

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Volume I**

**First Regular Session**

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Pages 1-681

**Recognizing:**

the memory of United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Paul Everett Getchell, of Portland, who has been long identified as Missing In Action from the Vietnam War and whose remains have been finally discovered. Lieutenant Colonel Getchell was the copilot of a B-57 Canberra bomber that faced hostile fire and crashed into a mountain in Laos on January 13, 1969. After six excavations of the crash site, the military's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command was able to confirm the findings through DNA testing. He was given a full military funeral and burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. At long last, the loving family and many friends of Lieutenant Colonel Getchell were able to finally bury their beloved hero. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, and we join in their relief that he has finally come home after his ultimate sacrifice to his State and Nation;

(HLS 497)

Presented by Representative HARLOW of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland, Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, Representative BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth, Representative MARLEY of Portland, Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland, Representative HASKELL of Portland, Representative HINCK of Portland, Representative ADAMS of Portland, Representative RAND of Portland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HARLOW of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Harlow.

Representative **HARLOW**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Getchell and I met 40 years ago, 50 years ago actually, and it was at a place called Camp Gregory in Gray, Maine. Paul Getchell, or as we called him "Getch", was the handy man, and he was one of the few people who had a drivers license, so he used to drive the truck up to the girls camp to get supplies and everything. Everybody was envious of Paul.

He was lost in Laos on January 13, 1969. It is my honor to be able to say "Welcome home, Paul. It is great to see you. I hope I can get to your funeral tomorrow, if possible." The children have no memories of Paul, but I do. Everybody respected Paul, everybody liked him, he was a hard worker, and a great guy.

My association with him in the future was when I was teaching; probably 10 years after he disappeared at Cheverus High School, there was a kid sitting in the front seat and his name was Getchell. I said, "Son, did you ever hear of Paul Getchell." He said, "Yes, he is my father. He has been missing in Vietnam for a long time." That was heartbreaking.

At Camp Gregory, Paul met the love of his life, his wife Teresa. Everybody could see the sparkle in his eye when he looked at her, and it was no surprise to us when he married her and he had his children. Unfortunately, his children never really got to know him the way a lot of other people did. I never heard anybody say a bad word about Paul Getchell.

He left two impressions on me: One, was that he was also a graduate of Cheverus High School, and one of the things that we take great pride in our kids at Cheverus and always have, is that they be people for others. Obviously, Paul was a person for others; he gave his life up for all of us.

He also left another impression on me: We were working one time in the water, moving a dock, and he was moving a lead pipe. He let go of the lead pipe, it fell and hit me in the head—that was the impression he left on me.

I would also like to say that his family would love to be here, but you can imagine the stress that they are under right now, and

how tired they are. They have been to Arlington and now they are back in Portland planning a funeral. Also, his family is not here but fortunately for us, General Libby has agreed to represent the family at this occasion. General Libby wore Paul Getchell's wristband forever, until he lost it when he moved a couple of years ago. General Libby was also a veteran of Vietnam, so he knows what Paul went through.

Thank you very much for your time, and I do have great memories of Paul Getchell. He lived in the shack by himself in the back of a camp, but everybody still get to know and like him. Thank you very much.

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

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-157)** on Bill "An Act To Establish the Town Academy Advisory Council"

(S.P. 601) (L.D. 1694)

Signed:

Senators:

BOWMAN of York  
MITCHELL of Kennebec  
MILLS of Somerset

Representatives:

HARLOW of Portland  
SUTHERLAND of Chapman  
McFADDEN of Dennysville  
MUSE of Fryeburg  
STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

NORTON of Bangor  
FINCH of Fairfield  
MAKAS of Lewiston  
EDGECOMB of Caribou

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-157).**

**READ.**

On motion of Representative NORTON of Bangor, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-150)** on Bill "An Act To Allow the Widening of a Portion of the Maine Turnpike"

(S.P. 103) (L.D. 320)

Signed:

Senators:

DAMON of Hancock  
DIAMOND of Cumberland  
SAVAGE of Knox

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

THERIAULT of Madawaska  
 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-150)**.

**READ.**

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

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. First of all, this project is going to require a toll increase, and tolls are high enough already. We are probably going to need to widen this highway at some point, my argument is not now. We have hundreds of bridges and hundreds of other projects that need to be done to make our highways safe. If we are going to take \$150 million out of the Maine economy, plus the interest because this is going to be borrowed money, we are going to take that kind of money out of the Maine economy; there are lots of projects that should come ahead of this one.

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 appreciate the comments from the good Representative from Ripley. He is right: We do have a great need in our infrastructure, and balance in our transportation system. However, the numerous people that came and spoke on this were the Association of Contractors of Maine, the Maine Restaurant Association, the Portland International Jetport; all of these transportation, tourism, business industries were saying how this was important for the state.

Just to give you an idea, they would be expanding from Mile 44—I believe it is Exit 44 in Scarborough, up to Exit 53 in Falmouth. The idea is, hopefully, to address one issue, which is the congestion on I-295 in Portland, with a larger, wider capacity, to allow that traffic to move around Portland, through Portland, for those points north. So, that should help business.

One of the realities, which is what we face constantly in transportation, while the need is there, if we do not do it sooner and we wait until later, it is going to cost a tremendous amount of money. While I would like to see a more balanced transportation

system and I agree that there is a great need elsewhere, I have decided to support this, and hope others will support the Majority Ought to Pass Amendment.

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. 90**

**YEA** - Adams, Austin, Babbidge, Barstow, Beaudette, Beaudoin, Beaulieu, Blanchard, Blanchette, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Browne W, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Canavan, Casavant, Cebra, Cleary, Conover, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Crosthwaite, Curtis, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Duprey, Eaton, Eberle, Edgecomb, Faircloth, Farrington, Finley, Fisher, Fitts, Flood, Gerzofsky, Hamper, Hanley S, Harlow, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Koffman, MacDonald, Makas, Marley, Mazurek, McDonough, Miller, Millett, Miramant, Moore, Muse, Nass, Norton, Patrick, Pendleton, Peoples, Percy, Perry, Pieh, Pilon, Pineau, Pingree, Pinkham, Piotti, Plummer, Prescott, Priest, Rand, Rector, Richardson D, Rines, Robinson, Rosen, Samson, Savage, Schatz, Silsby, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Strang Burgess, Sutherland, Sykes, Tardy, Thibodeau, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Vaughan, Wagner, Walcott, Walker, Webster, Wheeler, Woodbury, Mr. Speaker.

**NAY** - Annis, Berry, Carter, Chase, Clark, Cotta, Finch, Fletcher, Gifford, Giles, Gould, Grose, Hotham, Jacobsen, Joy, Kaenrath, Knight, Lansley, Lewin, Lundeen, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Mills, Richardson W, Saviello, Theriault, Thomas, Tibbetts, Treat, Weaver, Weddell.

**ABSENT** - Ayotte, Berube, Connor, Cressey, Dunn, Emery, Fischer, Greeley, Haskell, Jackson, Marean, Pratt, Richardson E, Watson.

Yes, 104; No, 32; Absent, 14; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

104 having voted in the affirmative and 32 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-150)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Friday, June 1, 2007.

Majority Report of the Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-153)** on Bill "An Act To Require Owners of Utility Facilities To Accommodate the Installation of Traffic Control Signals and To Permit the University of Maine System To Construct Lines on Public Rights-of-way" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 474) (L.D. 1360)

Signed:

Senators:

BARTLETT of Cumberland  
 HOBBS of York  
 SMITH of Piscataquis

Representatives:

THIBODEAU of Winterport  
 BLANCHARD of Old Town  
 CURTIS of Madison  
 BLISS of South Portland  
 FLETCHER of Winslow  
 ADAMS of Portland  
 FITTS of Pittsfield  
 BERRY of Bowdoinham  
 HINCK of Portland