

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Seventh
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume II

May 21, 1975 to July 2, 1975

Index

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Which, except for the tabled matter, were Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, were by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage to \$2.30 an Hour. (H. P. 1521) (L. D. 1834)

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers.

Mr. SPEERS: Mr. President, I would ask for a roll call.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I think it is a very fine thing that the majority floor leader has decided to get a roll call on the minimum wage. We would like to obviously point out that the record shows very strongly of how hard the majority floor leader has felt toward the \$2.50 a hour minimum wage. After making a public news release of supporting \$2.30 an hour immediately after the bill passed this legislature, the majority party has turned down \$2.50 an hour minimum wage, \$2.45 an hour minimum wage, \$2.40 an hour minimum wage, \$2.35 an hour minimum wage, and I hope you can all vote and support this \$2.30 a hour minimum wage effective 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill.

Mr. MERRILL: Mr. President, before I vote on this question, I would like to pose a question to the majority leader. Is the effect of this bill that the \$2.30 goes into effect in September instead of on January 1st as it would under current Maine law?

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill, has posed a question through the Chair to the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers, if he may care to answer it.

In order for the Chair to order a roll call, it must be the expressed desire of one-fifth of those Senators present and voting. Will all those Senators in favor of a roll call please rise in their places until counted.

Obviously more than one-fifth having arisen, a roll call is ordered.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: A point of order, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator may state his point of order.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President, would it be in order for the Secretary to cast one ballot for the entire Senate?

The PRESIDENT: The Chair would reply in the negative. The pending question before the Senate is the enactment of L. D. 1834. A "Yes" vote will be in favor of enactment; a "No" vote will be opposed.

The Secretary will call the roll.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Senators Berry, E. F. Jr.; Berry, R. N.; Carbonneau, Cianchette, Clifford, Collins, Conley, Corson, Cummings, Curtis, Cyr, Danton, Graffam, Graham, Greeley, Hichens, Huber, Jackson, Katz, McNally, Merrill, Pray, Reeves, Roberts, Speers, Thomas, Trotzky and Wyman.

ABSENT: Gahagan, Marcotte and O'Leary.

A roll call was had. 29 Senators having voted in the affirmative, with three Senators being absent, the Bill was Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by

the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

Emergencies

An Act to Redefine the Term "Payable in Instalments" under the Maine Consumer Credit Code. (S. P. 61) (L. D. 178)

An Act Relating to Issuing of Fishing and Hunting Licenses. (S. P. 458) (L. D. 1512)

These being emergency measures and having received the affirmative votes of 29 members of the Senate, were Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, were by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

Bond Issue

An Act to Authorize the Self-liquidating Bond Issue in the Amount of \$900,000 for Renovations of Housing Facilities at the University of Maine. (H. P. 1061) (L. D. 1341)

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Reeves.

Mr. REEVES: Mr. President, I wish to raise a question about this bill. Does it in fact represent a move to expand dormitory space at the University of Maine? I am told that there are forecasts that the school age population has stopped growing and that the most realistic projection indicates that it will be no higher in 1990 than it is at present. I would appreciate hearing from any member of the Senate who can assure us that we are not expanding University dormitories by approving this bond issue.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Huber.

Mr. HUBER: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This bill deals with the repair and maintenance of Robie/Andrews Hall at Gorham. This is an existing dormitory facility which is in a very bad state of repair and may become unrepairable if we don't undergo this program. The cost of this maintenance is considerably less than new facilities. Already the occupancy of the dormitories had to be cut in half, primarily because of fire safety regulations. This would update this facility which, although old, still lends itself very well to dormitory purposes.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question?

Thereupon, this being a Bond issue and having received the affirmative votes of 28 members of the Senate, was Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

The President laid before the Senate the following matter tabled earlier in today's session by Mr. Pray of Penobscot:

Bill, "An Act Concerning the Power of the Lewiston Parking District to Mortgage Certain Properties and Permitting the Taxation of Real Property of the District Which is Not Used for Parking." (S. P. 498) (L. D. 1845)

Pending — Consideration.

(In the Senate — Passed to be Engrossed.)

(In the House — Passed to be Engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" (H-249), in non-concurrence.)

On motion by Mr. Clifford of Androscoggin, the Senate voted to Recede from its action whereb the Bill was Passed to be Engrossed.

House Amendment "A" was Read and, on further motion by Mr. Clifford of Androscoggin, House Amendment "A" was Indefinitely Postponed.

The same Senator then presented Senate Amendment "A" and moved its Adoption.

Senate Amendment "A", Filing No. S-188, was Read and Adopted.

Thereupon, on further motion by the same Senator, tabled and Specially Assigned for May 28, 1975, pending Passage to be Engrossed.

The President laid before the Senate the following matter tabled earlier in today's session by Mr. Speers of Kennebec:

Bill, "An Act to Enact a Local Rental Tax Law." (H. P. 1619) (L. D. 1898)

Pending — Reference.

(In the House — Referred to the Committee on Taxation.)

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ: Mr. President, I would like to move that this bill be indefinitely postponed. This is the last L. D. in our books, and if you will notice, that at the 11th hour of the session it attempts to impose on a permissive basis a municipal tax on a whole series of people, including people living in rooming houses which generally are very, very low income people, among others. It may be that this is a good bill but I think its admission into the session at such a late hour was questionable judgment, and I request a division.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President, once again, this was a bill that came before us late, as the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz, has stated. However, a cause apparently was made before the Reference of Bills Committee and they thought it was worthy of consideration to be let in to the legislature at this late date. I would hope the Senate would vote to allow it to be accepted.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers.

Mr. SPEERS: Mr. President, I would like the record to show that I was either not present at the meeting of the Reference of Bills Committee that did allow this to come in, or simply do not remember it. I wouldn't want the questionable judgment to be attributed where perhaps it may not be deserved. I will make no urging one way or the other regarding this particular bill because it is my feeling that it is extremely late in the session.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. President, I would like to pose a question to anybody who might care to answer, perhaps somebody on the Taxation Committee, as to whether or not if we permit this bill to come in here towards the end of May, will there be a public hearing? It seems to me it is a very important bill and it ought to get very close scrutiny by both those of us who are concerned about what sources the state has for income and whether or not, if this is a suitable source of income, the state ought to use it, and then also the municipalities.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis, has posed as question through the Chair to any Senator who may care to answer.

The pending question before the Senator is the motion by the Senator from