

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*Ninety-Third Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1947

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

**HOUSE**

Wednesday, January 15, 1947.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Merle Golding of Augusta.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

**Paper from the Senate**

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of the town of Palermo (S. P. 34)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Ways and Bridges.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Ways and Bridges in concurrence.

The following Bills and Resolves were received, and upon recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the following Committees:

**Claims**

Resolve in favor of Carl Deering, of Buxton (H. P. 41) (Presented by Mr. Byron of Hollis)  
(Ordered printed.)

Resolve in favor of Maurice Watson of Monticello (H. P. 42) (Presented by Mr. Day of Monticello)  
(Ordered printed.)

Resolve in favor of George D. Craft, of St. John, N. B. (H. P. 43) (Presented by Mr. Hayward of Machias)  
(Ordered printed.)

Resolve in favor of Willis C. Foster, of Reading, Massachusetts (H. P. 44) (Presented by same gentleman)  
(Ordered printed.)

Resolve in favor of George D. Murray, of York Village (H. P. 45) (Presented by Mr. Marshall of York)  
(Ordered printed.)

Resolve in favor of Richard Storer, of Boothbay Harbor; for Injuries (H. P. 46) (Presented by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor)  
(Ordered printed.)

Sent up for concurrence.

Resolve in favor of Donald H. Thurlow, of Pine Point (H. P. 47) (Presented by Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth)

Resolve in favor of Kenneth S. Taylor, of Belfast (H. P. 48) (Presented by Mr. Clements of Belfast)

Resolve in favor of James McGuire, of Belfast (H. P. 49) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of Lee Good, of Monticello (H. P. 50) (Presented by Mr. Day of Monticello)

Resolve in favor of Leon H. Libby, of Saco (H. P. 51) (Presented by Mr. Jordan of Saco)

Resolve in favor of Charles L. Littlefield, of Cape Neddick (H. P. 52) (Presented by Mr. Marshall of York)

Resolve in favor of Richard Storer, of Boothbay Harbor; for Damage to Motorcycle (H. P. 53) (Presented by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor)

Sent up for concurrence.

**Interior Waters**

Bill "An Act Releasing to the City of Bangor the State's Interest in the Bed of Kenduskeag Stream in said Bangor (H. P. 54) (Presented by Mr. Webber of Bangor)

(Ordered printed.)

Sent up for concurrence.

**Judiciary**

Bill "An Act relating to Date of General Elections" (H. P. 55) (Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston)  
(Ordered printed.)

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Date of the General Election (H. P. 56) (Presented by same gentleman)  
(Ordered printed.)

Bill "An Act Declaring Maine Maritime Academy as a State Agency" (H. P. 57) (Presented by Mr. Lord of Camden)  
(Ordered printed.)

Bill "An Act Declaring Greater Portland Public Development Commission as a State Agency" (H. P. 58) (Presented by Mr. Weeks of So. Portland)  
(Ordered printed.)

Sent up for concurrence.

**Mercantile Affairs and Insurance**

Bill "An Act relating to Discrimination for Life Insurance Companies" (H. P. 59) (Presented by Mr. Bowker of Portland)  
(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Requirements of Foreign Insurance Companies to Obtain License" (H. P.

60) (Presented by same gentleman)  
(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Deputy Insurance Commissioners" (H. P. 61) (Presented by same gentleman)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Reciprocal Contracts of Indemnity" (H. P. 62) (Presented by same gentleman)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Annual Excise Tax on Insurance Companies" (H. P. 63) (Presented by same gentleman)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Fire, Marine and Inland Marine Insurance Rate Regulation" (H. P. 64)

(Presented by same gentleman)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Casualty and Surety Insurance Rate Regulation" (H. P. 65) (Presented by same gentleman)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Time Limit for Adjusting and Paying Fire Losses" (H. P. 66) (Presented by Mr. Jordan of Saco)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Pensions

Resolve providing for a State Pension for John Wells, Sr. (H. P. 67) (Presented by Mr. Ellis of Castle Hill)

Resolve providing for an Increase in the State Pension for Blanche A. Grant, of East Winn (H. P. 68)

(Presented by Mr. House of Lincoln)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Maude E. Hamilton, of Saco (H. P. 69) (Presented by Mr. Jordan of Saco)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Alfred Gero, of Waterville (H. P. 70) (Presented by Mr. Poulin of Waterville)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Elizabeth A. Mason, of Hermon (H. P. 71) (Presented by Mr. Thomas of Hampden)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Public Utilities

Bill "An Act relating to Incorporation of Kittery Water District" (H. P. 72) (Presented by Mr. Seeger of Kittery)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Salaries and Fees

Bill "An Act Adjusting the Salaries of All Full-Time State Em-

ployees" (H. P. 73) (Presented by Mr. Mills of Farmington)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Compensation of Members of Boards of Registration" (H. P. 74) (Presented by Mr. Poulin of Waterville)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### University of Maine Resolution Tabled

Joint Resolution relating to Policy for the University of Maine (H. P. 75) (Presented by Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Chase.

Mr. CHASE: Mr. Speaker, in his Inaugural Message the Governor urged the Legislature to give consideration to the University of Maine with respect to its long-term policy on the points of size, tuition and admission requirements.

In accordance with the usual procedure, the Governor's Message was referred to the Committee on Governor's Message, and the several matters referred to therein are for ultimate reference to the appropriate committee. There is, however, no bill or resolve up to now around which such a discussion can take place, and it is for the purpose of serving as a focal point for such discussion and an outline around which the Legislature, if it chooses, may give an indication of its view as to policy, that this resolution is introduced. It does not represent the official view of the Governor or of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine or of the administration of the University or even, necessarily, my own opinion, although I think you might reasonably draw the inference that since I wrote the resolution there are some of my own ideas which are contained in it.

When the resolution is printed, if the House shall so order, and on motion for the reference of the resolution to a committee, I shall speak again on the general policy of the University of Maine, and at that time I will also try to answer any questions which the members of the House may address to me in the meantime regarding the University. It should be understood, however, that I can speak only for myself and as a member of the House in this connection and that neither in

the resolution nor in what I say in regard to it do I presume to state what the policy of the Board of Trustees is.

I move that the resolution be printed and that it lie on the table.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Chase, moves that the resolution be ordered printed and lie on the table pending reference to a committee. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and the resolution was so tabled.

### Ways and Bridges

Bill "An Act relating to Snow Removal" (H. P. 76) (Presented by Mr. Corson of Hodgdon)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Resolve in favor of the town of Montville (H. P. 77) (Presented by Mr. Ames of Northport)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Orders of the Day

On motion by Mr. Mills of Farmington, the House voted to take from the table the 10th tabled and unassigned matter, Joint Order relative to the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on Alcoholic Control. (H.P. 24) tabled by that gentleman on January 9th pending passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Farmington, Mr. Mills.

Mr. MILLS: Mr. Speaker, this order is one which will, as you know, create another Joint Standing Committee. The functions of the committee presumably would be to handle matters of an alcoholic nature in the way of alcoholic control. As you know, we have a Committee on Temperance, which may or may not be a misnomer for the committee which has functioned since time immemorial, they say, in handling such legislation. However, if the membership of the House and the unmentionable body at the other end of the hall wish to perpetrate upon us another committee and add to our bureaucracy here, certainly we want to have it, if it will serve useful purpose.

When I placed this order on the able I did not know that lurking in the shade behind this order was the distinguished gentleman from Rockland, Mr. Sleeper, who serves

as the opposite endman in the fourth section. It was with a good deal of pleasure that I found that he was the father of the order and that he would consent to speak to us this morning. Years ago, it was pleasure to serve with him through a couple of sessions, and I know that all of us will listen attentively to any proposition which he has to make.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the passage of the order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rockland, Mr. Sleeper.

Mr. SLEEPER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I will not admit that I am the father of this order. I have always felt that the Temperance Committee, so-called, was an insult to the average person's intelligence. The first thing that the State of Maine did when it became a State in 1820 was to adopt a stand on temperance, and from that day until 1935, when I first came here, the State of Maine was a so-called temperance state, and the only matters that we had to do with on the control of alcohol were of a temperance nature.

Since 1935, the State of Maine has been in the alcoholic business, and it has turned out to be a very good business: almost half of our general funds come from the sale of alcohol through the State stores and through the license fees that come from the malt beverage associations and dealers.

It seems rather silly to me, if I introduce a bill pertaining to the raising of corn or something of an agricultural nature, to have that bill referred to the Judiciary Committee, and it seems foolish to me, if I introduce a bill that should be referred to the Judiciary Committee, to have it go to the Committee on Agriculture. It is equally foolish to introduce a bill which has nothing to do with temperance and have it sent to the Temperance Committee.

I served on the Temperance Committee two terms. I was appointed as alcoholic member of the Temperance Committee. That is the way that the business has been done. The Speaker, having no committee dealing with alcoholic control, is forced to put on the Temperance Committee quite a lot of members who are not temperate. He also has to put on the Temperance Committee members who

are temperate. So there we sit, half of us listening to alcoholic bills with interest and bored with temperance measures; the temperance members sit through the hearing bored by alcoholic measures and imbued and enthused by temperance measures.

I am not trying to commit the State an added bureaucracy. I felt this State was like other states, so I wrote to the Secretary of the Legislature of New Hampshire and I wrote to the Secretary of the General Court of Massachusetts and I wrote to the Clerk of the House in Connecticut, whom I boarded with in college. All these states have committees on alcoholic control. What they have done we can well do. It will not cost us one red penny to do what we should do, and that is to have a Committee on Alcoholic Control. The only opposition there could possibly be to this movement would be the alcoholic members of the Committee on Temperance.

So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, if this order receives passage, that if any of the members you have on the Temperance Committee wish to serve on this committee, that you allow them to serve there. There will be no added expense, because the clerk who has been appointed for the Temperance Committee can serve on the Alcoholic Control Committee. Then, if there are any temperance measures introduced in this House, they can be referred to the Temperance Com-

mittee. It is only logical commonsense. Every other state has a Committee on Alcoholic Control. The State of Maine is in that business. Why not allow them to do it the way they should do it and not do it through a Temperance Committee?

I move, Mr. Speaker, that the order be given passage.

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the order receive passage?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a viva voce vote on it.

The SPEAKER: All those in favor of the passage of this order will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being doubted.

A division was had.

Eighty-five having voted in the affirmative and 28 in the negative, the motion prevailed and the order received passage and was sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The House is proceeding under Orders of the Day. If there is no further business, the Clerk will read the notices.

On motion by Mr. Moreau of Westbrook,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.