

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD
OF THE
One Hundred And Seventeenth Legislature
OF THE
State Of Maine

VOLUME II

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives
May 24, 1995 to June 30, 1995

Bill "An Act Regarding the Granting of Hotel Liquor Licenses to Establishments Located on Offshore Islands" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 830) (L.D. 1161) (C. "A" H-330)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading, read the second time, the Senate Papers were Passed to be Engrossed as Amended in concurrence and the House Papers were Passed to be Engrossed as Amended and sent up for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Medical Care by Encouraging Involvement of Retired Physicians, Podiatrists and Dentists" (H.P. 839) (L.D. 1170) (C. "A" H-319)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading, read the second time.

On motion of Representative TREAT of Gardiner was set aside.

On further motion of the same Representative, tabled pending passage to be engrossed as amended and later today assigned.

**ENACTORS
Emergency Measure**

An Act to Reduce Paperwork and Promote On-site Elementary Neutralization of Low-hazard Wastes (H.P. 475) (L.D. 656) (C. "A" H-277)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative JACQUES of Waterville, tabled pending passage to be enacted and later today assigned.

An Act Relating to Equipment Start-up, Shutdown and Unavoidable Malfunction (H.P. 354) (L.D. 474) (C. "A" H-278)

An Act to Permit the Equitable Taxation of Leased Equipment (H.P. 486) (L.D. 667) (C. "A" H-283)

An Act to Require Additional Disclosure of Terms in Credit Life and Credit Health Insurance Policies (S.P. 314) (L.D. 895) (C. "A" S-160)

An Act to Encourage Compliance with Environmental Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (H.P. 677) (L.D. 928) (C. "A" H-285)

An Act Authorizing the State Board of Education to Adopt Rules Regarding Certain Early Childhood Personnel (H.P. 747) (L.D. 1021) (C. "A" H-284)

An Act to Amend the Structure of the Electricians' Examining Board (H.P. 787) (L.D. 1104) (C. "A" H-280)

An Act to Amend the Maine Criminal Code Sentence Alternative for Forfeiture of Firearms (H.P. 842) (L.D. 1173) (C. "A" H-286)

An Act to Increase Venture Capital Access to State Businesses (H.P. 920) (L.D. 1296) (C. "A" H-272)

An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding Access to Property via Abandoned Roads (H.P. 966) (L.D. 1375) (C. "A" H-276)

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to Sell Land and Improvements on Hospital Street in Augusta, Maine Known as the Trial House (H.P. 809) (L.D. 1126) (C. "A" H-275)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted or finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage in Maine (H.P. 108) (L.D. 143) (C. "B" H-67)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative HATCH of Skowhegan, was set aside.

On further motion of the same Representative, under suspension of the rules, the House reconsidered its action whereby L.D. 143 was passed to be engrossed.

On further motion of the same Representative, under suspension of the rules, the House reconsidered its action whereby Committee Amendment "B" (H-67) was adopted.

The same Representative presented House Amendment "B" (H-342) to Committee Amendment "B" (H-67) which was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Hatch.

Representative HATCH: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: It was my intention only to table this this morning and I ended up putting the amendment on it. What this amendment would do is raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$4.60 in 1996 and \$4.60 to \$4.95 in 1997.

This particular bill is very near and dear to my heart. I haven't spoken on it previously and I would like to do so now. It seems that with all the legislation we have been doing this year, with an awful lot of giveaways, tax deductions and so forth, have been directed towards business. I feel it is very important that we continue to address this issue on the minimum wage in the State of Maine. There was a lot of discussion during the last debate about who was involved in the minimum wage discussion. It seems a lot of people are under the assumption that it is only teen-agers who work under this minimum wage and that is not true. I think you all know that. Eighty percent of the work force is over 18 who works at minimum wage.

I heard something about an earned income credit from a previous debate from one of the representatives saying, if they don't earn enough they can get an earned income credit. To tell you the truth, you and I pay those taxes so that we can afford to underwrite those people who don't earn enough and I have a problem with that. It really would be well to recognize this as just what it is. It is part of a whole package, a welfare reform, if you like. We all want people to be out working, but when they can't earn enough and they can draw more on unemployment then they can earn in the everyday market, it makes it very, very hard to sustain family life. I wish and hope that when the vote is taken to include this amendment on the bill that you will vote in favor of it.

I would like to see it enacted this way. I realize it would have to go to the other body. A lot can be said in regards to this and I am sure we will hear from some of the people. Probably some of them weren't even prepared to speak on this issue. Thank you.

On motion of Representative JACQUES of Waterville, tabled pending adoption of House Amendment "B" (H-342) to Committee Amendment "B" (H-67) and later today assigned.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent: