

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LEGISLATIVE RECORD**  
OF THE  
**One Hundred And Fifteenth Legislature**  
OF THE  
**State Of Maine**

**VOLUME I**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

House of Representatives  
December 5, 1990 to May 16, 1991

reading Thursday, March 21, 1991.

(H.P. 44) (L.D. 63) Bill "An Act Concerning Capital Improvements and Impact Fees" (C. "A" H-22)

(H.P. 78) (L.D. 106) Bill "An Act Regarding Possession of Certain Weapons, Implements or Aids" (C. "A" H-23)

(H.P. 85) (L.D. 119) Bill "An Act to Amend the Long Pond Water District Charter" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-24)

(H.P. 105) (L.D. 148) Bill "An Act to Expand the Law Concerning Failure to Wear a Flotation Device" (C. "A" H-25)

(H.P. 33) (L.D. 43) Bill "An Act to Establish a Permanent Fishing License System for Older Citizens" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-26)

(H.P. 151) (L.D. 236) Bill "An Act to Amend the Definition of a Street Rod" (C. "A" H-27)

(H.P. 20) (L.D. 23) Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunset on Immediate Wage Withholding for Child Support Awards" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-30)

(H.P. 147) (L.D. 219) Bill "An Act to Abolish the Homestead Tax Exemption" (C. "A" H-31)

(H.P. 328) (L.D. 458) Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to the Maine Rural Water Association for Services to Water and Wastewater Systems" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 427) (L.D. 610) Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Commercial Lines Cancellation Laws"

(H.P. 173) (L.D. 258) Bill "An Act to Provide for a Student Member of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Technical College System" (C. "A" H-35)

(H.P. 186) (L.D. 279) Bill "An Act to Allow Minors to Make Anatomical Gifts" (C. "A" H-36)

(S.P. 24) (L.D. 34) Bill "An Act to Amend the Retirement Laws"

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

(At Ease)

The House was called to order by the Speaker pro tem.

Representative Erwin of Rumford was granted unanimous consent to address the House:

Representative ERWIN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: When we voted on the budget last Wednesday, how many people knew exactly what they were voting for. Representative Paul-Jacques of Waterville was wise beyond his years when he refused to vote for something he didn't fully understand. It is our responsibility to know what we are voting for. How many in this chamber knew exactly what they were voting for? Why, after the agreement had been reached, that each side have their staff go over what was being printed so very carefully?

The members of the Appropriations Committee and the staff are dedicated, capable people who have given much of themselves these last several months. They have made many sacrifices of their time and self for the betterment of the people of the State of Maine. One of the best legislators that will ever serve the State of Maine made the supreme sacrifice, Representative Donald Carter. I appreciate the work of the committee and staff and would never deliberately say or do anything to indicate otherwise. However, if I had known that the Human Services Regional Office in Mexico was going to be closed, I would not have voted for the budget. When I picked up the Sun Journal to read early Friday morning, headlines of an article on the front page were, "Mexico DHS Office to Close." I am sure you can understand that my telephone was very busy that day.

I was told that the reason for the closing was the low caseload so I called the Mexico Office and requested information as to the size of the caseload in comparison to the Farmington Office which was not chosen to be closed. Three offices of Human Services are being closed, two are in Oxford County, Mexico and South Paris and one in Bangor. The Bangor Office being closed is a small branch of the main Bangor Office. People will be inconvenienced but they will still have the main office. The South Paris Office is only open one or two days a week and may be considered a branch office. Are the people being served going to have the means to travel? If so, are they physically able to travel and spend the better part of a day away from home? The Mexico Office serves a rural area and may be smaller than those in a city but when you compare it to offices in other rural areas as to their caseload capabilities and so forth, you will find that Mexico will come out ahead. For instance, the Public Health Nursing Unit in Mexico conducts one or two well-child clinics in office each month. These clinics are offered to pre-school children of middle income families. Those families are not covered by Medicaid. These clinics take in children from Wilton, Canton, Dixfield, Peru, North Turner, Dryden, Farmington, Frye, Roxsbury, Byron and other areas as well as Mexico and Rumford. This service is not offered in other Human Services Office in this region. How was the Mexico Office chosen? The people are capable, dedicated and carry out their responsibilities just as efficiently as the Office in Farmington so it can't be because of the workers. The caseload in Mexico is larger than in Farmington so it can't be that. In the past five months, the caseload in Mexico was 2,910 and in Farmington, 2,646.

The unemployment in the Mexico/Rumford area and in the Norway/South Paris area is very high. In fact, our area had the second highest unemployment in the state. In the 1950's, Rumford had over 10,000

people and Mexico had about 5,500; today Rumford has about 7,000 and Mexico, 3,500. Why the decline in population? Jobs. We are working very hard trying to attract more businesses to the area so our people may find work. We certainly need to keep what we have. Thank you for allowing me to make this statement on the Record.

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The following item appearing on Supplement No. 1 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**SENATE PAPER**

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 449)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the House and Senate adjourn, they do so until Thursday, March 21, 1991, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Came from the Senate, read and passed.

Was read and passed in concurrence.

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On motion of Representative Wentworth of Arundel,  
Adjourned at 4:47 p.m. until Thursday, March 21,  
1991, at eleven o'clock in the morning pursuant to  
Joint Order (S.P. 449)

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