

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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I knew him when I was a former Chair of the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs, and had worked with him over the years on many veterans' issues. He was also Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Maine at Presque Isle in the 1970's, when I first knew him. He will be greatly missed. He was a great man and he really helped veterans for the state. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Sentiment was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Waive Tolls on the Maine Turnpike for People Who Are Traveling for Treatment of Catastrophic Illnesses"

(S.P. 183) (L.D. 592)

Signed:

Senators:

- DAMON of Hancock
- DIAMOND of Cumberland
- SAVAGE of Knox

Representatives:

- MARLEY of Portland
- BROWNE of Vassalboro
- FISHER of Brewer
- MAZUREK of Rockland
- HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach
- CEBRA of Naples
- ROSEN of Bucksport
- THERIAULT of Madawaska
- PEOPLES of Westbrook

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

- THOMAS of Ripley

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
READ.

Representative MARLEY of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Marley.

Representative **MARLEY**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I had to rush in here because I had several members ask me about this bill in the back. As you can see, it is "An Act To Waive Tolls on the Maine Turnpike for People Who Are Traveling for Treatment of Catastrophic Illnesses." Obviously, we all wanted to address this issue.

The issue at hand is like many of the issues we have with the Maine Turnpike Authority, as far as they are under a Bond Resolution. That really narrows down their options about what they are able to do. They are not able to treat one group differently than the other, it is within their Bond Resolution. Within their Bond Resolution, it speaks, they must be uniform and application to all traffic following within any reasonable class regarding of the status of character of any group included in this traffic. Some of the exemptions are some of the employees of

the Turnpike Authority—the military, emergency vehicles going to accidents, etc.

What our Committee chose to do, the 12 members that are on the Majority side chose to do, was hopefully what many of us try to do, which is to try to address this non-legislatively. That was to direct the Turnpike Authority to work with organizations and agencies that work with groups and people that are suffering from these catastrophic illnesses, and to try to help them secure Trans Passes and find a way to work with those organizations. That way it is aiding the organization, the individuals, and not breaking the bond cap resolution that they are governed by. That is how our Committee chose to do this through a non-legislative measure. We would have liked to address this through legislation obviously, but I think often times the best way is without the Legislature intervening. I hope you will support the 12-1 Report. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-24)** on Bill "An Act To Increase the Bonding Capacity of the Maine Turnpike Authority"

(S.P. 104) (L.D. 321)

Signed:

Senators:

- DAMON of Hancock
- DIAMOND of Cumberland
- SAVAGE of Knox

Representatives:

- MARLEY of Portland
- BROWNE of Vassalboro
- FISHER of Brewer
- MAZUREK of Rockland
- HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach
- CEBRA of Naples
- ROSEN of Bucksport
- THERIAULT of Madawaska
- PEOPLES of Westbrook

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

- THOMAS of Ripley

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-24)**.

READ.

Representative MARLEY of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Marley.

Representative **MARLEY**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This legislation authorizes the increase to the Maine Turnpike Authority's bonding limit, from \$361 million to \$461 million, providing part of the anticipated funding by the Authority to implement long-term capital improvements and maintenance through the year 2020.

It is anticipated that approximately 32 percent of the estimated resources during this period will come from the

bonding proceeds. The remaining 68 percent will come from cash generated through the Turnpike operational. This is basically the portion of the existing Turnpike to modernize and hopefully make it more efficient, so we can get more capacity through that thoroughfare. Thank you.

Representative THOMAS of Ripley **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 Ripley, Representative Thomas.

Representative THOMAS: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is the bill that will provide the money to widen the Turnpike. We are being asked to allow the Turnpike to borrow another \$150 million to widen nine miles of road. I think that when you look at our transportation needs statewide, that would not have a very high priority, that maybe that would not even be in the top ten.

I am also convinced that maybe we should take a look at combining, consolidating if you will, the Turnpike and DOT. It has been talked about that we could save millions and millions of dollars, scarce dollars that we need to spend on our highways across the state. Raising the debt limit makes it much harder to combine the DOT with the Turnpike.

There has been some talk of leasing the Turnpike. Other states have had very good luck and they have freed up hundreds of millions of dollars to spend on highways. We have a real crisis in our highways across the State of Maine. We need to take a look at what roads need to be fixed. We need to set our priorities. We need to figure out how we are going to raise that money.

I believe that we need to take a look at the Turnpike and widening the Turnpike is one of the last projects that I think a lot of us would have in our top ten or top twenty list. So I would urge you to vote no and let's take a real look at our transportation needs across this state. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Marley.

Representative MARLEY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We actually heard three bills on the Turnpike—the budget, the widening piece, and then this one. They are somewhat intertwined, but actually the widening piece is going to be in a separate bill, 320 and not 321.

I absolutely want to echo what the good Representative from Ripley said, as far as the transportation needs across the state are vast and great. I think the bond proposal reflects that. That is going to be the first part of addressing that, the long-term fix. He is absolutely right as far as when you look at posted roads, bridge needs, everything—we have great needs. This to address the current Turnpike modernization if you will. We actually have the second half of this proposal, which would be about the widening. There is a diverse group of views on that issue. So I hope you support this LD 321, the Ought to Pass as Amended. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: 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. 18

YEA - Adams, Austin, Babbidge, Barstow, Beaudette, Beaudoin, Beaulieu, Berry, Berube, Blanchard, Blanchette, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Browne W, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Canavan, Carter, Casavant, Cebra, Chase, Clark, Conover,

Cotta, Craven, Crockett, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dunn, Duprey, Eaton, Eberle, Emery, Faircloth, Farrington, Finch, Finley, Fischer, Fisher, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gerzofsky, Giles, Greeley, Grose, Hanley S, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kaenrath, Lundeen, MacDonald, Marean, Marley, Mazurek, McDonough, Miller, Miramant, Moore, Muse, Nass, Norton, Patrick, Pendleton, Peoples, Percy, Pieh, Pilon, Pineau, Pingree, Piotti, Plummer, Pratt, Prescott, Priest, Rand, Rector, Richardson D, Rines, Robinson, Rosen, Samson, Savage, Saviello, Schatz, Silsby, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Strang Burgess, Sutherland, Sykes, Tardy, Theriault, Tibbetts, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Wagner, Walcott, Walker, Watson, Weddell, Wheeler, Woodbury, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Annis, Ayotte, Cleary, Cray, Crosthwaite, Curtis, Edgecomb, Gifford, Gould, Hamper, Hotham, Joy, Knight, Lansley, Lewin, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Pinkham, Richardson E, Richardson W, Thibodeau, Thomas, Vaughan, Weaver.

ABSENT - Connor, Cressey, Jacobsen, Koffman, Makas, Millett, Mills, Perry, Webster.

Yes, 117; No, 25; Absent, 9; Excused, 0.

117 having voted in the affirmative and 25 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-24)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Authorize a Tribal Commercial Track and Slot Machines in Washington County"

(I.B. 1) (L.D. 805)

Signed:

Senators:

MARRACHÉ of Kennebec

BRYANT of Oxford

PLOWMAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MOORE of Standish

WEDDELL of Frankfort

PINKHAM of Lexington Township

TRINWARD of Waterville

PATRICK of Rumford

TUTTLE of Sanford

NASS of Acton

GOULD of South Berwick

HOLMAN of Fayette

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

BLANCHETTE of Bangor

READ.

Representative PATRICK of Rumford moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending his motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report and later today assigned.
