

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Volume II

First Special Session

May 16, 1997 - June 20, 1997

Second Regular Session

January 7, 1998 - March 18, 1998

Townsend, Tripp, Usher, Vigue, Volenik, Watson, Wheeler EM, Wheeler GJ, Winn, Wright, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Buck, Bunker, Cameron, Dexter, Dutremble, Etnier, Fisk, Fuller, Honey, Joy, Kasprzak, LaVerdiere, McAlevey, McElroy, Muse, O'Neil, Peavey, Perry, Stedman, True, Underwood, Winsor.

Yes, 35; No, 94; Absent, 22; Excused, 0.

35 having voted in the affirmative and 94 voted in the negative, with 22 being absent, the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and all accompanying papers **FAILED**.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-942)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Thursday, March 19, 1998.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Bonding Limits of the Maine Turnpike Authority"

(H.P. 535) (L.D. 726)

(C. "A" H-922)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative DONNELLY of Presque Isle pending **ADOPTION** of **Committee Amendment "A" (H-922)**.

Representative JOYCE of Biddeford **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-954)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-922)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Joyce.

Representative JOYCE: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. The Committee Amendment that you have before you increases the bonding cap for the Maine Turnpike Authority to accomplish two things. One, the widening of the turnpike and also to complete some modernization projects, which include paving, ditching and moving some bridge abutments back to accommodate the widening. The House Amendment that I am offering, what it does is after the turnpike borrows up to the higher cap and pays for the widening and the modernization projects, the bonding cap would go back down to its original level that it is at right now. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Representative WHEELER of Eliot moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-954)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-922)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Wheeler.

Representative WHEELER: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. The committee talked about this and, again, we do not want to fool around with the widening of the turnpike. The people voted they wanted the turnpike widening. We don't have crystal balls. We don't know when it will be done. We need to keep this intact the way it is. The rest of the committee heard this argument and you can see how they voted. Please vote with me to Indefinitely Postpone this amendment. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Joyce.

Representative JOYCE: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This floor amendment doesn't affect the widening whatsoever. All it does is it says that after the widening and the modernization projects are completed, then the bonding cap will go back down to the original level of \$116 million. Essentially we are letting the turnpike borrow one time money for a one time project. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Calais, Representative Driscoll.

Representative DRISCOLL: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. The Transportation Committee worked hard on this and we had many discussions over many days and we came up with a decision of the Majority Ought to Pass and I hope you will go with the Transportation Committee and Indefinitely Postpone this amendment.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-954)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-922)**.

A vote of the House was taken. 79 voted in favor of the same and 33 against, **House Amendment "A" (H-954)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-922)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (H-922)** was **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Thursday, March 19, 1998.

On motion of Representative MORGAN of South Portland, the House adjourned at 6:30 p.m., until 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 19, 1998.