

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twentieth Legislature
State of Maine

Volume II

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Second Regular Session

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The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (10) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-344) - Minority (3) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-345) - Committee on TRANSPORTATION on Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Highway Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 388) (L.D. 1285)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative FISHER of Brewer pending his motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report**.

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

Representative **WHEELER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I urge you to vote against the pending motion so we may move onto an amendment that will be presented if we do get that far. The difference between the two is just a matter of \$2 on a title fee. I am trying to stay within the lines.

What is in the Majority Report is basically, well to cut a lot of corners and to get to the basics, is an \$8 increase in the title fees. This increase was the most debated part of the budget really for the longest period of time because of the different revenues that this brought in. At \$8 it brought in enough to fund everything that was needed within the majority budget, including all of the sand and salt storage sheds, which was a commitment made by a previous Legislature, which we were held responsible for. What the amendment would do is fund everything that in the Majority Report, but it is done by unallocated revenues and projections that are going to be coming in by the end of the month of about \$6.6 million, which is not uncommon in the budget process. The Minority Report, basically we feel that we should be using these revenues. These are above and beyond what is collected, a surplus and will come in use to saving the taxpayers an extra \$2 in title fees.

You had passed out to you a blue sheet that indicated the different fee increases that we have had over the past few years. In July 1, 1997, the title fee increased from \$10 to \$15 and that is a 50 percent increase. In June 2001, the budget would increase from \$15 to \$23 and that would be another 53 percent increase if we pass the majority Report. Within the past four years the title fee would be from \$10 to \$23, which is a total of 130 percent increase in the title fee. This will effect business that has a title fleets of vehicles, for example, if you buy 10 new vehicles for your company cars, you would be increasing your costs by \$80. I remind you we are talking a difference of a couple of dollars, but the Minority Report was trying to save as much money as we could and using the revenues that will be available to us by the end of the month. Some may argue that these are revenues that may not come in. All indications from department heads when we asked the question of how revenues are coming in so far in the month of June, they were coming in at the same rate if not better of the projected \$6.6 million in surplus that we will have in the Highway Fund.

This wasn't an easy task for the whole committee, as was last year. None of us want to see any kind of increases at all. The demands are getting higher and the amount of deficit in the debt from year to year is getting bigger and bigger. We feel this would be the best way and have the least impact to our constituents and we would get as much as the majority budget would for the same amount of money, but without using the \$2

extra increase in the title fees. I urge you to vote against the pending motion so we can move along and accept the Majority Report and still fund the same programs in the Highway Fund as the Majority Report does. Mr. Speaker, when the vote is taken, I request a roll call.

Representative **WHEELER** of Eliot **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative Fisher.

Representative **FISHER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. To first of all address the comments made by my friend from Eliot on the sand and salt storage facilities. Yes, they were demanded by an earlier Legislature. Some have been built and some absolutely need to be built. I will get back to that subject in a few moments.

On the use of unallocated funds, if the money isn't in the bank, you can't use them. It is pretty simple. On the fee increases, yes, there were fee increases. I remind you of a couple of years ago when we tried to get a nickel on the gas tax and we could only get 3 cents. That extra 2 cents would make this fee increase not necessary. We couldn't do it then. If we are going to do the projects necessary that I will outline in a moment, we need that extra money. As far as one of the fees mentioned on the blue sheet, the increase from \$6.50 to \$12.50, I will suggest to you that it isn't an increase to \$12.50. It is an increase from \$6.50 to \$7.50, that above \$7.50 is up to the option of the man who is going to do your inspections.

Let me talk to you just for a moment about some of the things in this program. We have three major categories, public safety, highways and environment and a little money put into salary increases. Public safety, this is one of the items on the budget that none of us have any problem with, minimum shifting, at any given time, right now, there is probably no more than 30 to 32 state police officers on the road in rural Maine. Think about that. Do we owe our people a little better protection than that? Minimum shifting will allow increasing money for more officers on the road at any given time. Are these officers going to be equipped with the type of communications devices necessary for them to do their job properly. This budget includes some money for that. Those two lines alone, \$3 million in additional money for highway and bridge improvements, I want you to keep in mind that the money that we allocate on this budget for highway and bridge improvements gathers us some \$40 million in extra federal dollars. The return is pretty great for this. Keep in mind that every one of us has constituents that are demanding better roads. Are we serving our people if we cut any of this money out of there? By saving them a couple of dollars a year on title fees, it costs them many dollars a year on front end alignments, the tire problems, broken rims and any other types of problems that come with hitting pot holes or going off the shoulders of the road. I believe we owe it to our constituents and to the people who visit the State of Maine to provide them with a relatively safe road. We will talk a little bit more about this on another budget item later on.

The environmental part, we have a substantial number of sand and storage sheds that have already been built that have not been paid for. Let me give you just a brief reading of them. Some of them have been built and some of them are unbuilt, Alexander, Brownfield, Carthage, Cherryfield, China, Corinna, Corinth, Cornish, Fayette, Hope, Jonesboro, Leeds, Lowell, Otisfield, Princeton, Upton, Warren, Westport, Winter Harbor and Whitefield. These communities, in many cases, have already committed dollars, others have been raising dollars. If

we don't take care of their problems, the liability difficulties from infiltrated wells, some of which has already happened, may far outsize the \$1.1 million that we have in the budget for this. Couple that with \$1.1 million in the budget for DOT sand, salt and storage. Facilities that need to be built in the minds, at least, of the Transportation Committee, facilities in Alfred, Auroria, Brooks, Carmel, Cherryfield, Truman, Sherman, Sidney and Woodland. A couple of these storage facilities are along salmon rivers. If you have been paying attention to news the last couple of days, that has been on. It is a pretty hot subject. A year ago we debated this subject at great length what is going to happen to the salmon on the Maine rivers. Are we going to continue to see the rivers close? If we don't protect these rivers, I am afraid we may never have a salmon fishery back here again. What is our responsibility to the environment? What is DOT's responsibility to the environment and also to protect itself from the liability it might incur if wells are infiltrated and community's water supplies are damaged.

I believe we have put together here a good budget. We have done a lot of sweating over it. There has been a lot of discussion amongst the members of the committee. We could very easily cut the \$2 that was mentioned in that other document that was brought up a moment or two ago. If we are going to do that, according to the priorities of the committee, there may be some sand, salt and storage facilities that aren't funded. There may be state police not out on the streets where they are needed. There may be roads and bridges that are not fixed up.

We have a long-term problem in the Department of Transportation, public safety, and that is a problem of rather flat funding. Unlike the general fund, which has its moments of glory and as we are facing today, not so glorious moments, our revenue flow remains fairly flat. More miles are driven on our roads and cars that get better gas mileage. The money just doesn't come in unless we raise taxes or fees. How do we prevent that? Maybe we don't listen to our constituents when they call us and ask us to fix the roads and the bridges. Maybe we don't take care of their needs of public safety and maybe we don't take care of the environment. I guess it is up to us. I, for one, will be supporting the Majority Report. I hope you will all follow my light. Thank you. I am apologizing now. This is the longest I have spoken in seven years.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Tuttle.

Representative TUTTLE: Mr. Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative TUTTLE: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Reviewing the document that I was given from the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, I noticed that there are two position transfers from the Department of Liquor Enforcement. My question is, where are they being transferred to and why the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs has not been notified?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Sanford, Representative Tuttle has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Wheeler.

Representative WHEELER: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I would like to thank the good Chair, Representative Fisher, for his comments. He basically has stated exactly what the three of us on the Minority Report have stated. We both agree on this budget, but it is just how we fund it. If we are going to be consistent on budgets in Augusta here, then I think we ought to start either using unallocated surpluses, projected revenues, or not. We use those presently. Those are used to fund new programs that are the revenues are expected in, if they do come in, then they are funded on new programs or

items that are one-time monies. I don't know how the rest of you feel, but projected revenues for the Highway Fund is \$6.6 million. That is a lot of money to just be laying around out there and increasing title fees when you have the money there. We asked the question, I will repeat myself, to the department heads, the Secretary of State's Office brings in most of the revenues for the Highway Fund and I asked the Secretary of State how the revenues were flowing and what would have to happen for us not to get the \$6.6 million in surplus money? Everybody would have to stop registering their cars for the rest of the month. Is that going to happen? No. Let's be real about this. We raised taxes. We raised fees and we raise this and that up here. Let's start being a little bit more conservative and looking after our constituents and using money that we do have. I don't know how the rest of you run a household budget, but I don't go out and borrow \$50,000 if I have \$40,000 in the bank. Please be consistent with what you would do with your own budget and vote against the pending motion. You will still get your roads paved, your sand, salt and storage sheds done and whatever special programs in the Highway Budget. They will all get done if you go with the other report. Thank you.

Representative COLWELL of Gardiner assumed the Chair.
The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Tuttle.

Representative TUTTLE: Mr. Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative TUTTLE: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I had asked a question and I asked about a position in the Department of Liquor Enforcement that has not been answered. As a matter of courtesy, I would table this until an answer has been given by somebody in this body.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Representative from Sanford, Representative Tuttle has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Bouffard.

Representative BOUFFARD: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. In answer to Representative Tuttle's question, these positions are in the Department of Public Safety, which comes under the Transportation Department's budget.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Waterhouse. For what reason does the Representative rise?

Representative WATERHOUSE: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is a tabling motion debatable?

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair did not hear a tabling motion. The Chair heard conversation with the word tabling in it. I did not hear a tabling motion.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Bouffard.

Representative BOUFFARD: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. In answer to Representative Tuttle's question, these two positions here are in the Department of Public Safety and is under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Department's budget. It is being funded partly by the general fund and partly by the Transportation Department. You will note that what it is is an allocation and then a de-allocation of a position that has gone from full-time to being part time. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wells, Representative Collins.

Representative **COLLINS**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We all know why we are here. We represent the people of Maine. We do the people's business here in the people's building, the State Capitol. We also spend the people's money. Anytime we can save the people's money, we should do so and such is the case today. We have the opportunity to save the people of Maine \$1.6 million. There are two proposals before you today. One is to increase the vehicle title fee by \$8 and the other by \$6. The \$6 increase is the one that I have chosen to endorse, because if you add up all the total savings of \$6 versus \$8, the total is \$1.6 million. An increase in the vehicle title fee is necessary to overcome a shortfall in the Maine Department of Transportation Highway Fund. The Highway Budget has two dedicated revenue sources. One is the gas tax and the other are fees collected by the Secretary of State's Office. The highway budget will always have shortfalls because gas tax revenues are at a flat line. Our modern day vehicles definitely get better gas mileage. We can cut back on the highway budget and eliminate a shortfall, but Maine needs good roads and bridges to maintain our infrastructure.

Let me get back to the vehicle title fee. They both accomplish basically the same things, but one does it asking for \$2 less. Let's do the right thing and vote for the Minority Report that leaves less of an increase in the vehicle title fee, but accomplishes the same thing by keeping our roads and bridges in the good working order.

Before I sit down, I would like to say a few words concerning the Transportation Committee, of which I am a member. The committee is diligent to ensure that Maine's roads and bridges are maintained in good working order. Usually we are unanimous in our decision making, but this time we have disagreed. I just wanted the body to realize that this is a very unusual circumstance. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Frenchville, Representative Paradis.

Representative **PARADIS**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I will be brief. The good Representative and our Chair, the Representative from Brewer, has done a very good job outlining the majority position. I just want to expand on the minimum shift coverage, except for Madawaska in my district, all other towns depend on the State Police and the Sheriff's Department. We rely mostly on the State Police. It is crucial in our area that this be funded. The Minority Report does not give any guarantee for full coverage. I would urge you to vote with the Majority Report. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lebanon, Representative Chick.

Representative **CHICK**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would like to say a few words here this evening about my memory of highways in the State of Maine. My first recollection would be some that have route numbers now that were too muddy ruts when I first remembered them. Each year, including the time since I have served during the Legislature that I travel about the State of Maine, I see improvement every year by the Highway Department, DOT. While I am standing, I want to pay a compliment to the employees of the DOT from the ones that here in the Engineering Officers in Augusta to those people that are out there in the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter to keep our highways passable. The highways, as far as I am concerned, serve the working people mostly in the State of Maine. I have said for a long time that there are two things that a working person has would be the food that he eats and the automobile that he rides in. High on the list of our necessity in

the State of Maine are our highways. I will certainly support the Majority Report and encourage all of you here this afternoon to support this program for the very lifeblood of our state. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative McNeil.

Representative **MCNEIL**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am on the Majority Report. I would like to explain to you why. Although we have been told that there may be surpluses at the end of year, we were also warned not to spend them prematurely. In this budget there is \$1.1 million for municipal salt and sand and there was \$1.1 million for the state's obligation of salt and sand. They are priority one and twos. Most of them are in the northern part of the state. One of them in Aurora and one in Cherryfield are now polluting salmon rivers. Last year in the 119th Legislature many of us and I think most of us at least sat in this chamber and listened to presentation from the federal government on listing the Atlantic salmon. A lot of us that served on committees that were appropriate, went to our communities and listened endlessly to why they should or should not be closed. In every meeting that I went to, it was brought up that the state does not totally cover their obligation to the salmon issue. I think this is extremely important for the State of Maine that we fully fund these as a 100 percent guarantee and not if we have some money left if we can do that. That is why I am on the Majority Ought to Pass Report. I think it is extremely important issue for those people up in Washington County that are on these streams and rivers. I think it is extremely important for the people who use those rivers and lakes for other things other than salmon. Salt damage in the rivers is a health issue and a health problem. I also believe that the DEP is taking a look at the issues of salt drainage into our lakes. I would urge you strongly to support the Majority Report. Two dollars whenever you purchase your car, it is not every year, but \$2 more whenever you purchase a car, could be divided out for most of us by buying a car every four or five years. It is a small price to pay for the ecological and environmental damage that we could be doing otherwise. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kossuth Township, Representative Bunker.

Representative **BUNKER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I know it is late and I want to go home, but it is important to understand the difference between these two budgets. The bottom line if you take that little blue sheet that is in front of you and you cross out all the numbers that are on there and you replace it with what the Minority Report does, there is only \$2, as you have heard from the prior person speaking. There are only \$2 between us and them. It sounds like one of those Pizza Hut commercials. Ladies and gentlemen, for two bucks you got public safety and you got the environment protected. The most important part of the \$2 is the fact that we are not going to dip into the unallocated reserves and the monies that are still there because we are going to look into the biennium with a \$40 million deficit in the Transportation budget. I just don't want to clean out all of our accounts knowing we are walking into that next time and would be facing a bigger hill to climb next year because our roads are so important to everybody in this body. I would ask you to support the Majority Report and also look forward to trying to solve the dilemma for next time around. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgewater, Representative Wheeler.

Representative **WHEELER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. It is not fun standing up here going against your committee when all year we have pretty much agreed on things. It is only \$2, I hear. That \$2 adds up to \$1.6 million of our

taxpayer's money. When we can save \$2 of our taxpayer's money, we should be doing it, as far as I am concerned. I was sent down here to watch out for taxpayer's money. I grew up as a real poor person. My parents didn't have enough money to put bread on the table lots of times. I grew up respecting the dollar. There are a lot of people out there and today I am a little better off than I was then, but that was because I was frugal with my money. There are a lot of people out here that don't have the money that I have here or you have sitting down here. Two dollars means a lot to us. I think we need to sit down and back up and say, listen, we have money here, \$6.6 million in unallocated balance. It is like my good friend, Representative Wheeler, said. We have to think. We have already spent \$3 million of that in the Part I Budget, the unappropriated balance. We have already used it. What is wrong with using what we have now? Our budget has exactly what the Majority Report does. It is using the unappropriated balance of funds. I think \$2 is worth fighting for. That is why I am on the Minority Report. I would ask you to think about it and vote against the pending motion and go with the Minority Report. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Bouffard.

Representative **BOUFFARD**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Two dollars is only two dollars. I have a figure here that says that the title fee having been raised by \$8 is a fee that is paid every four years if you replace your vehicle about every four years, which amounts to \$2 per year. If we use the same scenario of the \$2 difference, that means that the figure now must be only about 50 cents difference, rather than \$2, at least when I went to school. If there is a difference of \$2 between \$6 and \$8, then instead of a \$2 fee increase, I guess it is only \$1.50. That is what it would amount to if you went to the Minority Report. Looking at the other pink sheet, when you look at the bottom line, the Majority Report does everything that needs to be done, guaranteed. You will find that the bottom line says that there is a difference. There is only a surplus of \$90,000 left in the Majority Report and yet there is a surplus of \$293,000 left in the Minority Report, which does not include those sand and salt sheds for the Department of Transportation that are sorely needed. They are priority ones and twos. Please accept the Majority Report. It takes care of all of the problems that we had and we fought over. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Wheeler. Having spoken twice now requests unanimous consent to address the House a third time. Is there objection? Chair hears no objection, the Representative may proceed.

Representative **WHEELER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Not to prolong the debate, but you should have all the facts as they are. There was a sheet passed out from MMA, who have actually discouraged me this year with some of their stances. They are supposed to represent our municipalities and they don't always represent all of them. In the report that was written by K-4, it was stated that the Minority Report did not fund the salt and sand storage shed. As the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Bouffard just stated, the Minority Report did not fund that. That is absolutely false. We do fund them all. We fund the state salt storage shed and we fund the municipality ones. That, folks, is a fact. If anybody in this chamber does not believe it, then maybe we should stop and go ask Fiscal and Program Review Office because they write the budget up and they proofread it and it is stated right in front of you what our budget does. I urge you to just use a little bit a common sense and save the constituents some money and still get the same amount of work done for \$6 as you would for \$8. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative Fisher.

Representative **FISHER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. It funds all salt and sand storage if the money comes in. That is not a for sure. My guess is that it will. I probably ought not to say that. It isn't a for sure. We cannot guarantee that those salt storage areas along the river in Aurora and Cherryfield will be taken care of.

A couple things as the debate has gone on, I do want to express my appreciation to the good Representative, the former Speaker Pro Tem, for his comments about the DOT. They have done a great job. Our budget this year, the Part I Budget and the Part II Budget, is up I believe one-half of 1 percent. It is a rather remarkable number, I think. Through efficiencies, they have been able to do more in the past couple of years than they have done in the last good number of years and in this year's program, as you will hear as we go on in the next week. It is a rather ambitious program for the next biennium that is going to take place. This is just part of the foundation of that program.

Let me remind you again that this budget, which I have in front of me, will give us a great deal of federal money, \$40 million of it. This will be matching money for \$13 million of highway money. This budget will take care of the public safety needs. It will take care of sand and salt storage. It will take care of our highways and bridges or at least get the process started.

One thing that we have not talked about yet is the care and feeding of a very ailing building from across the street. It is a building that has been slowly, but surely becoming uninhabitable. There is some discussion as to how to do this. There is also money in there to get that rehabilitation started in the near future.

I do appreciate all the comments made by members of the committee, members on both sides of this issue, are very sincere in their way. It is not often that this committee has been divided this year. I thank all the members of the committee for their time and effort in this, whether you are on my side or not. Thank you very much.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 399

YEA - Ash, Bagley, Baker, Berry DP, Berry RL, Blanchette, Bliss, Bouffard, Brannigan, Brooks, Bryant, Bull, Bumps, Bunker, Canavan, Carr, Chase, Chick, Chizmar, Colwell, Cote, Cowe, Crabtree, Cummings, Daigle, Desmond, Dudley, Dugay, Dunlap, Duplessie, Estes, Etnier, Fisher, Fuller, Gerzofsky, Glynn, Green, Hall, Hatch, Hawes, Heidrich, Hutton, Jacobs, Jones, Kane, Koffman, LaVerdiere, Laverriere-Boucher, Lemoine, Lessard, Lundeen, Madore, Mailhot, Marley, Mayo, McDonough, McGlocklin, McGowan, McKee, McKenney, McLaughlin, McNeil, Michaud, Mitchell, Murphy E, Muse C, Norbert, Norton, O'Brien LL, Paradis, Patrick, Peavey, Perry, Pineau, Quint, Richard, Richardson, Rines, Savage, Shields, Simpson, Skoglund, Smith, Stanley, Sullivan, Tarazewich, Tessier, Thomas, Tobin D, Trahan, Volenik, Weston.

NAY - Andrews, Annis, Belanger, Bowles, Bruno, Buck, Clark, Clough, Collins, Cressey, Davis, Duncan, Duprey, Foster, Goodwin, Gooley, Honey, Jodrey, Kasprzak, Labrecque, MacDougall, Mendros, Michael, Morrison, Murphy T, Muse K, Nass, Nutting, O'Brien JA, Perkins, Pinkham, Povich, Rosen, Sherman, Snowe-Mello, Stedman, Tobin J, Tracy, Treadwell, Tuttle, Twomey, Usher, Waterhouse, Wheeler EM, Wheeler GJ, Winsor.

ABSENT - Dorr, Gagne, Haskell, Landry, Ledwin, Lovett, Marrache, Matthews, O'Neil, Schneider, Watson, Young, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, 92; No, 46; Absent, 13; Excused, 0.

92 having voted in the affirmative and 46 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-344)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING** without **REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-344)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE Committee of Conference

Report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing action of the two branches of the Legislature on Bill "An Act to Require Certain Employers to Provide Certification for Employees Who Dispense Medications"

(H.P. 603) (L.D. 758)

has had the same under consideration, and asks leave to report: That the Senate **Recede** from **Acceptance** of the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report. Substitute the Bill for the Committee Reports. Under Suspension of the Rules **Read Twice**. **Read** and **Adopt** Conference Committee Amendment "A" (S-346) and **Pass to be Engrossed as Amended by Conference Committee Amendment "A" (S-346)** in **Non-Concurrence**. That the House **Recede** and **Concur** with the Senate.

Signed:

Senators:

SHOREY of Washington
YOUNGBLOOD of Penobscot
PENDLETON of Cumberland

Representatives:

HUTTON of Bowdoinham
RICHARDSON of Brunswick
CLOUGH of Scarborough

Came from the Senate with the Committee of Conference Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-346)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

READ.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Richard.

Representative **RICHARD**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. In reading this particular amendment that was prepared by the committee, it indicates that finally it requires the Commissioner of Education to submit to provisionally adopted rules to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development. I am curious as to why that goes to the Committee on Business and Economic Development when we are talking about giving medications in schools? If somebody could answer that question, I would appreciate it.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Representative from Madison, Representative Richard has posed a question through

the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Hawes.

Representative **HAWES**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I am not quite sure of the answer, but I am going to try to the best of my ability to answer it. It is that it started with the Committee on Business and Economic Development and it was hopefully going to stay with them and that was what the Committee of Conference decided. It was our consensus.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Richard.

Representative **RICHARD**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is a 20A MRSA subsection of state law and 20A is education. This problem has been dealt with by the Education Department and by the Education Committee. I would move that we table this item until later in today's session.

Representative **TRACY** of Rome **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Committee of Conference Report.

On motion of Representative **STEDMAN** of Hartland, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee of Conference Report and later today assigned. (Roll Call Requested)

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1352) (L.D. 1809) Bill "An Act Concerning the Penalties for Late Filing of Accelerated Campaign Reporting Under the Maine Clean Election Act" Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-718)**

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 650)

JOINT RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING JUNE 17, 2001 AS FATHER'S DAY

WHEREAS, on Sunday, June 17, 2001, the Nation and the State of Maine will continue the time-honored tradition of celebrating Father's Day; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Father's Day is a call upon all Americans to thank and honor fathers for the love, nurturing and guidance they have given and the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our daughters and sons; and

WHEREAS, fathers have long been an important thread in the social fabric that binds together the citizens of the State of Maine and of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the psychological, emotional and spiritual development and the well-being of children are known to be significantly rooted in the continued presence and commitment of fathers and father-figures; and

WHEREAS, the State's private and public sectors have joined to raise public awareness of the importance of fatherhood