

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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House Legislative Record
of the
One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature
of the
State of Maine

Volume I

First Regular Session

December 4, 1996 - March 27, 1997

First Special Session

March 27, 1997 - May 15, 1997

There being no objections, the above items were ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of Friday, March 21, 1997 under the listing of Second Day.

CONSENT CALENDAR Second Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the Second Day:

(H.P. 70) (L.D. 95) Bill "An Act Concerning Prisoner Participation in Public Works Projects" (C. "A" H-47)

(H.P. 156) (L.D. 198) Bill "An Act to Amend the Permitting Laws for Septic Waste Disposal Sites" (C. "A" H-67)

(H.P. 209) (L.D. 273) Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Negotiate with the Passamaquoddy Tribe Regarding Fishing Rights (C. "A" H-33)

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the House Papers were Passed to be Engrossed as Amended and sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were ordered sent forthwith.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.
The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

BILLS IN THE SECOND READING As Amended

Bill "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 832) (L.D. 1137) (Governor's Bill) (H. "FF" H-73, H. "GG" H-74 and H. "HH" H-75 to C. "A" H-15)

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

On motion of Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach, the House reconsidered its action whereby Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) was adopted.

Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach presented House Amendment "JJ" (H-82) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) which was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Cameron.

Representative CAMERON: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Most all of you were here this morning when we talked about the amendment that Representative Kerr, Representative Lemont, myself and a number of other people in this body have been working on. We talked about its merits and why we thought it was a good thing. We moved it into the budget. There were, as I told you at that time, some continuing talks going on on a couple of small items that we wanted to work out. We have worked them out. We think it is a great amendment. We think we can go home and talk to people about income tax relief, which is what I talked to you about this morning. It does provide a pot of money from which over time the income tax individual exemptions will eventually work towards parity with the feds. Where we are right now is about \$450 difference.

As I told you this morning, I know I am not the only one in here that has heard our constituents say why did I get money back from the feds and had to pay it all to you guys. Something is wrong. This is one of the pieces that causes that to happen. Our people will not buy any new Cadillacs with this money, let me assure you. It is not a lot of money. Maybe they could buy a matchbox Cadillac, I probably better not say that. Anyway, it is not a lot of money when it goes back to our people, but it is a good faith effort to say to you that you folks work hard for your money and we want you to keep as much of it as you possibly can. We know that we are increasing spending and there are many of us who would like to see that not happening as much as it is, but it is happening. That is a reality of the world.

This amendment, we feel, is a good faith effort to our constituents to say we are going to try to, over time, work towards meeting the standard that we know, when we go do our taxes the standards are at the federal level. I would ask your support on the amendment. We had your support this morning and we very much appreciate your continued support on this amendment and before we take the vote, I want to thank all of you that had anything to do with this effort. This has been sometimes a pleasant and sometimes a very unpleasant process, but I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of those people that worked at it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kittery, Representative Lemont.

Representative LEMONT: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I too would like to rise in support of this amendment and publicly thank the compromise abilities of the House Speaker and my leadership, Representative Jim Donnelly. I would also like to thank the good Representative from Old Orchard Beach for bringing this amendment forward. As the good Representative from Rumford said, there were some minor problems with it. We have addressed those and we made an amendment even better. It does have moderate tax relief. It will benefit everyone in the State of Maine that files a Maine income tax return. It goes right to the personal exemption line. The initial funding of this personal exemption will be an increase of \$150 for a biennium, which equates to small savings for the taxpayers of the State of Maine. As the good Representative said, it will continue to ratch it up and conform with the Federal IRS Code in this area. I thank you very much and I am looking forward to supporting this amendment.

House Amendment "JJ" (H-82) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) was adopted.

On motion of Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach, the House reconsidered its action whereby House Amendment "GG" (H-74) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) was adopted.

On further motion of the same Representative, House Amendment "GG" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) was indefinitely postponed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) as amended by House Amendments "FF" (H-73), "HH" (H-75) and "JJ" (H-82) thereto was adopted.

The Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) as amended by House Amendments "FF" (H-73), "HH" (H-75) and "JJ" (H-82) thereto and sent up for concurrence.

BILLS IN THE SECOND READING As Amended

Bill "An Act to Raise the Fee for Congressional and Legislative Registration Plates" (H.P. 19) (L.D. 44) (C. "A" H-15)