

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

1st Special Session

OF THE

*One Hundred and Sixth
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1974

Kennebec Journal
Augusta, Maine

HOUSE

Monday, February 25, 1974

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by the Rev. Skip Schwarz of Hallowell.

The members stood at attention during the playing of the National Anthem.

The journal of the previous session was read and approved.

**Papers from the Senate
Reports of Committees
Ought Not to Pass**

Committee on State Government on Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Archaeological Survey Program" (S. P. 819) (L. D. 2315) reporting "Ought not to pass"

In accordance with Joint Rule 17-A, was placed in the legislative files.

Leave to Withdraw

Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act Relating to Municipal Reports and Audits" (S. P. 854) (L. D. 2423) reporting Leave to Withdraw.

Came from the Senate with the Report read and accepted.

In the House, the Report was read and accepted in concurrence.

Referred to 107th Legislature

Committee on State Government on Bill "An Act Establishing a Small Claims Tax Commission" (S. P. 757) (L. D. 2188) reporting that it be referred to the 107th Legislature.

Came from the Senate with the Report read and accepted.

In the House, the Report was read and accepted in concurrence.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act Relating to Property Tax Exemption of Health Care Institutions" (S. P. 894) (L. D. 2496) reporting "Ought to pass" in New Draft (S. P. 910) (L. D. 2519) under same title.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. WYMAN of Washington
FORTIER of Oxford
— of the Senate.

Messrs. MORTON of Farmington
SUSI of Pittsfield
FINEMORE of Bridgewater
DAM of Skowhegan
MAXWELL of Jay
MERRILL of Bowdoinham
IMMONEN of West Paris
DRIGOTAS of Auburn

— of the House.

Minority Report of the same Committee on same Bill reporting "Ought not to pass"

Report was signed by the following member:

Mr. COTTRELL of Portland
— of the House.

Came from the Senate with the Majority "Ought to pass" Report accepted and the New Draft passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-359).

In the House: Reports were read.

On motion of Mr. Cottrell of Portland, the Majority "Ought to pass" Report was accepted in concurrence.

The New Draft was read once and assigned for second reading tomorrow.

**Non-Concurrent Matter
Tabled and Assigned**

Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for Single Member Districts in the House of Representatives; to Provide for Reduction of the Number of Representatives to One Hundred Thirty-two, and Reapportionment of the House of Representatives before the General Election of 1976; to Provide for Further Reduction of the Number of Representatives to Ninety-nine, and Reapportionment of the House of Representatives and the Senate before the General Election of 1984; to Provide for Annual Sessions of the Legislature and to Limit the Matters which may be Considered in the Second Regular Session; to Establish an Apportionment Commission to Plan for all Reapportionments of the House of Representatives and Senate; to Abolish the Executive Council and Reassign Certain Constitutional Powers to a Legislative Council; and to Provide that Oaths and Subscriptions of Office of the Governor, Representatives and Senators shall be Taken before the Chief Justice of

the Supreme Judicial Court. (H. P. 1972) (L. D. 2513) which failed engrossment in the House on February 19.

Came from the Senate with the Bill passed to be engrossed in non-concurrence.

In the House: On motion of Mr. Birt of East Millinocket, tabled pending further consideration and specially assigned for Wednesday, February 27.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Require District Attorneys to Prosecute all Criminal Cases before the District Courts" (S. P. 711) (L. D. 2123)

The Majority "Ought not to pass" Report was accepted in the House on February 20.

Came from the Senate with that body adhering to their action whereby the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-351) in non-concurrence.

In the House: On motion of Mr. Perkins of South Portland, the House voted to adhere.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Relating to the Budgetary Process of the Eleven New Regions for Vocational Education" (H. P. 1945) (L. D. 2479) Emergency, which was passed to be engrossed in the House on February 13.

Came from the Senate with the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-350) in non-concurrence.

In the House: On motion of Mr. Shute of Stockton Springs, the House voted to recede and concur.

Messages and Documents

The following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AUGUSTA

February 20, 1974

Honorable Richard D. Hewes

Speaker

House of Representatives

State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Hewes:

Please accept my resignation as a member of the 106th Legislature of the

House of Representatives effective Friday, February 22, 1974.

Respectfully,

Signed:

FLOYD M. HASKELL
State Representative

Houlton

The Communication was read and ordered placed on file.

At this point, the Speaker appointed the gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Norris, as House Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Mr. Silverman of Calais was also appointed to the same Committee.

House Reports of Committees

Ought Not to Pass

Mr. Curtis from Committee on State Government on Bill "An Act Authorizing Director of Public Improvements to Convey Land of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections" (H. P. 1931) (L. D. 2469) reporting "Ought not to pass"

Mr. Pratt from Committee on Veterans and Retirement reporting same on Resolve Providing Retirement Benefits for Seraphine Stevens of Pleasant Point (H. P. 1837) (L. D. 2328)

In accordance with Joint Rule 17-A, were placed in the legislative files and sent to the Senate.

Leave to Withdraw

Mrs. McCormick from Committee on Transportation on Bill "An Act to Standardize Letter Size and Color of Motor Vehicle License Plates" (H. P. 1913) (L. D. 2449) reporting Leave to Withdraw.

Mr. Silverman from Committee on State Government reporting same on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Unnecessary Qualifications for administrative Positions" (H. P. 1912) (L. D. 2448)

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Referred to 107th Legislature

Mr. Brown from Committee on Labor on Bill "An Act to Create the Interstate Compact for Workmen's Compensation" (H. P. 1770) (L. D. 2242) reporting that it be referred to the 107th Legislature.

Mr. Pratt from Committee on

Veterans and Retirement reporting same on Bill "An Act Relating to Disability Retirement and to Benefits for Survivors of Disability Retired Employees under the State Retirement System" (H. P. 1792) (L. D. 2270)

Reports were read and accepted, the Bills referred to the 107th Legislature and sent up for concurrence.

Ought to Pass Printed Bill

Mr. Garsoe from Committee on Labor on Bill "An Act to Repeal Fee to Ex-Officio Member of Industrial Accident Commission" (H. P. 1882) (L. D. 2392) reporting "Ought to pass"

Report was read and accepted, the Bill read once and assigned for second reading tomorrow.

Ought to Pass in New Draft New Drafts Printed

Mr. Ferris from the Committee on Education on Bill "An Act Relating to Conferring Degrees by Thomas College" (H. P. 1661) (L. D. 2054) reporting "Ought to pass" in New Draft (H. P. 1979) (L. D. 2522) under same title.

Mr. McMahon from Committee on County Government on Bill "An Act Increasing Salaries of Various County Officers" (H. P. 1732) (L. D. 2176) reporting "Ought to pass" in New Draft (H. P. 1982) (L. D. 2525) under same title.

Mr. Morton from Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act to Collect Telephone and Telegraph Taxes on a Monthly Basis" (H. P. 1911) (L. D. 2447) reporting "Ought to pass" in New Draft (H. P. 1980) (L. D. 2523) under new title "An Act to Advance Collection of Telephone and Telegraph Taxes"

Reports were read and accepted, the New Drafts read once and assigned for second reading tomorrow.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Election Laws on Bill "An Act Relating to Applications for Absentee Ballots" (H. P. 1663) (L. D. 2056) reporting "Ought not to pass"

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. SHUTE of Franklin

JOLY of Kennebec

— of the Senate.

Messrs. ROSS of Bath

HOFFSES of Camden

HANCOCK of Casco

KAUFFMAN of Kittery

Mrs. KELLEY of Machias

— of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee on same Bill reporting "Ought to pass" in New Draft (H. P. 1981) (L. D. 2524) under same title.

Report was signed by the following members:

Mr. CIANCHETTE of Somerset

— of the Senate.

Mrs. BOUDREAU of Portland

SNOWE of Auburn

Mr. BINNETTE of Old Town

— of the House.

Reports were read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House accept the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report of the Committee.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, moves that the House accept the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Kelleher.

Mr. KELLEHER: Mr. Speaker, I just can't find that bill on my desk. Would some kind member of the Election Laws Committee explain it so I will know what I am voting on and the rest of you as well.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Kelleher, poses a question through the Chair to anyone who may answer if he or she wishes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentleman of the House: I would be happy to answer the gentleman's question, but I just wonder if the sponsor, the gentle lady from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube, would care to answer that.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube.

Mrs. BERUBE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: What this bill would do would have imprinted four numerals; namely, the numbers of the

year which the election is to be held, much in the same way as the driver license applications, and I understand it would be printed diagonally across. This would be printed at no — for example, there are, I understand, some 30,000 applications on hand from last year that are not printed. The new applications, I think they have to order 150,000, so the 30,000 on hand would not be destroyed because the printer would print at no charge the year 1974 or 1976.

What it would do, like in the Statement of Fact, it would be a deterrent to those who wish to have applications for absentee ballots solicited a long time ahead of an election.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Talbot.

Mr. TALBOT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: My name doesn't appear on this document, although I am a member of the Election Laws Committee, and I would like to go on record as voting in favor of the Minority "Ought to pass" Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I want to thank the gentle lady from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube, and also the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Talbot, noting that his name did not appear on the committee report. It is the wish and intent of the Election Laws Committee, like other committees now at this point in the game, to pass out bills. If they appear without a signature, it is just that the person was unable to be at the committee hearing or was unable to be contacted. We do wish that those who have a difference of opinion would get up and express it like Mr. Talbot did.

This bill, as originally presented, pertained to applications for absentee ballots, and the original bill called to different colored ballots each year. This committee discussed that at length, and then it was determined that certain persons wanted to sign for the general idea but not for the colors, so it was deemed feasible to have the numbers of the year appear on there instead. But the majority of the committee didn't believe that the problem was of enough state-wide interest that we should clutter

up our election laws by including this provision.

I do admit that there are a few people in this state when they get their absentee ballots they have the person sign an application for next year, but there is nothing in the law now to prevent that. I don't think it is being overdone, and as I said, the majority of the committee did not feel that we should clutter up our books any further with this type of legislation.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Willard.

Mr. WILLARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I had a little hard luck that day, so I didn't have a chance to sign the report. I would like to sign "ought not to pass."

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube.

Mrs. BERUBE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I think the reason that is being given for the "ought not to pass" is that it is not needed because the practice of getting applications a long time before an election is not widespread. If it is not, we could merely use it as preventive legislation, much as we use preventive medicine. Polio is no longer prevalent, but we still use the Salk vaccine. If, indeed, just a very few candidates use it, it still does not make it right.

I think there is, in our country, at the present time, an urgent need to reinstall confidence in our elective system, and I think the logical place to start is at the local level or the precinct level and this bill would merely prevent applications for absentee ballots. It is a start from being signed months or even a year before an election. Many things happen in that space of time. Someone who is lucid in May of one year may not be as lucid the next year if they are secured in areas where people are ill or this sort of thing. This is not to say that impropriety may or may not exist in this respect of any magnitude, but I think if it doesn't exist, it would help to correct situations in which some political candidates who have more expertise than others may have an unfair advantage over the other candidates.

I think it is a means of insuring fair

play for all candidates to public office, and I have always believed that in a race all contestants should start at the same starting line. I think that the practice of securing applications for such a long period of time can be a deterrent to new candidates who wish to seek office for either in fact or in rumor the practice discourages many people from seeking office.

I had hoped for a larger majority favorable to this bill. I have no illusions, obviously, perhaps because I am not a politician's politician and don't know how to barter for the same reason that I am not a very good bridge player because I never mastered the art of finessing, but I would ask that you please vote against the "ought not to pass" report, and could I please ask for a roll call.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Windham, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: It seems by the chatter on the floor of the House that the interest in this piece of legislation is not very great, but I think it is rather important. It was brought to my attention earlier this session that some people go to nursing homes where people are in their declining years and are not all that lucid and are asked to sign an application for an absentee ballot and are asked to sign maybe as many as five or six. That means that somebody can go around on election day and deposit each year of an election so many absentee ballots that he already has in his pocket. He doesn't have to procure them. He has already procured them once. I just think that this would be a good innovation and a good improvement in the election law, and I would hope that you would support the Minority "Ought to pass" Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Casco, Mr. Hancock.

Mr. HANCOCK: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would like to clear up something that the gentleman from Windham just said when he was talking about absentee ballots. This bill does not refer to absentee ballots but rather to applications. So there is no opportunity

for anyone voting far in advance of any election. If the person is actually not lucid, there are rules and regulations, laws on our books now that would prevent them from voting. And if they should vote, their vote can be challenged.

It has always been my contention that it should be as easy as reasonably possible for anyone to register and for anyone to vote. And I am inclined to believe that this bill does nothing to help that general effect.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Old Town, Mr. Binnette.

Mr. BINNETTE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I heartily agree with the lady from Lewiston when she said that there should be fair play. I don't think this is fair play when someone goes out with an application, that is with an armful of them, and he gets a prospective voter to sign three or four applications. As a matter of fact, in some cases I have been told that five applications have been signed at one time, which I think is not right. I think that they should go every election and procure an application and do it as they should.

I heartily disagree with my friend from Casco, Mr. Hancock, because I say that we are not trying to deprive anyone the right to vote, we are just depriving them of the fact of getting more applications than they should have. One should be sufficient because some of these people who have signed more than one application, by the time another election comes around, they don't know where they are even. As a matter of fact, whoever has got the application goes in and gets a ballot and brings it to them and informs them there is going to be an election. So I really believe that the "ought to pass" report should prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I don't believe I have spoken twice; I answered a question one time. I would just like to mention a couple of points. By no means am I sticking up for our absentee system and the method that some persons in the state used to collect these ballots.

A few years ago, I had laws suggested under my name that would have changed this very drastically. We went into some debate here in the House, and amongst politicians, and most of the people in this House are politicians, there is a great love for absentee ballots. I didn't get very far. My chief opposition came from my own city of Bath, a Mr. McMahon, and joining him in opposition to changing, I think, was the gentleman from Old Town, Mr. Binnette. But I do know, and I do know a lot about these absentee ballots, and I do know that a few people do get their applications signed beforehand. But, now, there is no harm in that since they can give applications to anyone and ballots to anyone, and the first one to get their ballot back is the valid ballot. That is a change in the last two years. So even though a person filled out the application a year ahead, they might not get the actual ballot back before somebody who did it a few days before the election.

As I say, I have no, in the vernacular of the up-to-date people, hangup on this, but it does seem to me that we should not clutter up our books with something that is unnecessary, and I just deem this unnecessary.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Auburn, Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would like to ask a question. Is it presently illegal to stockpile applications for absentee ballots?

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman from Auburn, Mrs. Lewis, poses a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to answer.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lubec, Mr. Donaghy.

Mr. DONAGHY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I don't think it is illegal to stockpile applications, but an application isn't much good without the ballot, and the ballot clerk is not supposed to give out ballots three or four at a time. This law has been corrected on this, and at the present time there is no great problem. It used to be that you could go out and pick up several applications and go back and get several ballots. As a matter of fact, it was

perfectly legal, and I have done it myself back when I was working for someone else. But this has been straightened out. It is the ballot that the problem is with, not with the application.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Auburn, Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I made my question clear. What I mean is, can you have one person sign several applications so that you can use the same application year after year, for example, four years in a row and the person has only signed the application at one sitting but signed them four times?

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman from Auburn, Mrs. Lewis, poses a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to answer.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, to answer the question of the gentlelady from Auburn, Mrs. Lewis, the answer, of course, would be in the affirmative. You are allowed to do that. There are very few people who do do it. The old pros do it, but I don't believe that they really help in the final analysis because as the gentleman from Lubec, Mr. Donaghy, says, it is the ballot itself that counts, and now you have to have the person's name on the ballot, printed on there by the city or town clerk. So there is not as much finagling as there used to be, and I doubt if this would stop anything.

Mrs. Lewis of Auburn was granted unanimous consent to address the House a third time.

Mrs. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: This Bill would have the date on it. So wouldn't that, in effect, make it illegal to use it the following year if it has the date of the year that it is effective?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lubec, Mr. Donaghy.

Mr. DONAGHY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I just don't see what the point of all this is, because your application specifies a particular election. As a matter of fact, I don't know that the dates of election are carried over from one year to the other. You can't be positive of the exact date of

an election. And when you apply for an absentee ballot, on there is the date of the election. Whether it is a primary election or a regular election, this all has to be stated on the application, as well as the date.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Eagle Lake, Mr. Martin.

Mr. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: In reference to the comment made by the gentleman from Lubec, first of all, that is quite true, but there is a place left for you to put in the date yourself; it is not typed in. As I understand it, this would require that it be typed in.

The second thing, and I would like to pose this to the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross. As I recall, in dealing with the absentee laws last time, we changed it to say that whatever ballot came in first is the one that would be accepted. So you could actually go out and get 55 applications. It is the one ballot that comes in first and is accepted by the clerk. And as I remember, the clerk inserts the date and that becomes the official ballot under our new law.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Eagle Lake, Mr. Martin, poses a question through the Chair to the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, who may answer if he wishes.

The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. ROSS: As pertains to the comments of certain other persons, I guess I did not make myself crystal clear. I did state that though. I stated that it is the actual ballot, and it has nothing to do with the applications.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Old Town, Mr. Binnette.

Mr. BINNETTE: I would like to ask Mrs. Lewis in regards to that. I think by printing the date on the application, they could only get enough signatures, enough applications, for the coming elections in that year. They could use that application for the following year. So I think that would be some help to deter some of these people who are going around getting signatures by the armful.

The SPEAKER: The gentelady from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube requests a roll call. For the Chair to order a Roll Call, it

must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present and voting. All those desiring a roll call vote will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken, and more than one fifth of the members present having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is on the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, that the House accept the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report. All in favor of that motion will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL

YEA — Ault, Birt, Bither, Bragdon, Brawn, Brown, Bunker, Cameron, Carey, Chick, Churchill, Conley, Cote, Cressey, Davis, Donaghy, Dunn, Dyar, Evans, Farley, Farrington, Finemore, Garsoe, Good, Hancock, Hoffses, Hunter, Kauffman, Kelleher, Kelley, Littlefield, MacLeod, Maxwell, McNally, Morton, Norris, Parks, Perkins, Pratt, Ross, Santoro, Shaw, Silverman, Sproul, Stillings, Theriault, Trask, Trumbull, Twitchell, Walker, Willard.

NAY — Albert, Baker, Berry, G. W.; Berry, P. P.; Berube, Binnette, Boudreau, Briggs, Bustin, Carter, Chonko, Clark, Connolly, Cooney, Cottrell, Crommett, Curran, Curtis, T. S., Jr.; Dam, Dow, Drigotas, Dudley, Emery, D. F.; Farnham, Faucher, Fecteau, Ferris, Fraser, Gahagan, Gauthier, Goodwin, H.; Goodwin, K.; Greenlaw, Hobbins, Immonen, Jackson, Jacques, Kelley, R. P.; Keyte, Kilroy, Knight, LaCharite, LaPointe, Lawry, LeBlanc, Lewis, E.; Lewis, J.; Lynch, Maddox, Mahany, Martin, McCormick, McHenry, McKernan, McMahan, McTeague, Merrill, Mills, Morin, L.; Morin, V.; Murchison, Murray, Najarian, O'Brien, Palmer, Peterson, Pontbriand, Rolde, Rollins, Sheltra, Shute, Smith, D. M.; Smith, S.; Snowe, Soulas, Strout, Talbot, Tanguay, Tierney, Tyndale, Wheeler, White, Wood, M. E.

ABSENT — Carrier, Deshaies, Dunleavy, Flynn, Genest, Hamblen, Haskell, Herrick, Huber, Jalbert, Mulkern, Ricker, Simpson, L. E.; Susi, Webber, Whitzell.

Yes, 51; No, 83; Absent, 16.

The SPEAKER: Fifty-one having voted in the affirmative and eighty-three in the negative, with sixteen being absent, the motion does not prevail.

Thereupon, the Minority "Ought to pass" Report was accepted, the New Draft read once and assigned for second reading tomorrow.

Consent Calendar

First Day

(H. P. 1940) (L. D. 2477) Emergency, Bill "An Act Relating to the Powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1 in Penobscot County" — Committee on Legal Affairs reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-704)

(S. P. 720) (L. D. 2132) Emergency, Resolve Authorizing the Town of Bingham to Remove Sand Bars at Confluence of Austin Stream and Kennebec River — Committee on Public Utilities reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-337)

No objection having been noted, were assigned to the Consent Calendar's Second Day list.

Consent Calendar

Second Day

(S. P. 844) (L. D. 2385) Emergency, Bill "An Act Prohibiting Swimming or Bathing in Mt. Zircon Reservoir, Blanchard Reservoir and the Distribution or Pettengill Reservoir all in Rumford, Oxford County" (C. "A" S-354)

(H. P. 1924) (L. D. 2457) Resolve Designating a Certain Man-made Lake in Berwick as "Lake Hatfield"

(H. P. 1766) (L. D. 2234) Bill "An Act to Provide Financial Assistance to Nonprofit Nursing Homes" (C. "A" H-701)

No objection having been noted, were passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Passed to Be Engrossed

Bill "An Act Relating to Citizenship and Residency Requirements for Employment in the State's Classified Service" (S. P. 909) (L. D. 2516)

Bill "An Act Relating to Duties of the Attorney General" (S. P. 780) (L. D. 2236) (C. "A" S-352)

Resolve to Reimburse A. D. Soucy Co. of Fort Kent for Redemption of Cigarette Stamps (H. P. 1922) (L. D. 2460)

Resolve to Reimburse Reid's Confectionery Company of Houlton for Redemption of Cigarette Stamps (H. P. 1923) (L. D. 2461)

Resolve Reimbursing the Town of Wade for Welfare Expenditures in Behalf of a Nonsettled State Case (H. P. 1932) (L. D. 2465)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading, read the second time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Enactor

Reconsidered

An Act to Clarify the Power of the Commissioner of Maine Department of Transportation and the Chief of the Maine State Police to Lower Speed Limits in Order to Provide Energy Conservation (H. P. 1857) (L. D. 2350)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Wood of Brooks, under suspension of the rules, the House reconsidered its action whereby the Bill was passed to be engrossed.

The same gentleman offered House Amendment "B" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "B" (H-705) was read by the Clerk and adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I am still convinced that this bill should not be passed in this particular form. There is nothing wrong with this amendment that has just been offered. But we put an amendment on; I offered an amendment a few days ago in this House and it was accepted by the House by a fairly good majority. And when it comes back from the other branch it comes back in non-concurrence. I don't believe we need this bill without this amendment that I offered, because it is going to cause a lot of hardship on a lot of people unnecessarily. And that is one of the purposes I came down here for.

I vote that you carefully consider what

we are doing. I don't mind cutting the speed limit to 55; I think it is a must. I don't think it saves any lives. We have killed just as many people this year as we did in previous years — more. But it probably does save a little gasoline in some cars. But in some cars it makes them use more if you limp along the road at half speed. But that I don't want to debate. The thing I want to debate is taking off your credit points at 55. I think it is allright to take away your points from your license at 70 like we always did. It think it is all right to fine a person that goes over 55, but when people start losing their points, you are going to end up hiring a lot more people to have these hearings, because everybody is going to be in here for a hearing. You are going to end up with a lot more people on welfare because they don't have their license and can't get to work. And I hope you will consider this before you finally enact this bill. I think it is bad without the amendment that I offered.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is passage to be engrossed as amended in non-concurrence. All those in favor of that motion will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken.

90 having voted in the affirmative and 20 having voted in the negative, the motion did prevail.

Sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act Increasing the Indebtedness of Stonington Water Company (H. P. 1910) (L. D. 2446)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 115 voted in favor of same and 3 against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Passed to Be Enacted

An Act to Repeal Certain Due Process of Law Provisions by Governmental Agencies (S. P. 171) (L. D. 2129) (H. "A" H-687)

An Act to Prevent Physical Handicap Discrimination under Human Rights Act (H. P. 1665) (L. D. 2058) (H. "A" H-668)

An Act Relating to the Expunging of Certain Records of Arrest (H. P. 1957) (L. D. 2492)

An Act to Amend the Charter of Augusta Sanitary District (H. P. 1967) (L. D. 2506)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day

The Chair laid before the House the first tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Making Current Service Appropriations from the General Fund and Allocating Money from the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1975" (S. P. 905) (L. D. 2508)

Tabled — February 21, by Mr. Sproul of Augusta.

Pending — Motion of Mr. Simpson of Standish that House Amendment "A" (H-702) be indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Birt of East Millinocket, retabled pending the motion of Mr. Simpson of Standish that House Amendment "A" be indefinitely postponed and tomorrow assigned.

Supplement No. 1 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent.

An Act Increasing Borrowing Capacity of School Administrative Districts No. 25 and 42 (H. P. 1974) (L. D. 2515)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 118 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Mr. Birt of East Millinocket,

Adjourned until ten-thirty tomorrow morning.