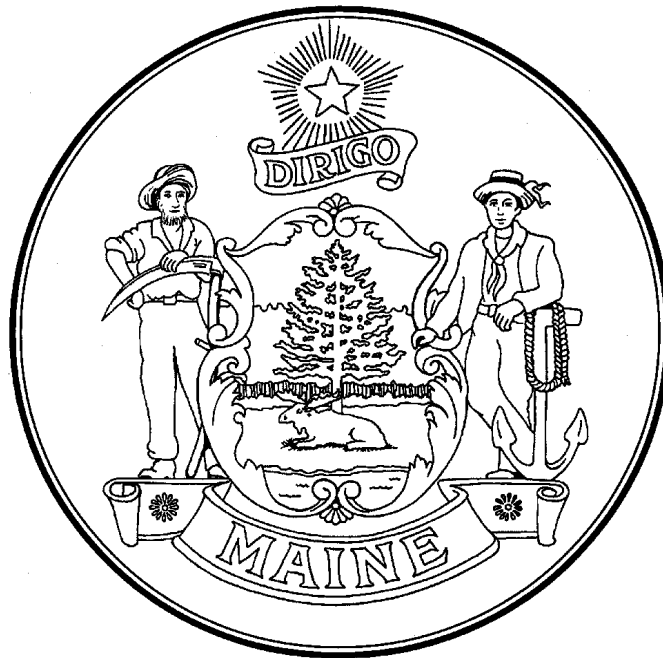


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Journal and Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Daily Edition**

**First Regular Session**  
beginning December 5, 2018

pages 1 -

on alcohol, they do not stay in the municipality where they are collected, they go to the State.

So, to fulfill the will of the people, we should actually treat marijuana like we treat alcohol, just as it was wished. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Standish, Representative Ordway.

Representative **ORDWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, my Colleagues in the House. As a child of the 60s, I urge my colleagues to please give this time to work out. Let's get it through the process before we're trying to put the cart before the horse. And I realize, my colleague, the Representative from Pittston, marijuana is not like alcohol. We need time to work this out. And I know it's frustrating to a lot of people, but it's not like alcohol. I can have a glass of merlot to enhance the beef, but if I roast a bowl, it's for one purpose. Please give this time.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative -- the House will be in order. Really, the House will be in order. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Bickford.

Representative **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, in response to my good friend, the Representative from Hallowell, the State is not in the business, we don't believe, from the Marijuana Legalization Committee, of encouraging municipalities to opt in to marijuana. Municipalities are on their own. They can do what they want. If they choose to opt in, they choose to opt in. It is not in the State's best interest to put a carrot out, to ask municipalities to opt in. Municipalities are adults. They can make their own choices. We do not need to encourage that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 270**

YEA - Ackley, Alley, Andrews, Austin B, Babine, Beebe-Center, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carney, Cloutier, Collings, Cooper, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Daughtry, Denk, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fay, Fecteau J, Foley, Gattine, Gramlich, Grohoski, Handy, Harnett, Hepler, Hickman, Hobbs, Hubbell, Hymanson, Ingwersen, Jorgensen, Kessler, Kornfield, Landry, Madigan C, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, Matlack, Maxmin, McCreia, McCreight, McDonald, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Moonen, Morales, Moriarty, Nadeau, O'Neil, Paulhus, Peberworth, Peoples, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Reckitt, Riley, Riseman, Roberts-Lovell, Rykerson, Schneck, Sharpe, Sheats, Stover, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, Warren, White B, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Austin S, Babbidge, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Cebra, Corey, Curtis, DeVeau, Dillingham, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, Fecteau R, Foster, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Higgins, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Keschl, Kryzak, Lockman, Marean, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, Ordway, Pickett, Pierce T, Prescott, Reed, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Swallow, Tuell, Verow, Wadsworth, White D.

ABSENT - Bailey, Costain, Grignon, Kinney, Lyford, O'Connor, Perkins, Theriault.

Yes, 88; No, 54; Absent, 8; Excused, 1.

88 having voted in the affirmative and 54 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly

the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Act**

An Act To Improve the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992

(H.P. 561) (L.D. 756)  
(C. "A" H-603)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

**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, 2019, June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021

(H.P. 743) (L.D. 1001)  
(C. "A" H-586)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Women and Men of the House. It is a great privilege to be able to rise in support of enactment of a bipartisan report from the Appropriations Committee that sets forth a pathway for Maine for the next two years and even farther into the future; a pathway that will lead to better education for our students, improved healthcare for all Mainers, a better-trained workforce, a cleaner environment, a greater opportunity for our older neighbors to remain independently in their homes, and support for much-needed economic development including broadband investment in our rural communities.

This budget is the result of four months of work. This work was done not just by the 13 members of the Appropriations Committee. Every Member of this body, as members of policy committees that participated in weeks of public hearings and work sessions, contributed in a positive way to the creation of this budget. And I am pleased to report, Madam Speaker, that all of that work and effort paid off and resulted in the report that is in front of this body now for enactment.

Using the Chief Executive's proposal as a starting point, the committee took 1,154 individual votes on various spending initiatives and language parts. We voted most in, we voted some out, we amended others, but of those 1,154 votes that we cast together as a committee, 1,146 of those votes were unanimous. Literally, over 99% of the votes that we took in the committee were unanimous. And the reason that we were able to take so many unanimous votes is because we dove into the details of what the Chief Executive proposed, because we listened carefully to the public who showed up to testify over weeks of public hearings, because we trusted the work of the policy committees who deliberated carefully and gave us excellent thoughtful report-backs, and we were unanimous on all these votes because as a committee we listened to each

other as we negotiated to find common ground and to build a bridge across any differences that we had.

Madam Speaker, the budget itself is 626 pages long. I'm not going to read it all tonight, but I'd really like to point out some of the things that we were unanimous on. We voted unanimously to fully fund the cost of Medicaid expansion and to fund a special stabilization fund to protect against unanticipated costs as that program continues to ramp up. We voted unanimously to provide an additional \$111 million in state support for K through 12 education, increased funding for technical schools and school lunch initiatives. The Chief Executive's proposal included funding for an additional \$54 million in revenue sharing above the previous budget. Not only did we fund her proposal, but we voted unanimously to fund an additional \$45 million in revenue sharing, putting Maine on a better trajectory to meet our statutory promise of 5%. And when it comes to property tax relief, we went even further, voting unanimously to increase the homestead exemption to \$25,000 and expanding the property tax fairness credit to an additional 13,000 low-income Mainers and seniors. Unanimously, we voted to invest over \$17 million in Maine's public universities and community colleges and continued funding for vital workforce development initiatives in our higher education system. We also unanimously voted in committee to support adult education and degree completion initiatives.

This budget provides \$4 million to fund DECD initiatives including broadband and rural development grants and it funds a new pre-release center in Washington County. This budget supports older Mainers, not just through the property tax initiatives, but through increased funding for prescription drug and Medicare premium supports which will benefit an additional 1800 low-income seniors, it clears the Meals on Wheels waitlist, and increases funding for nursing homes and Maine's veterans' homes.

As a committee, we voted to protect Maine's children by funding 62 additional child protective workers and increasing staff at the computer crimes unit. We voted to fight for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. We voted to support additional staff at Dorothea Dix Hospital so that people with mental illness don't have to languish in emergency rooms or, worse, clog our county jails.

And we did all of these things, including all the additional property tax relief, while reducing the overall appropriation proposed by the Chief Executive by over \$50 million. And we did it without raising taxes, without raising a single fee, and we were still able to set aside \$45 million to stabilize state operations and MaineCare from any future revenue challenges. This is something that we were not able to do in the previous budget.

So, Madam Speaker, the point I'm trying to make is that although this is a budget proposed by a new governor that fulfills the promises she made to the Maine people, in fact this is a budget that we can all claim ownership over and we can all be proud of, that we all had a chance to influence, whether we are a Democratic Member, a Republican Member, or an unenrolled Member. Because, Madam Speaker, at the end of the day, I believe that we all care about a lot of the same things. We want our kids to have the best education and the best chance to succeed. We want the hardworking people in our towns and cities to crawl out from under the burden of stifling property taxes, we want vulnerable children to remain safe from abuse and neglect, we want our older neighbors to live independently in their homes and in their communities, we want our economy to thrive and our environment to flourish, we want people with disabilities to live independently, we want

healthcare to be affordable and accessible whether you live in Maine's biggest cities or Maine's smallest towns. And this budget will put Maine on a path to achieve all of these things.

And as the chair of the committee, I'm proud to be able to tell this body that this is something we worked on together, collaboratively, it is something we can be proud of collectively, and I am grateful for all the hard work that the entire House has done to get us to this point. This is a good budget that will do good things for all of our constituents and I urge all the Members to cast a vote today to move this forward to final enactment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative MILLETT: Thank you, Madam Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would like to commend the good chair of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, the Representative from Westbrook, for a very thorough summary and analysis of the content and the process of getting this budget to us here tonight. I would like to also to thank the persons or the people that made this happen around the horseshoe, starting with my three colleagues from this body, the Representative from Belgrade, Representative Keschl, the Representative from Hiram, Representative Wadsworth, and the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata. We came together as a team, I'm proud of the work that we did, and I think we've had a positive influence on the overall product.

I'd similarly like to talk about the other Members from this body around the horseshoe. I've gotten to know them and feel good about them in many different ways. My seatmate to my right, Representative Hubbell from Ellsworth, one of the most analytical and detailed people I've ever worked with, but always with a smile. My neighbor to the left, the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce, who put up with me on all of our educational assignments, which were in the weeds most of the time but she was very statesmanlike and very helpful to me. I work around the center of the horseshoe to the Representative from Eagle Lake. I don't need to say much about him, we've known each other so long, we can make eye contact and almost know what each other is thinking. Sometimes he's right, every once in a while, but more often than not I know where he misspeaks. But, generally, we're on the same page. The Representative from Portland, Representative Jorgensen, there's no reason not to like this guy, even though he's a member of the other party, I find it enjoyable to work with him. And the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dunphy, and I worked on the Marine Resources Committee work and she's a treat to work with.

So, overall, I'd like to think that this is a bipartisan budget that many of you would expect us to put together, knowing the work involved and knowing the role that you played as policy committee members, giving us your thoughts, your recommendations, and many of them involved making our job more difficult but mostly they were helpful to us. We've come to this point, accomplishing a lot of Republican objectives to mainly reduce the level of spending so that we could look at it from the point of view of sustainability and the Good Representative from Westbrook mentioned the 57-plus reduction in spending. We brought the overall spending down from 8.044 billion after the change back is down to 7.987 billion as we look at it tonight. We made that investment in property tax relief and I commend all of you who contributed to it. It wasn't all Republican ideas but we wanted from the get-go to do a lot of targeted property tax relief. We know, from Augusta, we cannot really predict or specify the mill rate that

our local constituents have to pay on their property taxes, but we know, as we always do, the burden that it places on some of the lower income people. So, we put together a package, that number of over \$75 million in revenue sharing growth, in homestead expansion, and also in the property tax fairness credit, and I think that was an accomplishment that few people would have expected us to make along the way.

So, overall, I believe that we have a bill and a budget that will sustain us and will reflect well upon the process. And, I might say in conclusion, the civility and the respect that occurred throughout the last four and a half months, I think was a step forward and hopefully signals a good working relationship going forward. We have much more work to do. We now have \$882 million on the Appropriations Table. Who would've thought it? And we have carved out for ourselves \$6 million as a maximum, which is one of the larger appropriation table allowances that I've seen in many years. But think of the magnitude that we have to work from. We have over \$2 billion worth of bond bills that we will start working on on Monday. So, our chore is not done, but the work before us tonight represents a good start and I commend all of you who have contributed to it and I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hiram, Representative Wadsworth.

Representative **WADSWORTH**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to oppose enactment.

In the Chief Executive's inaugural address, she stated that we should be fiscally cautious because there may be a recession around the corner. We are in the longest bull run in U.S. history and when times are good, we need to save. This budget is not putting nearly enough into the Rainy-Day Fund to protect against economic downtrends. In fact, our Rainy-Day Fund has been spent down from \$279 million to \$218 million.

I also worry about spending more than our revenues, which means that we're deficit spending. I want to recognize the Good Representative from New Gloucester for her work on the Minority Report, which put a lot more in the Rainy-Day Fund than the Majority Report does. This budget is not fiscally cautious and puts us back on the path to shortfalls, red ink, and increased taxes. So, for these reasons, I cannot support the budget tonight. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

**ROLL CALL NO. 271**

YEA - Ackley, Alley, Austin B, Babbidge, Babine, Beebe-Center, Berry, Bickford, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Campbell, Cardone, Carney, Cloutier, Collings, Cooper, Corey, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Daughtry, Denk, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fay, Fecteau R, Foley, Gattine, Gramlich, Grohoski, Handy, Harnett, Harrington, Hepler, Hickman, Higgins, Hobbs, Hubbell, Hymanson, Ingwersen, Jorgensen, Keschl, Kessler, Kornfield, Landry, Madigan C, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, Matlack, Maxmin, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Moonen, Morales, Moriarty, Nadeau, O'Neil, Paulhus, Peabworth, Peoples, Perry

A, Perry J, Pierce T, Pluecker, Prescott, Reckitt, Riley, Riseman, Roberts-Lovell, Rykerson, Schneck, Sharpe, Sheats, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stover, Strom, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, Tuell, Verow, Warren, White B, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin S, Blier, Bradstreet, Cebra, Curtis, DeVeau, Dillingham, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, Fecteau J, Foster, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Kryzak, Lockman, Martin T, Mason, Morris, Ordway, Pickett, Reed, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stetkis, Stewart, Swallow, Wadsworth, White D.

ABSENT - Bailey, Costain, Grignon, Kinney, Lyford, O'Connor, Perkins, Theriault.

Yes, 104; No, 38; Absent, 8; Excused, 1.

104 having voted in the affirmative and 38 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker.

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

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On motion of Representative FECTEAU of Augusta, the House adjourned at 9:34 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Monday, June 17, 2019, in honor and lasting tribute to Jeffery Paradis, of Augusta.

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