

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record  
One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session  
beginning January 8, 2014

beginning at Page 1544

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. The signs remain up. 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, GERZOFISKY, 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.

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**Resolve**

Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Study the Potential Benefits and Barriers Involved in Making Renewable Thermal Technologies Eligible for Qualification in Maine's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

S.P. 542 L.D. 1468  
(S "B" S-510)

**FINALLY PASSED** and having been signed by the President was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

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Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

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Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**House**

**Ought to Pass Pursuant to Public Law**

The Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Achieve the Savings Required under Part F of the Biennial Budget and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1349 L.D. 1858

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**, pursuant to Public Law 2013, chapter 368, Part F, section 3.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-833)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

**READ ONCE.**

House Amendment "B" (H-833) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

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

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