

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LEGISLATIVE RECORD**

OF THE

***One Hundred and Eighth  
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

**Volume I**

**January 5, 1977 to May 25, 1977**

KJ PRINTING  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

**SENATE**

Tuesday, January 18, 1977

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by Reverend Bruce W. Meyer, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Augusta.

REV. MEYER: Great God and Gracious Father, we pause in this afternoon hour to acknowledge once again our constant need for wisdom and direction in all areas of our lives, and certainly here in this Chamber, not only to know what we should do, but to have the strength and conviction to do it Your way.

To those who have been chosen to lead and govern this State and this Nation, to those whose decisions determine and under-girt the quality of the lives of so many others, we ask, Oh Lord, that you would use their minds and all the respective gifts and talents and the ability with which you have graced, use them to bring health and healing and justice to all people.

And, Oh Lord, and as the sun goes down on this day, we thank You as our sustaining and Loving Father for the blessing of every day of life that you give us, and we remember, Oh Lord, the opportunities we have in each day to be a blessing to others; may it be so again this day. In Your Name, Amen.

Reading of the Journal of yesterday.

Out of Order and Under Suspension of the Rules the Senate voted to consider the following:

**Senate Paper**

Mr. Huber of Cumberland presented, Bill, An Act to Allocate Money from Title II of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976 for the Expenditure of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1977. (Emergency) (S. P. 49)

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and Ordered Printed.

Which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Ordered Printed.

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

**Papers from the House**

**Joint Orders**

An Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing: The Red Eddies of Edward Little High School are winners of the State Class A Football Championship for the Academic Year 1976. (H. P. 74)

An Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing: The Save Loring Committee, chaired by Paul D. Haines, reversing the decision to implement reductions at Loring Air Force Base. (H. P. 77)

Come from the House, Read and Passed.

Which were Read and Passed, in concurrence.

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Finance Officer be authorized and directed to pay each member of the Legislature prior to January 25th of 1977 a \$200 allowance for constituent services as authorized in Title 3, section 2 of the Maine Revised Statutes. (H. P. 78)

Comes from the House, Read and Passed.

Which was Read and Passed, in concurrence.

**Joint Resolutions**

A Joint Resolution In Memoriam:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of Gerard R. Berube of Lewiston. (H. P. 75)

A Joint Resolution In Memoriam:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of The Honorable Frederic H. Bird of Rockland, who served in the Legislature from 1945 to 1950 on the Executive Council from 1951 to 1952; (H. P. 76)

Come from the House, Read and Adopted.

Which were Read and Adopted, in concurrence.

**Papers from the House  
House Papers**

Bills and Resolution today received from the House requiring reference to Committee were acted upon in concurrence with the following exceptions.

Bill, An Act to Authorize the University of Maine to Execute a Charitable Gift Annuity with a Donor. (H. P. 63) (L. D. 88)

Committee on Education suggested.

Comes from the House referred to the Committee on Business Legislation and ordered printed.

Which was referred to the Committee on Business Legislation and Ordered Printed in concurrence.

(See action later today)

Bill, An Act to Ensure that the Uniform Property Tax Rate Conforms to Limits on Educational Funding Established by Statute. (Emergency) (H. P. 66) (L. D. 91)

Committee on Education suggested.

Comes from the House referred to the Committee on Taxation and Ordered printed.

On motion by Mr. Speers of Kennebec, tabled pending reference and Specially Assigned for January 20, 1977.

**Study Report**

**Local and County Government**

The Committee on Local and County Government to which was referred the study relative to Advance the Schedule for Legislative Approval of County Budgets and to Change the Interest Charges on Delinquent County Taxes, pursuant to H. P. 1760 of the 107th Legislature, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to submit its findings and to report that the accompanying Bill, An Act to Advance the Schedule for Legislative Approval of County Budgets and to Change the Interest Charges on Delinquent County Taxes. (H. P. 73) (L. D. 63) be referred to the Committee on Local and County Government for public hearing and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 17.

**Study Report**

**Local and County Government**

The Committee on Local and County Government to which was referred the study relative to Revise the Salaries of County Officers, pursuant to H. P. 1477 of the 107th Legislature, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to submit its findings and to report that the accompanying Bill, An Act to Revise the Salaries of County Officers, (H. P. 72) (L. D. 62) be referred to the Committee on Local and County Government for public hearing and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 17.

Come from the House, the reports Read and Accepted and the Bills referred to the Committee on Local and County Government.

Which reports were Read and Accepted, in concurrence, and the Bills referred to the Committee on Local and County Government, in concurrence.

**Reconsidered Matter**

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Mr. Speers.

Mr. SPEERS: Mr. President, I move the Senate reconsider its action whereby Item 1-6, (L. D. 88) was referred to Committee on Business Legislation in concurrence.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Mr. Speers, now moves the Senate reconsider its action whereby Item 1-6 (L. D. 88) was referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Is this the pleasure of the Senate. It is a vote.

On subsequent Motion by Mr. Speers of Kennebec, tabled pending reference and Specially Assigned for January 20, 1977.

**Communication**

**Department of**

**Educational and Cultural Services**

January 13, 1977

To: Members of the 108th Legislature  
Bureau of the Budget

From: H. Sawin Millett Jr., Commissioner  
Subject: Actual Education Costs for Base Year 1975-76

Pursuant to the provisions of 20 M.R.S.A. 3744 I forward herewith notification of the "actual education costs" as defined in subsection 13 of 20 M.R.S.A. 3743 for the base year 1975-76.

A. Elementary operating costs	\$131,179,656
B. Seconary operating costs	81,215,867
C. Costs of special education programs operated by administrative units	8,146,596
D. Costs of special education tuition and board, excluding medical costs	2,655,931
E. Costs of vocational education programs	6,382,259
F. Transportation costs	
(1) Operating costs	15,262,961
(2) Purchase of buses	1,891,498
G. Debt service costs	20,726,150
H. Major capital costs	3,130,842
I. Costs of unusual enrollment adjustments	200,000
J. Cost of geographic isolation adjustments	189,134
K. Costs of reimbursement for private school transportation	166,107
L. State expenditures (includes portion from Uniform Property Tax)	

(1) Special education costs for programs operated by the administrative units (prorated at 81.342%)	5,494,170
(2) Special education tuition and board, excluding medical costs	2,655,931
(3) Vocational education costs	4,613,115
(4) Transportation costs	
a. Operating costs (prorated at 97.454%)	13,307,231
b. Purchase of buses	2,685,179
(5) Debt service costs	20,726,150
(6) Major capital costs	634,818
(7) Costs of unusual enrollment adjustments	200,000
(8) Costs of geographic isolation adjustments	189,134
(9) Costs of reimbursement for private school transportation	166,107
M. Audit adjustments	
(No statutory provision for 1975-76)	N/A
N. Optional local appropriations with state participation	N/A*
O. Optional local funds without state participation	

(1) Funds raised for paragraphs A to KN/A*	
(2) Special hardship waivers granted by the State Board	75,582

The above figures include all adjustments in expenditure reports through January 12, 1977 and include state and local monies only except that P. L. 874 funds are included.

\* The school funding statutes in effect for the base year 1975-76 did not provide for "optional local appropriations with state participation" and "optional local funds without state participation" as such. In their place the following funds were reported as having been appropriated by local units during the base year:

	Local	State
1st Maintenance of effort	\$3,902,071	0
Local leeway	14,192,310	\$9,034,615
2nd Maintenance of effort	2,374,450	

NOTE: The sum of items A to H represent the total expenditures for the base year while items I to O are duplicative.

Which was Read and Ordered Placed on File.

**Senate Papers**

Mr. Collins of Aroostook (Cosponsor: Mr. Morrell of Cumberland) presented, Bill, "An Act Appropriating Funds for the Save Loring Committee." (Emergency) (S. P. 48)

Which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Mr. Hichens of York presented, Bill, "An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Deaf and Mentally Retarded Persons." (S. P. 47)

Which was referred to the Committee on Human Resources and Ordered Printed.  
Sent down for concurrence.

**Second Readers**

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

**Senate — As Amended**

Bill, "An Act to Revise the Board of Bar Examiners Law." (S. P. 5) (L. D. 10)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, As Amended.

Sent down for concurrence.

**(Off Record Remarks)**

On motion of Mr. Huber of Cumberland,  
Adjourned until 4:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.