

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twenty-Second Legislature
State of Maine

Volume II

First Special Session

May 26, 2005 – June 17, 2005

Second Special Session

July 29, 2005

Second Regular Session

January 4, 2006 - April 6, 2006

Pages 737-1487

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services To Sell or Lease the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property Located on State Highway 191 in East Machias; U.S. Route 1 in Thomaston; U.S. Route 2 in Skowhegan; Hospital Street in Augusta; and the Presumpscot River in Falmouth

(H.P. 1304) (L.D. 1864)

Unanimous **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-772)** in the House on March 2, 2006.

Came from the Senate with the Unanimous **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and the Resolve and accompanying papers **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative BARSTOW of Gorham, the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

ENACTORS

Emergency Mandate

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, 2006 and June 30, 2007

(H.P. 1378) (L.D. 1968)

(H. "D" H-901 to C. "A" H-878)

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Bowles.

Representative **BOWLES**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Tuesday morning I was at the Blaine House for our weekly legislative breakfast with our Chief Executive and he congratulated me and other members of leadership on the accomplishment of having arrived at this unanimous budget, unanimous as far as the committee was concerned. I said to him, if there is something for which we are to be congratulated it is having the good sense and the discipline to resist meddling in the Appropriations process and to allow the hard working and knowledgeable members of the committee to do their work until such time as they felt it was necessary to seek our input. That is mostly what we did do and the good people on the committee, the good House chair from Portland, Representative Brannigan, the Republican lead, the good Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett and the Senate chair and the Senate lead set a real example in how to negotiate fairly, honestly and with respect for one another and they are to be congratulated. Mr. Speaker I thank you and the Senate President for helping the negotiations remain friendly and positive and to be conducted in good faith. I hope that the lesson that we can all take from this budget, having arrived at a two-thirds agreement, is that this is the way budgets should be done, that we should always strive to arrive at a two-thirds budget. Not everybody is going to be happy and some people are going to always feel that they gave more than they got and some people will walk away feeling that they perhaps got a little bit more, but that is alright and it is a lot better for this institution and it is better for the people of Maine, when we arrive at a consensus in which we arrive at a budget that people feel is fair and that truly represents the interests of their constituents.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Cummings.

Representative **CUMMINGS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I want to also extend my admiration to the members of Appropriations on both sides of the aisle. Not only did they have a strong budget agreement, but just at the time when they needed to come to leadership it was clear that they really had been able to work most of the tough issues out among themselves which is the way it should be and by the time that they got to leadership, thank God, they already had the right answer for us anyway.

I just want to say thank you to the other party and I want to say thank you particularly to Representative Bowles and Representative Tardy for working with us. I think it is an honest shake and fair way and I think this is something that both parties can be proud of and that the people of Maine can be proud of. We are putting a lot of money into schools, we made that commitment and we are following through. We are protecting people in this state – both parties are protecting – from an ill designed prescription drug program for the elderly. We are making sure that we are putting \$100 million away into our savings account and this is the first time in 6 years that we have been able to do that. We are making sure that people across the state are getting at least some of their transportation needs done and we are extending some of the back payments to hospitals and that is very important and we should be proud to vote for the budget for that and for the bipartisan cooperation.

I do want to be clear that there are members on my side, appropriately, who are concerned that the health savings accounts are not a good policy direction and are a masquerade for the deeper issue of those struggling to get health care. I want to be clear that the push off of bonding is a suboptimal way to go about doing business when we could of used that money to help pay back hospitals and extend to our colleges and universities payments that they desperately need. But, those are part of the negotiation process and we should not allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good and in politics good is sometimes hard to come by and that is what we have before us.

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House necessary, a total was taken. 136 voted in favor of the same and 5 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-520)** on Bill "An Act To Provide State Funding for the Fingerprinting of School Personnel"

(S.P. 662) (L.D. 1745)

Signed:

Senators:

MITCHELL of Kennebec

SCHNEIDER of Penobscot

TURNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DAVIS of Falmouth

FINCH of Fairfield

EDGEComb of Caribou

NORTON of Bangor