

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Nineteenth Legislature
State of Maine

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Appendix
House Legislative Sentiments
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The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (12) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140) - Minority (1) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-1141) - Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS 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 Years Ending June 30, 2000 and June 30, 2001" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1790) (L.D. 2510)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative TOWNSEND of Portland pending **ADOPTION of Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140)**.

Representative MENDROS of Lewiston **PRESENTED House Amendment "K" (H-1155) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Mendros.

Representative **MENDROS**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I have before me as many of you have before you this amendment. With all due respect to the good Representative from Bridgton, Representative Waterhouse and Senator Harriman, they did a good job with their budget and their proposals, but as many of you I am sure saw as you read this over before you sent it back to me, this is much better than their proposal because it includes an increase for our nursing home residents, which I know many of us feel very strongly about. It also includes \$50 million less in the structural gap. It includes everything we heard about with one exception. Everything we heard about when we heard about the Majority Report and all the great things that were in there to help all these different groups. It is all in there with one exception, correctional facilities cost overrun. The juvenile facilities cost overrun is in there. The State House cost overrun isn't in there, but we didn't hear about that when we heard about the majority budget. Also I have in here, I am very hesitant to send copies around of, how much each particular school district will get in money between the two budgets, the \$28 million as opposed to the \$18.5 million that is in our current report. If anyone has anything specific that they would like to know, I can tell you. The City of Bangor is looking at an extra half a million dollars in GPA funding. Any town is in here. Please feel free to ask. I just got them. I asked for it from the department and I didn't have them. I just got them and I haven't had a chance to copy them and send them around. I have a feeling they wouldn't get looked at anyway, but I will gladly give you any specific towns or cities on how much more money you are looking at or how much money is being taken away from your town that is going to have to be raised in local property taxes. Mr. Speaker, to save time, I will move Indefinite Postponement myself and I will ask for a roll call.

The same Representative moved that **House Amendment "K" (H-1155) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wiscasset, Representative Rines.

Representative **RINES**: Mr. Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative **RINES**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. To anyone in the House that could answer, how much did it cost the taxpayers of the State of Maine to prepare a 176-page amendment?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative from Wiscasset, Representative Rines has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Townsend.

Representative **TOWNSEND**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I would like to answer that question. It cost approximately \$2,000 to prepare this amendment and the one we saw earlier today. I found the one on the pet food relatively amusing. I feel strongly that every member of the Legislature is entitled to their opinions and their input into the budget, but I really get offended by the extraordinary waste of paper and worse yet, of the time of the staff at these efforts. I left here early Saturday morning a week ago as tired as I have ever been in my life and the people in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review haven't stopped working yet. They haven't stopped because there are no little budget fairies who make this up overnight. They are human beings. I am offended by the fact that we drive them like slaves to put out frivolous amendments, which the members then indefinitely postpone themselves. It is offensive and it makes me very, very angry.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Standish, Representative Mack.

Representative **MACK**: Mr. Speaker, Right Honorable Men and Women of the House. I want to applaud my right honorable friend from Lewiston and other Representatives who take the time to put an amendment on the budget. The Appropriations Committee did spend a lot of hard work coming up with a budget agreement amongst themselves. As I went door to door throughout my district, people did not say when I knocked on their door that whatever agreements the Appropriations Committee comes up with, go right along with it. Don't challenge it. Don't do anything different. People in my district told me that they wanted to see legislators coming up with new ideas and fighting for what they believe in. I think it is a great service to the people of Maine that alternative amendments are put on the budget. The people of Maine get roll calls on how their legislators have voted on different alternatives. I want to applaud those Representatives and Senators from the other body who took the time and the hard work to come up with budget amendments. Some may think they are frivolous and some may not. I tell you that if you are one of the people out there, the Maine citizens, who is affected by something in one of these amendments, it is definitively not frivolous to you. You are glad that there is someone out there fighting for you who won't go along just to get along and go along with the tide. I want to thank the good Representative for his hard work. I am going to be voting against Indefinite Postponement of this amendment. Mr. Speaker, when the vote is taken, I request that it be taken by the yeas and nays.

Representative MENDROS of Lewiston **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "K" (H-1155) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140)**.

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 Lewiston, Representative Mendros.

Representative **MENDROS**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would like to thank the good Representative from Standish, Representative Mack. I would like to say that I really couldn't care less who I offend. If people choose to be offended because I want to speak for my constituents, so be it. If people choose to be offended because it is frivolous that these retired teachers in my district have been asking me for an increase in the share that we pay of their health insurance and we have all told them we will do it. They came up here and we voted unanimously to do it. It was tossed out. I don't care if you think that is frivolous of me. I don't think it is. They are the ones that elect me. They are the ones that bring me here. The only option available is to print these up. Put in your amendment and print it up. If I need to be personally attacked for it, so be it. I think it is wrong that we are not funding education to a level where we should. We are putting that pressure on our property taxpayers. If that is frivolous of me, fine, I am frivolous. I moved to Indefinitely Postpone this because I know what I am saying is falling upon deaf ears. They can say it to me and it is my job to say it to you and that is what I am doing. It is all I am asking. I know you are going to vote against me because you don't care about these issues or you don't care as strongly as I do. I have the responsibility that I take pride in to bring these forward. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "K" (H-1155) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 664

YEA - Ahearne, Andrews, Bagley, Baker, Belanger, Berry DP, Berry RL, Bolduc, Bouffard, Bowles, Brennan, Brooks, Bruno, Bryant, Bull, Bumps, Cameron, Carr, Chick, Chizmar, Clark, Clough, Collins, Colwell, Cote, Cowger, Cross, Daigle, Davidson, Davis, Desmond, Dudley, Duncan, Dunlap, Duplessie, Etnier, Fisher, Foster, Fuller, Gagne, Gagnon, Gillis, Glynn, Goodwin, Gooley, Green, Hatch, Heidrich, Honey, Jacobs, Jodrey, Kane, Kasprzak, Kneeland, Labrecque, LaVerdiere, Lemoine, Lemont, Lindahl, Lovett, Mailhot, Martin, Matthews, Mayo, McAlevey, McDonough, McGlocklin, McKee, McNeil, Mitchell, Murphy E, Murphy T, Muse, Nass, Norbert, Nutting, O'Brien JA, O'Brien LL, O'Neal, O'Neil, Peavey, Perry, Pieh, Povich, Powers, Quint, Richard, Richardson E, Richardson J, Rines, Rosen, Samson, Sanborn, Savage C, Savage W, Saxl JW, Saxl MV, Schneider, Sherman, Shiah, Shields, Shorey, Skoglund, Stanley, Stanwood, Stevens, Sullivan, Tessier, Thompson, Tobin D, Townsend, Treadwell, Tripp, True, Tuttle, Twomey, Usher, Volenik, Watson, Weston, Wheeler EM, Wheeler GJ, Williams, Winsor, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Buck, Gerry, MacDougall, Mack, Mendros, Perkins, Pinkham, Snowe-Mello, Tobin J, Tracy, Trahan, Waterhouse.

ABSENT - Bragdon, Campbell, Cianchette, Plogay, Frechette, Jabar, Jones, Joy, Madore, Marvin, McKenney, Plowman, Sirois, Stedman.

Yes, 125; No, 12; Absent, 14; Excused, 0.

125 having voted in the affirmative and 12 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "K" (H-1155) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140) was ADOPTED.**

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

Representative **MACK** of Standish **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended.**

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 Engrossed. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 665

YEA - Ahearne, Andrews, Bagley, Baker, Belanger, Berry DP, Berry RL, Bolduc, Bouffard, Bowles, Bragdon, Brennan, Brooks, Bruno, Bryant, Bull, Bumps, Cameron, Campbell, Carr, Chick, Chizmar, Clark, Clough, Colwell, Cote, Cowger, Cross, Daigle, Davidson, Desmond, Dudley, Dugay, Duncan, Dunlap, Duplessie, Etnier, Fisher, Foster, Fuller, Gagne, Gagnon, Glynn, Gooley, Green, Hatch, Heidrich, Honey, Jacobs, Jodrey, Kane, Kneeland, Labrecque, LaVerdiere, Lemoine, Lemont, Lovett, Mailhot, Martin, Matthews, Mayo, McAlevey, McDonough, McGlocklin, McKee, Mitchell, Murphy E, Murphy T, Muse, Nass, Norbert, Nutting, O'Brien JA, O'Brien LL, O'Neal, O'Neil, Peavey, Perry, Pieh, Povich, Powers, Quint, Richard, Richardson E, Richardson J, Rines, Rosen, Samson, Sanborn, Savage C, Savage W, Saxl JW, Saxl MV, Schneider, Sherman, Shiah, Shields, Stanley, Stevens, Sullivan, Tessier, Thompson, Tobin D, Townsend, Tracy, Treadwell, Tripp, True, Tuttle, Usher, Volenik, Watson, Weston, Wheeler EM, Wheeler GJ, Williams, Winsor, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Buck, Cianchette, Collins, Davis, Gerry, Gillis, Goodwin, Joy, Kasprzak, Lindahl, MacDougall, Mack, McNeil, Mendros, Perkins, Pinkham, Shorey, Skoglund, Snowe-Mello, Stanwood, Tobin J, Trahan, Twomey, Waterhouse.

ABSENT - Frechette, Jabar, Jones, Madore, Marvin, McKenney, Plowman, Sirois, Stedman.

Yes, 118; No, 24; Absent, 9; Excused, 0.

118 having voted in the affirmative and 24 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1140)** and sent for concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative **THOMPSON** of Naples, the House adjourned at 9:22 p.m., until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2000 in honor and lasting tribute to Philis Bartlett Beaupain, of Millinocket.