The Majority of the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS on Bill "An Act To Provide Former Employees of the Maine Military Authority the Ability To Sue for Severance Pay" S.P. 740 L.D. 1837

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-524).

Signed:

Senators:
TUTTLE of York
PATRICK of Oxford

Representatives:
LUCHINI of Ellsworth
FOWLE of Vassalboro
LONGSTAFF of Waterville
SAUCIER of Presque Isle
SCHNECK of Bangor

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same Ought Not To Pass.

Signed:

Representatives:
BEAULIEU of Auburn
GIFFORD of Lincoln
KINNEY of Limington
TURNER of Burlington

Reports READ.

Senator TUTTLE of York moved the Senate ACCEPT the Majority OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED Report.

On further motion by same Senator, TABLED until Later in Today’s Session, pending the motion by same Senator to ACCEPT the Majority OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED Report.

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

ENACTORS

The Committee on Engrossed Bills reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Emergency Measure
An Act To Provide Additional Authority to the State Board of Corrections
S.P. 730 L.D. 1824 (C "A" S-511)

On motion by Senator HILL of York, placed on the SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE, pending ENACTMENT, in concurrence.

Acts

An Act To Reform Regulation of Consumer-owned Water Utilities
S.P. 710 L.D. 1784 (H "A" H-817 to C "A" S-484)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the President was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

An Act To Establish Submission Requirements for Wind Energy through Rulemaking
S.P. 692 L.D. 1750 (C "A" S-483)

On motion by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland, TABLED until Later in Today’s Session, pending ENACTMENT, in concurrence.

An Act To Allow Signs for Areas of Local, Regional and Statewide Interest on the Interstate System
H.P. 1320 L.D. 1831 (C "A" H-814)

On motion by Senator KATZ of Kennebec, 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 York, Senator Collins.

Senator COLLINS: Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, this is the much talked about Interstate 95 corridor sign bill. We last acted on this bill when I tried to apply an amendment to it last Friday that narrowly, almost made it. It was a vote of 18-17. However, moving on to the actual bill, I'm going to be voting against this bill and its Enactment primarily for the reason that if we vote it down everything stays the same. We've had some signs that have been in place along the 95 corridor for well over 25 years. Everything stays the same. As far as policy on new legislation, I tried, with the amendment, to grandfather existing signs and have the policy remain, but that didn't happen. In closing, I'd just like to say that I hope I can count on the folks that voted with me the last time to vote no on L.D. 1831. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator VALENTINO: Thank you very much Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I rise today just to speak very briefly on this bill. We had a very lengthy debate on the amendment last time. I do want to remind this Body that at the time it was a
unanimous committee report out of the Transportation Committee to go forward with the Committee Amendment on it. Last year the Transportation Committee asked the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine Department of Transportation to do a report. They did an extensive report. They did pictures of all of the signs up and down the Turnpike. We asked them to do this report to try and put us in compliance with federal guidelines. We stretched the federal guidelines as much as we could to keep as many signs. This is a five year plan. No signs are coming down tomorrow morning. This is a phase out of signs that committee felt would be either moved to another location closer to their exits or that would qualify for logo signs. I don't think that people should be getting free signs on the Turnpike for advertising when they do quality for a logo sign. It's a matter of fairness and I think this is an extremely fair bill that was worked by the Transportation Committee with a unanimous report and is fully supported by the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine Department of Transportation. We asked them to do this. They did it. Please support the committee and please support these Bodies. Thank you.

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

Senator COLLINS: Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, the Transportation Committee did commission two agencies, the Maine Turnpike Authority as well as our own Maine DOT, to come back with language to help us in future legislation dealing with signs. However, I do not remember us telling them to come back with recommendations for taking signs down. That's what they came back with and that's what I have a problem with. As I mentioned previously in my testimony, the signs that have been there for a very long time should remain there and I would strongly recommend a no vote on this bill. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. 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 (#579)

YEAS: Senators: BOYLE, CAIN, CRAVEN, DUTREMBLE, GERZOFSKY, GRATWICK, HASKELL, HILL, JACKSON, JOHNSON, KATZ, LACHOWICZ, LANGLEY, MAZUREK, MILLETT, PLUMMER, VALENTINO, VITELLI, WOODBURY, THE PRESIDENT - JUSTIN L. ALFOND

NAYS: Senators: BURNS, CLEVELAND, COLLINS, CUSHING, FLOOD, HAMPER, MASON, PATRICK, SAVIELLO, SHERMAN, THIBODEAU, THOMAS, TUTTLE, WHITTEMORE, YOUNGBLOOD

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, was PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the President was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.