

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
August 3, 1981

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LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS

June 19, 1981

by

GOVERNOR JOSEPH E. BRENNAN

to the

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

One Hundred and Tenth Legislature

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH
 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
 110th LEGISLATURE
 JUNE 19, 1981

It gives me great pleasure to appear before you this evening . . . to congratulate you on a job WELL DONE . . . and to thank you for the many progressive and important bills you have passed . . . on behalf of the people we serve.

Over the past few weeks . . . this greatest share of attention . . . has been focused on a few areas of discord.

But the fact remains that this Legislature has accomplished a great deal.

And when the final record of the 110th Maine Legislature is compiled . . . you will be remembered . . . not for the disagreements . . . but for the positive achievements you enacted.

Let me cite a few examples.

Together . . . we have taken historic steps to address one of our most pervasive social problems . . . the abuse of alcohol . . . and its many unfortunate consequences.

Earlier this week . . . I signed into law a bill creating tough mandatory sentences . . . for those convicted of drunk driving . . . a crime that figures in two of every three traffic deaths.

Last week . . . I signed a landmark bill you enacted . . . to create a special fund to pay for programs dealing with the prevention and treatment of alcoholism.

Together . . . we have passed some important consumer legislation . . .

. . . Including a bill to establish a public advocate . . . whose responsibility will be to represent the consumer . . . in the deliberations of the Public Utilities Commission . . .

. . . And another to reduce the burden of a MANDATORY and UNFAIR minimum charge for electric service . . . which has been a particular hardship for our elderly and low income neighbors.

Together . . . we have written new legislation to promote our mutual goal of making Maine a more humane and more sensitive place to live . . .

. . . By prohibiting discrimination against children in housing . . .

. . . By guaranteeing privacy in divorce and child custody proceedings . . .

. . . And by furthering the security of the home . . . against the danger of fire.

Together . . . we have made important contributions to our economic future . . .

. . . By a major revision of our inheritance tax laws . . .

. . . By passing bond issues to support and assist vital industries . . .

. . . By deregulating intrastate trucking . . .

. . . And by providing the means TO ASSIST with the marketing of one of our most important products . . . the Maine potato.

Together . . . we have dealt creatively with the dangerous hazards of our modern world . . .

. . . By creating new means of protecting our land, waters and woods from the dangers of hazardous wastes . . .

. . . And by establishing a new Environmental Health Unit in state government.

Together . . . we have acted to improve the structure of state government . . .

. . . By creating a separate . . . and much-needed Department of Corrections . . .

. . . And by an important reform of our court system . . . which will streamline criminal justice in Maine . . . and convict the guilty more promptly . . . and surely.

And . . . again . . . we have enacted a highway program . . . that will continue to fund the Maine Department of Transportation at a level that will continue to mean safe roads and bridges for our people and our guests.

Without an increase in the gas tax.

The agreement we reached . . . together . . . proved once again . . . that men and women of good will . . . can set aside their differences . . . in recognition that what matters . . . is not winning or losing . . . but acting in the best interests of Maine . . . her people . . . and her future.

Some may say the long, painful process that led to compromise . . . exposed the weaknesses in our system.

I say it exposed the strengths . . . for compromise . . . is the art of give and take . . . and it has been the fuel of our government process . . . at every level of government . . . for more than 200 years.

It has worked throughout our history.

And it has worked again today here.

I congratulate each of you . . .

. . . For the concern you showed . . .

. . . For acting according to your consciences . . .

. . . And for the thoroughness of your study and attention . . .

. . . On this . . . and every other issue that came before you in six intensive months.

And I wish you . . . and your families . . . a very pleasant summer.