committee have supported this effort and have actually joined in a unanimous report to help put this in place. It's just the timing is not right and, therefore, there's no need to have an allocation for that program at the moment and I would also like to remind everyone that we had a sizable increase to the overall cost of education here in the State of Maine. I'm sure many of you have heard from your districts that it's going to be a real challenge to meet those costs and that property taxes are likely going to have to rise to cover that. So, in my view and others, it's really important to give as much relief, property tax relief, as possible to our districts. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Minority Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" Report. A roll call has been ordered. If you are in favor of accepting that report you will be voting yes. If you are opposed you will be voting no. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#632)

YEAS: Senators: BRAKEY, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DOW, HAMPER, KATZ, KEIM, LANGLEY, MAKER, MASON, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: BELLOWS, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, DION, GRATWICK, HILL, JACKSON, LIBBY, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, VITELLI

18 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **LANGLEY** of Hancock to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (S-469)** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-469) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, Bill **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (S-469)**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Compensation by Large Transmission and Distribution Utilities" S.P. 628 L.D. 1729

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-467)**.

Signed:

Senator:
DION of Cumberland

Representatives:
BERRY of Bowdoinham
COOPER of Yarmouth
DeCHANT of Bath
RILEY of Jay
RYKERSON of Kittery
SANBORN of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
WOODSOME of York
CUSHING of Penobscot

Representatives:
HANLEY of Pittston
O'CONNOR of Berwick
WADSWORTH of Hiram

Reports **READ**.