

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session
beginning January 5, 2022

beginning at Page 1311

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The President requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **BREEN**, to the rostrum where she assumed the duties as President Pro Tem.

The President took a seat on the Floor.

The Senate was called to order by President Pro Tem **CATHERINE E. BREEN** of Cumberland County.

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 To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023

H.P. 1482 L.D. 1995
(C "A" H-1029)

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Piscataquis, Senator Davis.

Senator **DAVIS:** Thank you very much, Madame President. I just want to speak briefly about what's before us, which is, of course, the Supplemental Budget. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I believe one of our most important functions here in the Legislature is to spend Maine peoples' money wisely and prudently. It is one of our greatest responsibilities since what we do in this Chamber has an effect on the lives of our residents and we have a unique powerful role and that power comes to duly exercise prudently. The budget before you, I believe, does that. It represents the greatest tool that members of both parties, and even both Chambers, have at their disposal and that tool is compromise. In a compromise nobody gets everything they want but usually somebody gets everything - some of what they want. We are in the middle, we meet in the middle for the common good of all Mainers. We represent 35 Senate Districts, 1,300,000 people. But we all work for all of Maine's people. We did prioritize a bunch of things. We prioritized that Maine families by giving back \$730 million in hard earned taxpayers to families making less than \$200,000 a year and trust me, folks, that was a compromise. We were also able to agree on some tax reforms to help protect our seniors and their retirement income and that will help keep, I hope, some of our seniors here in Maine instead of losing them to states like Florida. We were able to give our aspiring youth, and this is very important, especially to me, their

first two years of education free through our Community Colleges. That puts Maine on the map for helping our students. This is all a compromise but it's as it should be. I believe in the years I've been here I've voted against more budgets than I've voted for but the ones I ever voted for were usually a compromise and a two-thirds budget. Thank you very much, Madame President, and thank you for your hard work on this. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: Thank you, Senator Davis. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Pouliot.

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Madame President. While Androscoggin is a very lovely county, I'll stick to Kennebec.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: Oh, pardon me. The Senator from Kennebec. Pardon me, Senator Pouliot, my apologies.

Senator **POULIOT:** I wouldn't want to take that away from the good Senator to my left, but I won't pose any questions through you, Madame President, to ask him. I request a roll call.

On motion by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Bailey.

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Madame President. Colleagues in the Senate, I would concur with the good Senator from Piscataquis County in that this Supplemental Budget represents a compromise. I can say, serving on AFA, that there was a lot of give and take and a lot of listening on both sides and I think that we did come up with a product that I was trying to think of kind of the theme and I think the Senator from Piscataquis County kind of hit on the theme I came up with which there is a lot in this budget to help children, families, and working Mainers, both those entering the workforce, such as the Community College and the opportunity tax credit, and those who are leaving, or have left, and are enjoying their hard earned retirement, as well as continuing our leadership on remediation and identification of PFAS. I am very proud of the product that we came up with and I think that it does, again, speak loudly to our values in helping children, families, and working Mainers and I would ask you all to vote green. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Jackson.

Senator **JACKSON:** Thank you, Madame President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I just wanted to rise for a moment and say that, having been through a number of these, I'm always really, really impressed with the members of Appropriations, both House and Senate. Long, long periods that they have to spend. The weekends, the time away from home. It really is quite impressive and so I do think this is a good budget. I think it's the way you always hope for it to happen and it could not have happened without the great work of my good friend from Piscataquis, Senator Davis; my good friend and colleague from York, Senator Bailey; and my good friend and colleague from Cumberland, Senator Breen. I certainly want to thank the entire

process, everyone that has to do that production. It is quite, quite complicated but, you know, the three of you, for the long long evenings, the long weeks, I couldn't be more proud to serve with all of you and I certainly couldn't be more proud for you, Madame President, to have the opportunity to sign this budget. So, with that, thank you very much and look forward to taking this vote.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: Thank you, Senator Jackson. Now the actual Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake.

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** I thank you, Madame President, and I just felt that in my 12 years of serving here I think I've only voted for like two budgets in my life. So, it's not something I do a lot of but I just have served on the Appropriations Committee and I know the work that you guys go through. I appreciate the work you've done, Madame President, Senator Davis, Senator Bailey. I've been there. You've done great work. As they said, this budget has something we all don't like and has all something we do like and I will be supporting the budget today. So, thank you for just what you guys have done and it's good to do this. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Madame President Pro Tem. I would like to express gratitude for the hard work that's happened in Appropriations and there is so much in this budget that I - which I am supportive, and I know there are things that were not supportive as well. So, today I'm going to be voting in opposition to passing the budget and I'm doing so with difficulty because I respect the work that's gone on and I think that it is a good budget. However, there is, once again, no funding in there for indigent legal services to make changes to the system that are really needed and there's a lot of things in this budget that are on sort of our wish list or are things that we prioritize and we believe are really important. But indigent legal services is a constitutional obligation of our state and since I have been in the Maine Legislature I have served on Judiciary Committee and I have worked every single year to try to create more and more change in that system and so my vote today will be because I think at this point I must take a stand. I voted in favor of the budget last year and it wasn't in - the funding wasn't in there and it is once again not in there and I'm hopeful we can do something with our table money and still take care of at least some measures. But having served on the Judiciary Committee for this many years and having prioritized it for this long, and holding up a high bar for constitutional obligations of our state, it is in that - it is for that reason and that reason only that I will be casting a vote in opposition. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Madame President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to echo many of the sentiments that have been shared here on the floor today, that I am very proud and excited to vote for the budget before us and I think, following the good Senator's comments, I want to say you know it's a good budget when everyone walks away feeling like they've had a great win but also a great loss and exactly the subject matter that she highlights, I agree and it's something we

need to keep moving forward. We did a funding for it in the last budget but, most importantly, I think it's a call to all of us who are lucky enough to return to this hallowed Chamber to be able to do more and know that, you know, I always see a budget as the beginning and also as the book end at the end of our session. It sets the pages. It sets the terms. It helps as sort of a guiding and moving document and I think, you know, voting in strong support of this budget doesn't mean that we're completely closing the chapter. We're just putting our portion in the history of this Legislature and in this state and reminding ourselves that we still have a lot more work to do. I also, once again, want to thank the good Senator from Cumberland County for all of her incredible work and guidance and I'm particularly excited to vote yes having her at the rostrum. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#790)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CLAXTON, CURRY, CYRWAY, DAUGHTRY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, FARRIN, GUERIN, HICKMAN, JACKSON, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, MOORE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, ROSEN, SANBORN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT PRO TEM BREEN

NAYS: Senators: CHIPMAN, KEIM

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 32 Members of the Senate, with 2 Senators having voted in the negative, and 32 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 Pro Tem, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent down forthwith.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by President Pro Tem.
CATHERINE E. BREEN of Cumberland County

Act

An Act To Correct Errors, Inconsistencies and Conflicts in and To Revise the State's Liquor Laws

S.P. 528 L.D. 1643
(C "A" S-571)