

# 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

## SENATE

Tuesday, January 15, 1974

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by the Rev. Kenneth Brookes of Augusta.

Reading of the Journal of yesterday.

### Papers from the House

#### House Papers

Bills, Resolve and Resolutions today received from the House requiring Reference to Committees were acted upon in concurrence, except for the following:

Bill, "An Act to Initiate Issuance of Nonresident Marine Sports Fishing Licenses," (H. P. 1849) (L. D. 2342)

Comes from the House referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife and Ordered Printed.

On motion by Mr. Huber of Knox, referred to the Committee on Marine Resources and Ordered Printed in non-concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

#### Senate Papers Public Utilities

Mrs. Cummings of Penobscot presented, Bill, "An Act to Provide for Continuation of Service by Cable Television Systems, to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Communications Commission Regulations and to Fix Liability for Cable Television Programming." (S. P. 827)

Which was referred to the Committee on Public Utilities and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

### State Government

Mr. Speers of Kennebec presented, Bill, "An Act to Establish Better Interlocal Cooperation in Preparedness for Civil Disasters and Emergencies." (S. P. 828)

Mr. Brennan of Cumberland presented, Bill, "An Act Providing for Registration and Reporting of Petroleum Product Suppliers in the State of Maine." (S. P. 829)

Which were referred to the Committee on State Government and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

### Veterans and Retirement

Mr. Richardson of Cumberland presented, Bill, "An Act Relating to Retirement of Attorney General, Deputy Attorneys General and Assistant Attorneys General." (S. P. 830)

Which was referred to the Committee on Veterans and Retirement and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

### Committee Reports

#### House

#### Ought to Pass

The Committee on Transportation on, Bill, "An Act Relating to Area Directional Sign for Rangeley Lakes-Saddleback Mountain Region." (H. P. 1681) (L. D. 2074)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

The Committee on Transportation on, Bill, "An Act to Provide for Special Motor Vehicle License Plates Observing the Bicentennial of the American Revolution." (H. P. 1720) (L. D. 2113)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on, Bill, "An Act Providing Funds for Marine Research." (H. P. 1768) (L. D. 2240)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

Come from the House, the Bills Passed to be Engrossed.

Which reports were Read and Accepted in concurrence, the Bills Read Once and Tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

#### Ought to Pass — As Amended

The Committee on Education on, Bill, "An Act to Authorize Satellite Centers for Vocational Education." (H. P. 1757) (L. D. 2216)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-627).

The Committee on Legal Affairs on, Resolve, to Reimburse Sheila Herbert of Chelsea for Damage to Motor Vehicle by State Ward. (H. P. 1704) (L. D. 2097)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-628).

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on, Bill, "An Act Relating to a State-wide Food Stamp Program." (H. P. 1774) (L. D. 2246)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-629).

Come from the House, the Bills and Resolve Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A".

Which reports were Read and Accepted in concurrence and the Bills and Resolve Read Once. Committee Amendments "A" were Read and Adopted in concurrence and the Bills and Resolve, as Amended, Tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

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### Senate Ought to Pass

Mr. Sewall for the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on, Resolve, Providing Funds to Settle an American Arbitration Association Award and for Extra Costs in Constructing a Fish Trap on the Union River. (S. P. 784) (L. D. 2264)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

Mr. Henley for the Committee on Legal Affairs on, Bill, "An Act Relating to Use of Name of the State by Non-profit Corporations." (S. P. 803) (L. D. 2297)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

Which reports were Read and Accepted, the Bill and Resolve Read Once and Tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

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### Second Readers

The Committee on Bills in the Second Reading reported the following:

#### House

Bill, "An Act to Authorize Maine Maritime Academy to Grant Honorary Degrees." (H. P. 1693) (L. D. 2086)

Resolve, to Reimburse Lauren Sturtevant of South Paris for Damage to Property by Escapee from Boys Training Center. (H. P. 1699) (L. D. 2092)

Resolve, to Reimburse Ansel Fowler Sr., of Costigan for Loss of Beehives. (H. P. 1708) (L. D. 2101)

Bill, "An Act Relating to the Collection and Disposal of Solid Wastes by the Lincoln County Commissioners." (H. P. 1743) (L. D. 2202)

Resolve, to Reimburse Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Glidden of Gardiner for Property Damages Caused by State Wards. (H. P. 1772) (L. D. 2244)

Bill, "An Act to Establish a Vocational Training and Sheltered Workshop at Camp Waban in Sanford." (H. P. 1799) (L. D. 2279)

Which were Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed in concurrence.

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### House — As Amended

Bill, "An Act Increasing Mileage Allowance for State Employees on State Business." (H. P. 1683) (L. D. 2076)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended, in concurrence.

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### Senate

Bill, "An Act Relating to Equitable Relief after Period of Redemption in Real Estate Sales or Liens." (S. P. 732) (L. D. 2144)

Bill, "An Act to Authorize County Commissioners of Oxford County to use 1974 Federal Revenue Sharing Funds for Hangar Facility at Oxford County Regional Airport." (S. P. 741) (L. D. 2153)

Bill, "An Act to Authorize County Commissioners of Oxford County to Use 1974 Federal Revenue Sharing Funds to Support Oxford County Extension Service." (S. P. 743) (L. D. 2155)

Which were Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

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Bill, "An Act Relating to Salary of the Administrative Assistant, Supreme Judicial Court." (S. P. 767) (L. D. 2198)

Which was Read a Second Time.

Mr. Conley of Cumberland then presented Senate Amendment "A" and moved its Adoption.

Senate Amendment "A", Filing No. S-312, was Read and Adopted and the Bill, as Amended, Passed to be Engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

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### Senate — As Amended

Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Eliminate the Three-month Voting Residence Requirement Following a Change of Residence Within the State. (S. P. 709) (L. D. 2121)

Bill, "An Act to Establish Guidelines for Release of Accused Persons Pending Trial." (S. P. 766) (L. D. 2197)

Which were Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended.  
Sent down for concurrence.

### Enactors

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

An Act Relating to Breaking and Entering, and Larceny of, Trailers and Semitrailers. (S. P. 712) (L. D. 2124)

Which was Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

### Emergencies

An Act Increasing Borrowing Capacity of School Administrative District No. 64. (H. P. 1692) (L. D. 2085)

An Act Relating to Membership on Maine State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. (H. P. 1679) (L. D. 2072)

These being emergency measures and having received the affirmative votes of 27 members of the Senate, were Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, were by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

### Orders of the Day

The President laid before the Senate the following tabled and specially assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act to Clarify the Exemption Date in the Minimum Lot Size Law." (H. P. 1731) (L. D. 2175)

Tabled — January 11, 1974 by Senator Berry of Cumberland.

Pending — Enactment.

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

MR. BERRY: Mr. President, we have been waiting for an amendment on this bill, which will be ready tomorrow. In anticipation of that, I would like to move that the rules be suspended and the Senate reconsider its action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry, moves that under suspension of the rules the Senate reconsider its action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed. Is this the pleasure of the Senate?

The motion prevailed.

Thereupon, on further motion by the same Senator, retabled pending Passage to be Engrossed.

### (Off Record Remarks)

On motion by Mr. Sewall of Penobscot, recessed, pending the sounding of the bell.

### After Recess

Called to order by the President.

Out of order and under suspension of the rules, the Senate voted to take up the following:

### Order

On motion by Mr. Speers of Kennebec, ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on State Government is directed to report out a bill "An Act to Redistribute Certain Statutory Powers Now Vested in the Executive Council." (S. P. 831)

Which was Read and Passed.

Under suspension of the rules, sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Mr. Speers of Kennebec was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

MR. SPEERS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: There came to my attention last night what I regard as a rather serious situation in the State of Maine. I attended a Kennebec County Republican Caucus and was informed, as were those others who were present, that there are some newspaper media in the State of Maine which are henceforth refusing to print notices of political caucuses in this state as news items and that they will henceforth be printing them as legal notices, requiring payment by those county and town caucuses, town parties, in order to print these notices.

I think it is axiomatic, particularly in this year, that government in general is being attacked, that the populace in general is rather cynical of government, and that the best way to approach this problem is to get more and more people involved in our political process. This is the very basis of democracy and it should be encouraged in every way possible.

Last Spring I introduced a measure which would require that all political

caucuses on both sides of the aisle in every town of the state be held on one single day. And as you recall the debate on that measure, it was my intent and my hope that the news media of the state would advertise and would comment upon that single caucus day to such an extent that the people of the state would be well aware that this is the basic foundation of the political process and that they would be more inclined to participate in it. It was my hope that there would be articles in the newspapers, that there would be comments in editorials, that there would be comments on the radio, that there would be comments on television, urging individuals to become involved in our political process and to attend those town caucuses. What have we had for a response? We have had, on the part of some newspapers of the state, the attitude that, far from advertising and commenting on these caucuses to a far greater extent than has been the case in the past, they no longer are even going to print them as news items, and are go-

ing to relegate them to the status of legal notices — and I think we all understand how often those are read — and ask the various parties to pay for these notices as well.

I think this is very much akin to taking the attitude that an election on November 7th or November 5th, or whenever the general election is held in any particular year, should be relegated to the status of a legal notice and that there should be no more comment and no news stories written about it in the newspapers.

I certainly hope that these remarks find their way to the appropriate individuals who are making this kind of a policy, and I consider this attitude on the part of the media of the State of Maine nothing short of disgraceful. Thank you, Mr. President.

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On motion by Mr. Sewall of Penobscot,  
Adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.