

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Fourth  
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

**Volume III**

June 17, 1969 to July 2, 1969

Index

**1st Special Session**

January 6, 1970 to February 7, 1970

Index

KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Committees Access to Certain Records" (S. P. 662) (L. D. 1844)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, the foregoing matters were sent forthwith to the Senate.

The following papers from the Senate appearing on Supplement No. 5 were taken up out of order.

#### **Non-Concurrent Matter**

Bill "An Act to Authorize Bond Issue in the Amount of \$15,950,000 for the Construction and Renovation of Higher Education Facilities at the University of Maine" (S. P. 603) (L. D. 1778) which failed passage to be enacted in the House on February 3 and which was passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" as amended by Senate Amendment "A" and House Amendment "B" thereto on February 2.

Came from the Senate with House Amendment "B" and Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" indefinitely postponed, and the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" in non-concurrence.

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Richardson.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House recede and concur and would speak to that motion.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Richardson moves that the House recede from its former action and concur with the Senate. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Because it is so imperative that we understand what the position of this bill is, I am going to cover information which I am sure many of you are already fully aware of, but I thought it might be helpful if we put this matter in perspective.

As you know, the Board of Trustees originally recommended to the Legislature, to the Appropriations Committee, a bond issue in the amount of \$24,835,000. This bond issue proposal was reduced very substantially by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee down to a figure, I believe, of about \$15,900,000. It was then determined and you all received a copy of a letter from the Chancellor of the University, that the sewerage treatment facility at Gorham was not indeed an emergency item, that in their judgment we could defer authorizing the funds necessary to meet that commitment. So that was deleted.

At that time the bond issue came before us, and as you know, it failed of enactment at that level. Many many of you have expressed concern about a number of the small items within the bond issue and have asked, in my judgment quite properly, why should we incur a bonded indebtedness and the debt service charges that that bonded indebtedness entails in order to handle some of these smaller projects?

Now I am not going to trace for you the many meetings that have been held and the discussions that have been endured, I am sure, by many people over the last several days. The product of all of this effort brings to us now this bill as amended by the Senate Amendment, which I ask that we recede and concur with respect to the bill in its present form as amended by Senate Amendment "A" which is filed and distributed under S-442.

Now what this amendment does, it reduces the total amount by approximately an additional million dollars. It reduces it down to \$14,850,000. It takes out the following items, the utility building at Fort Kent for \$61,000; alterations and additions at the University of Maine, Portland, \$15,000; Phys. Ed. facilities for a field at Aroostook, \$87,000; the farm relocation at Orono, \$50,000; the completion of the dormitory at Washington, \$65,000; and parking at UMP, \$85,000. It leaves intact the major capital construction items, which in my judgment and the judg-

ment of many of those of you who voted against this at the enactment stage are items that should be paid for out of surplus, that we shouldn't incur bonded indebtedness certainly with respect to alterations and repairs which are truly current services items. And we shouldn't bond for current services.

We propose out of surplus to pay for the auditorium at Fort Kent, \$56,000; the Bailey Hall and dining room facility at Gorham, \$118,000; and to put in the planning funds of I believe \$281,000 — I don't have that figure in front of me, which would delete it by Senate Amendment "A", to provide out of surplus \$100,000 for the planning monies needed in order to bring about some real order and some real intelligent, hard-nose thinking about capital construction programs.

So what this really boils down to is that we have tried to take out the many items in here, the smaller items. We have abided by the University's priority list by putting in the top priority items. They are put back in out of surplus, which is a difficult thing to do, as you can well understand.

And I want to make one further comment. L. D. 1842, which is another L. D., abolishes the tuition differential which has been the subject of so much legislative concern. And many of you have said — if the Governor is going to veto this tuition differential thing, then I don't see any reason why I should be voting for capital construction projects like this when we are giving out-of-state students what is essentially a free ride. 1842 is a separate L. D. It abolishes the tuition differential, and in its present form is acceptable to the Governor.

Now these two facts, the tuition differential thing about which we have argued so long and loud, that and the bond issue perhaps aren't logically connected, but they are connected when you consider who is going to bear the cost of higher education in Maine. And shouldn't we demand that our student population make a greater effort in conjunction with the effort being made by all the people?

It is for this reason that because of all these factors, I hope that you will recognize that we have all made a serious and I think constructive effort to reduce the size of this bond issue and to make it palatable to those of you who have expressed serious and I know genuine reservations about its size. We have done everything that we feel we can do to abide by the University's priorities and to provide a reasonable rate of growth in our capital construction program for the University of Maine.

This is not a pie in the sky program; it is \$10 million less than the Trustees thought was absolutely essential, and for that reason I hope that you will recede and concur and eventually enact this bond issue in its present form.

Thereupon, the House voted to recede and concur.

By unanimous consent, ordered sent forthwith.

The following papers from the Senate appearing on Supplement No. 6 were taken up out of order.

#### **Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act Repealing the Law Requiring Assessment of Municipalities in Aid to Dependent Children Grants (S. P. 576) (L. D. 1703) which was passed to be enacted in the House on January 28 and passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" on January 26.

Came from the Senate passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" as amended by Senate Amendment "A" thereto in non-concurrence.

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from East Millinocket, Mr. Birt.

Mr. BIRT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I realize this bill came out of the committee I was on which is partly funded from surplus and partly funded from General Fund revenue. The surplus has been taken away from it so that it is funded entirely from the General Fund revenue, but it is only funded for six months. This means that the following Legislature will be faced with funding this for another eighteen months.