

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Legislature

State of Maine

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Pages 1 - 1494

Bill "An Act Concerning the Protection of Personal Information in Communications with Elected Officials"

H.P. 817 L.D. 1082
(C "A" H-361)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Requirements Concerning Restroom Facilities for Small Restaurants with Dual Liquor Licenses"

H.P. 997 L.D. 1358
(C "A" H-366)

Bill "An Act Regarding Protection Orders and the Prosecution of Domestic Violence Cases"

H.P. 1004 L.D. 1365
(C "A" H-362)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Maine Administrative Procedure Act"

H.P. 1036 L.D. 1410
(C "A" H-368)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Maine Business Corporation Act"

H.P. 1103 L.D. 1502
(C "A" H-363)

Bill "An Act Honoring Gold Star Families through Special Registration Plates"

H.P. 1123 L.D. 1529
(C "A" H-355)

Bill "An Act To Amend Licensing and Certification Laws Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services"

H.P. 1129 L.D. 1537
(C "A" H-359)

READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Turnpike Authority and To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee in the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Report Concerning the Maine Turnpike Authority"

H.P. 1130 L.D. 1538
(C "A" H-354)

READ A SECOND TIME.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Collins.

Senator **COLLINS:** Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, this is a bill coming out of the Government Oversight Committee with their recommendations dealing with the Maine Turnpike Authority. It would be realistic to say that there probably isn't a member of this Chamber that does not remember the headlines in the paper and radio talk programs about some of the discrepancies that occurred within the Turnpike Authority. The Government Oversight Committee, with their prowess and public hearing, were able to detect a lot of inaccuracies within the Turnpike Authority. They got the truth out and were diligent in coming up with the facts and

recommendations to changing the Turnpike Authority. Their recommendations will make it much more transparent as far as the dealings with the Turnpike Authority. The Government Oversight Committee and the Transportation Committee also have made some changes within this bill. For your information, if you don't know, last week the other Body voted unanimously for this bill. It's a situation that people back home are expecting us to come forward with recommendations for changing the way the Turnpike Authority conducts their business. This is the bill that will do it. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **COLLINS** of York, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Senator **KATZ:** Thank you Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I was privileged to be a part of the Government Oversight Committee process. I think that the record should reflect that none of this would have happened were it not for the persistence over some years, as I understand it, of the good Senator from York, Senator Hill, who doggedly pursued this issue to get it before the Government Oversight Committee. It finally did this year and all of the recommendations we made were encompassed in this bill. The Transportation Committee went even further and made it an even better bill. I'll be proud to be voting for it. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Diamond.

Senator **DIAMOND:** Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, as you've heard, this was sort of a combination of efforts. Certainly the OPEGA Committee did a wonderful job with this this year, which the idea was started last year. This year the Transportation Committee really, as you heard, spent a lot of time going through the details of this and did some really good things, I think, as a result of the recommendations of OPEGA. Things like retaining a separate auditor, an independent auditor, beyond the annual audit report, which really is going to put a much closer eye on the proceedings. Also what this bill will say is that from now on there will be reports directly to the board as opposed to having to go through the chain of command, as it was. There are a number of things here that make this a lot better and makes us, as a Legislature, feel more comfortable. One of the things we're going to do with the Transportation Committee is to require that their financial orders come before the Transportation Committee whenever there is a change made in the budget. A lot of good things happened. A lot of people worked very hard on this. I think the interim Director, Senator Mills, is doing a tremendous job and I hope that he is able to continue because he's really made a tremendous difference. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Passage to be Engrossed. A Roll Call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#129)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BARTLETT, BRANNIGAN, COLLINS, COURTNEY, CRAVEN, DIAMOND, DILL, FARNHAM, GERZOFKY, GOODALL, HASTINGS, HILL, HOBBS, JACKSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, MARTIN, MASON, MCCORMICK, PATRICK, PLOWMAN, RECTOR, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, SCHNEIDER, SHERMAN, THIBODEAU, THOMAS, TRAHAN, WHITTEMORE, WOODBURY, THE PRESIDENT - KEVIN L. RAYE

NAYS: Senators: None

ABSENT: Senator: SULLIVAN

EXCUSED: Senator: SNOWE-MELLO

33 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senator having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being absent and 1 Senator being excused, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Senate As Amended

Bill "An Act To Declare Certain Records of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Confidential"

S.P. 189 L.D. 609
(C "A" S-179)

Bill "An Act To Expand the Availability of Natural Gas to the Citizens of Maine"

S.P. 324 L.D. 1091
(C "A" S-178)

Bill "An Act To Make Municipal Recounts Consistent with State Recounts"

S.P. 343 L.D. 1134
(C "A" S-176)

Bill "An Act To Extend the Salary Supplement for National Board-certified Teachers at Publicly Supported Secondary Schools That Enroll at Least 60% Public Students"

S.P. 425 L.D. 1380
(C "A" S-168)

Bill "An Act Concerning the Recording of Plans for Subdivisions"

S.P. 447 L.D. 1460
(C "A" S-175)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer of State and State Auditor

S.P. 504 L.D. 1572
(C "A" S-153)

READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (5/24/11) Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require a Two-thirds Vote To Approve the Issuance of a Bond or Security by the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority

H.P. 728 L.D. 984

Majority - **Ought Not to Pass** (7 members)

Minority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-304)** (6 members)

Tabled - May 24, 2011, by Senator **KATZ** of Kennebec

Pending - motion by Senator **THOMAS** of Somerset to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence (Roll Call Ordered)

(In House, May 23, 2011, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the **RESOLUTION PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-304).**)

(In Senate, May 24, 2011, Reports **READ.**)

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#130)

YEAS: Senators: COLLINS, COURTNEY, FARNHAM, HASTINGS, KATZ, LANGLEY, MARTIN, MASON, MCCORMICK, PLOWMAN, RECTOR, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, SHERMAN, THIBODEAU, THOMAS, TRAHAN, WHITTEMORE, THE PRESIDENT - KEVIN L. RAYE