

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1939

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY  
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inventory of that corporation. It doesn't seem to me it is any time to forego some \$33,000 and I am therefore opposed to substituting the bill for the report. I hope the report "ought not to pass" will be accepted.

The PRESIDENT: The question is on the motion of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Osgood, that the bill be substituted for the report, and the Chair understands the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Spear, asks for a division.

A division of the Senate was had.

Nine having voted in the affirmative and fourteen opposed, the motion to substitute the bill for the report did not prevail.

Thereupon, on motion by Miss Laughlin, the report of the committee, "Ought Not to Pass" was accepted in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Boucher of Androscoggin, the Senate voted to take from the table, House Report from the Committee on Legal Affairs, Majority Report "Ought to Pass", Minority Report, "Ought Not to Pass" on Bill, An Act Relating to Elections in the City of Biddeford, (H. P. 1162) (L. D. 481) tabled by that Senator on April 13th pending first reading; and on further motion by the same Senator, the bill was given its first reading.

Thereupon, Mr. Boucher presented Senate Amendment "A" and moved its adoption:—

"Senate Amendment A to H. P. 1162, L. D. 481, Bill, An Act Relating to Elections in the City of Biddeford.

Amend said bill by adding at the end thereof the following section:

Sec. 3. Referendum. This act shall be submitted for the approval or rejection to the qualified voters of the city of Biddeford at a special election held for the purpose, or at any regular election, held before January 1, 1941, and warrants shall be issued for such election in the manner now provided by law for holding municipal elections, notifying and warning the qualified voters of said city to meet in the several ward rooms of said city, there to cast their ballots concerning the acceptance of this act. The vote shall be taken by ballot at said election in answer to the question: "Shall an act passed by the legislature in the year 1939, entitled 'An Act relating to Elections in the City of Biddeford' be accepted?" which question

shall be printed on the official ballots and at said election the voters of said city in favor of accepting the act shall vote "Yes" and those opposed shall vote "No." Otherwise said ballots shall be in the form provided by law when a constitutional amendment is submitted to the vote of the people. The provisions of the law relating to the preparation of voting lists for municipal elections shall apply to such election and said election shall in all other respects be conducted according to law, and the results thereof shall be determined in the manner now provided by law for the determination of the election for mayor. If a majority of the valid votes cast as aforesaid shall be in favor of accepting the same, then this act shall forthwith take effect as herein provided. So much of this act as authorizes the submission of this act to the voters of Biddeford shall take effect as provided in the constitution, but it shall not take further effect unless adopted by said voters as hereinbefore provided."

Mr. WENTWORTH of York: Mr. President, I arise in opposition to this amendment and hope it will not be adopted.

Mr. BOUCHER: Mr. President, I am wondering if this is my lucky day or not. So far the score stands one to one. I am going to make the same appeal, Mr. President, that I have made before. All these things I have had tabled were tabled on the same basis, political basis. One half of the minority party is going to express an opinion here tonight. I maintain that this is a matter for the citizens of Biddeford to decide and not this legislature. I maintain that those who reside in Biddeford should know how they want to be governed. I maintain that they should have the full say of it and we should not cram down their throat something they do not desire. I say that the only fair thing is to give them a chance to express their opinion, and that is the meaning of this amendment. It is a referendum to the city of Biddeford to find out whether or not they want this bill to go into effect. I notice the report on this was divided. I also notice that this bill was presented by request, by a member of the majority party from another city. There must be a reason somewhere for trying to push this thing through without a referendum.

So I again, Mr. President, appeal

to the fairmindedness of this Senate to adopt this amendment, giving a referendum to the citizens of Biddeford. I wonder how other Senators would feel if they were members of a minority party and some of us tried to inject some law whereby their towns would be deprived of their rights. I do not believe they would approve of any such thing. In all fairness, I ask them to take the same attitude on this.

Mr. HARKINS of Androscoggin: Mr. President, I suppose I am the other half of the Minority party the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Boucher, referred to. I simply arise to say that I hope the amendment will be adopted.

Mr. SPEAR: Mr. President, I ask for a division.

Mr. BOOTHBY of York: Mr.

President, as a Senator from York County, in which Biddeford is located, I am against this amendment.

The PRESIDENT: The question is on the adoption of Senate Amendment "A" and the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Spear, has asked for a division.

A division of the Senate was had.

Two having voted in the affirmative and eighteen opposed, the motion to adopt Senate Amendment "A" did not prevail.

Thereupon, under suspension of the rules, the bill was given its two several readings and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

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On motion by Mr. Spear of Cumberland

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.