

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twentieth Legislature
State of Maine

Volume 3

Second Regular Session (Continued)
April 2, 2002 to April 24, 2002

Third Confirmation Session
October 3, 2002

First Special Session
November 13, 2002

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26 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

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

An Act to Update the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management Laws

H.P. 1288 L.D. 1752
(C "A" H-837; H "C" H-946; S "A" S-526)

Tabled - April 3, 2002, by Senator **DOUGLASS** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence

(In Senate, April 1, 2002, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-837); HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" (H-946) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-526)**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.)

(In House, April 3, 2002, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.)

On motion by Senator **DOUGLASS** of Androscoggin, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-837); HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" (H-946) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-526)**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby it **ADOPTED** Senate Amendment "A" (S-526).

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "A" (S-526) **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "B" (S-558) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Douglass.

Senator **DOUGLASS:** Mr. President, men and women of the Senate, this bill is a correction. You heard me explain that the War Orphans Benefit for students who go to our universities might be more than the cost of their education. The language that was used in the first bill used the word tuition. Now, by using the word education, the cost of their education, the monies will be used to reimburse the cost of their education. That covers other items, such as fees, that we had intended to cover but had inadvertently put the word tuition in the bill.

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "B" (S-558) **ADOPTED**.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-837); HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" (H-946) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-558), in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Equality in Mental Health Coverage"

H.P. 1205 L.D. 1627

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1051)** (7 members)

Minority - **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-1052)** (6 members)

Tabled - April 3, 2002, by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of York

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1051)** Report, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**

(In House, April 3, 2002, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-1052)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-1052) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1077)** thereto.)

(In Senate, April 3, 2002, Reports **READ**.)

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

Senator **LAFOUNTAIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, men and women of the Senate. I rise this evening and encourage you to support the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. This bill has been one of the most difficult issues for me in my tenure here in Augusta. I've actually seen it a couple of times. The public hearings always involve people I know from home coming to testify in support of the bill or people who work in this very building coming to tell us why we should be supporting mental health parity. Their stories are truly compelling, relative to their mental health illnesses in their family, including bi-polar, schizophrenia, ADD, ADHD, PTSD, and so forth. In better economic times, I would be supporting the bill or one of the other amendments. But because these are not better economic times, I cannot support anything other than the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. I had the fortune to attend a conference back in March in Charleston, South Carolina. It was a conference put on by the National Conference of Insurance