

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine" S.P. 12 L.D. 10
(S "A" S-418 to C
"A" S-411)

Tabled - May 31, 1997, by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox.

Pending - motion by same Senator to **RECONSIDER PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**

(In Senate, May 30, 1997, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-411) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-418)** thereto.)

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-411) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-418)** thereto.

On motion by Senator **O'GARA** of Cumberland, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby Committee Amendment "A" (S-411) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-418) thereto, was **ADOPTED**.

On motion by Senator **LONGLEY** of Waldo, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby Senate Amendment "A" (S-418) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-411) was **ADOPTED**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator O'Gara.

Senator **O'GARA:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. The first thing I would have to do is admit the Senate members of the Committee on Transportation were caught off-guard last night and if I appeared flustered and slightly irritated, I was. But that was then and now is now and I welcome this opportunity to talk with you in a relatively calm and restrained manner. Last night I came back into this Chamber, having spent about 2 1/2 hours in our caucus discussing Bath Iron Works, and there were a lot of other items that we had on our minds, Workers Comp, Learning Results, the budget and a variety of other things, what we're going to do with Baxter School, and very, very honestly and candidly, I just wasn't listening when I first sat in my chair. And slowly but surely I began to tune in and the first words I heard were something to the effect of "Ride Safe" as opposed to "Ride Safely." And so now I am paying attention.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, we aren't talking about things like such abuses as we hear every day as the word 'irregardless' or the expression 'I could care less' or the ever-popular 'to who it may concern.' And we aren't talking about the many misspellings for convenience or cuteness such as 'Slo School Xing' with Slow spelt 'Slo' or crossing with an 'X'. And we aren't talking about such things as Christmas being presented as 'Xmas.' And there are many, many others. What we are talking

about are two words which, when used together, might upset the or is it 'those' purists amongst us, or is it among us? What's, in truth, in fact very important to over 100,000 licensed motorcyclists in our state. Let me read just three short sentences from the testimony of the Vice President of Legislative Affairs for United Bikers of Maine when she presented her testimony in March before our Committee. And by the way, I would remind you that this was a unanimous Committee report. I would also remind you, by the way, speaking of some of the things I was just explaining to you, there are four people who either are teachers or were teachers on the Transportation Committee and not only the teachers but everybody else jumped all over this expression when we first heard it, 'Ride Safe.' No way. We can't tolerate that. It's 'Ride Safely' don't you know that? The testimony went on and what she said is, "The motto that we feel would emphasize a positive safety message is 'Ride Safe.'" And I especially hope, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, that you'll listen to these words. "It has been a world-wide message from one rider to another for as long as we can remember. Every motorcyclist on the road knows your life depends on it."

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, again, as I said earlier, when you measure this item up against a lot of other issues it may not seem very important. But for those motorcyclists, and by the way, I'd like to assure certain members of the Senate that had the timing been just a little bit different and the motorcyclists were around the state instead of all located in Portland, and we could have reached a few of those motorcyclists last night, there might have been a few phone calls that you might have enjoyed listening to. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, it is a serious matter to them. They were very, very serious about it. It means a lot to them. The plate is very small, the additional letters of "ly" do not fit in there. "Ride Safe" is not going to destroy the grammatical experience of boys and girls, or men and women around the state, and I urge you to defeat the motion that I guess is now before us. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator MacKinnon.

Senator **MACKINNON:** Thank you Mr. President, men and women of the Senate. First of all, let me offer my sincere apology to the Chairperson, Senator O'Gara of Cumberland, and the Transportation Committee, for not explaining that earlier to you. I did catch that late and I did put an amendment in and I do apologize for that and that was my error and I am sorry for that. I still would thank you, as a person here, for allowing me to at least present that case on the floor. I will be voting obviously to make sure that it is correct because I do feel strongly enough that if we are a role model, we should continue to go that way and at least it allows me to look in the mirror and say that I, at least, did it that way and I thank you very much.

The Chair ordered a Division. 5 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 21 Senators having voted in the negative, **ADOPTION** of Senate Amendment "A" (S-418) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-411), **FAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-411) **ADOPTED**.

Which was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-411)**.

Sent down for concurrence.