

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Journal and Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 2, 2020

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2nd Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Honorable Thomas H. Skolfield, Weld.

National Anthem by Ange Pitteroff, Randolph.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, December 2, 2020 was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: Good morning. I just wanted to first speak before we got our work started this morning. First of all, thank you to the staff who has worked very diligently and hard to make today possible and, of course, the entirety of our session. I want to thank all of you for your patience as we work in a different space with different resources and to recognize all the work that you've already done legislating remotely. I know it's been challenging and I commend all of you for learning new tools, reaching out in new ways, and stepping up to keep our families and home districts as safe as possible even though that meant hundreds of hours of meetings from a computer screen over the last several months.

Today, we recognize that we're working in unique circumstances in a very different environment, but the same rules of decorum that apply in the State House apply here in the Civic Center. We have the same dress code, the same rules of the House, Members must be recognized to speak, not walk in between a Member as they're speaking, and if you are speaking with another Member in the back of the chamber, we ask that you keep those conversations at a low volume or you can take it outside of the chamber.

Obviously, safety is a top priority for all of us here in the Civic Center. We ask that you comply with the Legislature's COVID-19 policy, especially around keeping face masks and face shields on at all times, try not to let them slip below your nose and obviously please keep them on during the duration of session. We will provide reminders, but frequent reminders are just not going to work and if we do have an issue with compliance, I will call the leaders to the Well of the House.

Also, the mics are already on and so when you do approach the mic, you don't need to touch it, which I think is something we had a challenge with the last time. They're already -- they're on already, so when you do approach the mic, the volume will increase by the guys who are up in the bleachers there working the mic, so you don't need to touch the mic. In addition, there are directions, instructions on your desk, a yellow sheet, for using your tablet. In addition, the chamber staff is more than happy to help you and assist you, I know that the tablets are new and so if you do need help, they're here and want to be helpful so please ask for their help and they'll help you get access or to sort out how to use it.

So I just wanted to make those notes before we got started. I'm looking forward to getting to work today. Thank you.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-9)** on Bill "An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021" (H.P. 155) (L.D. 220)

Signed:

Senators:

BREEN of Cumberland

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

PIERCE of Falmouth

CARDONE of Bangor

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

FAY of Raymond

HYMANSON of York

MARTIN of Eagle Lake

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-10)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

DAVIS of Piscataquis

Representatives:

ARATA of New Gloucester

COREY of Windham

FECTEAU of Augusta

MILLETT of Waterford

READ.

Representative PIERCE of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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 Falmouth, Representative Pierce.

Representative **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A year ago, almost to the day, when the first case of the COVID-19 was discovered in Maine, no one could have predicted the turmoil and tragedy so many Mainers would face. But even in the face of extreme difficulty and uncertainty, together, all Mainers, communities, families, individuals and businesses rose to the challenge.

The 130th Legislature is here today to do our jobs and meet our challenges and address the constitutional duty we have to bring our budget into balance. Governor Mills presented the Legislature with a supplemental budget on January 8th that proposed to enshrine the prudent curtailments that were put in place last fall and to address issues that have come to light over the past year. Having received her supplemental budget, members of the Appropriation and Financial Affairs Committee held public hearings and began the work of putting together a

fair and balanced budget. I am proud of the work that our 13-member committee did to reach compromise in 99% of this budget and I think that's because we listened to the Maine people and we heard loud and clear what we needed to do.

The supplemental budget is a vehicle to address 2020 and the effects of the crisis. It is the moment we balance our budget and move ahead responsibly. This is how we do our job to deliver for all Mainers. We on the committee agree to amend the Governor's budget to propose the following.

Critical relief for 160,000 Mainers who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The supplemental budget includes 47 million dollars to exempt unemployment benefits from state income taxes. We agree to support Maine businesses. The supplemental budget ensures that over 28,000 Maine businesses, employing 250,000 Maine people, will be able to get a hundred percent tax benefit from the federal Paycheck Protection Program. We agreed targeted relief was needed for direct care workers and nonprofit providers. The supplemental budget proposes 30 million dollars in state and federal money to this section of the workforce who have struggled to meet the needs of Maine people, especially as COVID-19 related mental health concerns increased. We agreed to support early college aspirations program for Maine high school students. Students from all across the State while facing remote learning and loss of onsite extracurricular activities wisely took advantage of an opportunity to receive academic credits towards Associate or Baccalaureate degree through enrollment and successful completion of college-level courses approved at our Maine institutions, like the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. We agreed to invest in a new comprehensive child welfare information system. Now, more than ever, we need to make sure that we're protecting our most vulnerable, and this will help us do that. We agreed we must promote for the construction of affordable housing in Maine. Language in this budget maximizes the value of Maine's low-income housing credit by conforming with the recent change to the federal tax law credit.

If we do not pass this compromised budget, we strip the businesses of the PPP tax relief they've been told that they need. We strip Maine children of specific welfare services, we don't curtail the state spending across the departments, we don't fund the early college program for Maine kids who have benefited from that and people who got laid off as a result of the pandemic who have to pay taxes on unemployment benefits that were hit very, very hard will not receive that and we leave those direct care workers waiting for recovery.

The moment is now to pass this budget, to deliver for the Maine businesses and families and communities all across the State. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for this supplemental.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask if I could receive some clarification from the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: So, just for new members in the building as we go through this procedurally, I think we find ourselves; I want to clarify, we're bringing this supplemental forward for the supplemental budget on LD 222. We'll go through first and second reading engrossment, then we'll be sending it to the other body, where there's an expectation that there will be an amendment and it will come back in

nonconcurrence and then the House would move forward with the number of amendments that we have prepared before us. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise that we typically don't speculate what the other Body may or may not do, but I think that's probably right.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: To clarify, the expectation is when we receive this here again, there will be an opportunity that we will then offer our amendments?

The SPEAKER: That is right.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 1

YEA - Alley, Arford, Bailey, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, MartinJ, MartinR, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, MillettR, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Peabworth, PerryA, PerryJ, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sharpe, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Tuttle, WarrenC, WarrenS, WhiteB, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, FecteauJ, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Grignon, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, MartinT, MasonR, MillettH, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, WhiteD.

ABSENT - Babbidge, Bickford.

Yes, 83; No, 66; Absent, 2; Excused, 0.

83 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-9) was READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED.**

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading.**

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-9)** and sent for concurrence.