MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 15, 1999

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OFFICE DIRECTORS

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Consideration of Legislators' Appeals of Council Action on Bill Requests

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

• Next Legislative Council Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 1:00 p.m., Legislative Council Chamber

ADJOURNMENT

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE CHAIR

REP. G. STEVEN ROWE VICE-CHAIR



119th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEN. CHELLIE PINGREE
SEN. JANE A. AMERO
SEN. ANNE M. RAND
SEN. RICHARD A. BENNETT
REP. MICHAEL V. SAXL
REP. THOMAS W. MURPHY, JR.
REP. DAVID C. SHIAH
REP. RICHARD H. CAMPBELL

SARAH C. TUBBESING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 8, 1999

TO:

All Legislators Who Have Filed Appeals on Bill Requests

FROM:

Mark W. Lawrence, Chair

G. Steven Rowe, Vice-Chair

SUBJECT:

Legislative Council Meeting to Consider Appeals

The Legislative Council will meet next Monday, November 15, at 1:00 p.m., in the Legislative Council Chamber, Room 334, to consider the appeals that have been filed with the Revisor's Office. We wanted to tell you how we have organized this meeting so that you can plan accordingly.

Each member of the Council will have received copies of all of the appeal letters that were filed and have had an opportunity to review them prior to the meeting. Following the Council's past practice, we will give legislators the opportunity to speak briefly on behalf of their bills. However, it is not necessary for you to be present in order for your request to be considered. Although we will be taking up the appeals in alphabetical order, we will make every effort to accommodate those legislators who have long distances to travel.

In order to get through the **197 appeals** that have been filed, we will ask you to limit your remarks on each request **to 3 minutes**. Your remarks should focus on the **emergency nature** of your proposed legislation. Council members may have questions following your remarks.

We hope this information will assist you in planning your schedule, and encourage you to call either of us or other members of the Council if you have questions about the appeal process.

cc: Members of the Legislative Council

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 OPENING REMARKS

Introductory

- As you know, our primary purpose today is to consider legislators' appeals of our actions at the October 28 meeting to reject bill requests.
- Revisor's Office received 197 appeals by the deadline on November 4.
 - (This compares to 211 appeals 2 years ago from 87 members)
- Many legislators are here today to present their case in person.
 - Would like to welcome them and thank them for taking the time to come.
 - Have tried to develop a process that will give each legislator an equal opportunity to be heard will go through that in a minute.

Organization of the Book

- Before I ask Meg to briefly describe the materials in the book, would point out a couple of things.
 - a. We sent a letter to all legislators who had filed appeals informing them of this meeting and the process we would follow so that they could plan their schedules accordingly.
 - b. Remind **all** present that it is essential to limit our workload for the coming session so that we can all focus on the most important policy issues **and** complete our work on time.
- Ask Meg to go over the materials in the book.

Procedure

- Will go through the appeals in the order they appear in the book.
 - Alphabetical order.
 - Will try to accommodate those legislators who live more than an hour away so they can get home safely.
- Ask each legislator to **limit your remarks to 3 minutes.**
 - Our sole purpose in establishing a time limit is to ensure that **all** of you who are here today have an opportunity to speak.
 - As the memo you received indicated, our **primary interest** is in having you tell us why it is essential that your bill be dealt with in the coming session.
- We will take a vote on each request by show of hands in accordance with the Joint Rules, which require a roll call on each request.
- Again, it requires **6** "yes" votes for a bill to be accepted.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY.

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD BY COMMITTEE

Committee	Carried Over	Accepted 10 / 28	Appealed
Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry	9	6	9
Appropriations & Financial Affairs	25	3	8
Banking & Insurance	12	4	9
Business & Economic Development	29	4	16
Criminal Justice	23	8	9
Education & Cultural Affairs	12	13	28
Health & Human Services	28	14	13
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	21	2	7
Judiciary	29	11	13
Labor	32	5	11
Legal & Veterans Affairs	27	2	6
Marine Resources	6	2	2
Natural Resources	11 *	4	10
Research & Development	1	4	3
State & Local Government	13	5	12
Taxation	19	4	24
Transportation	13	5	12
Utilities & Energy	_7	_8	_5
Totals	317	104	197

^{*} A Joint Resolution was carried over in addition.

SPONSOR: Rep. Ahearne of Madawaska

LR: 3314

TITLE: Resolve, to Authorize the Assigning of Alphabetical Names to Unorganized Townships to Assist Compliance with Enhanced 9-1-1 Service

SUMMARY: This resolve authorizes the assigning of alphabetical place names to unorganized townships now designated by numbers to assist the enhanced 9-1-1 emergency service.

SPONSOR: Rep. Ahearne of Madawaska

LR: 3608

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Industrial Plumbers and Pipefitters

SUMMARY: This bill would permit industrial pipefitters to work on restroom facilities in industrial operations where they are employed under certain conditions. The bill would also eliminate the requirement that a master plumber employed in an industrial operation who supervises journeyman plumbers working toward a master plumbing license be responsible for any work performed by the journeymen outside of the industrial operation that employs the individuals.

SPONSOR: Rep. Ahearne of Madawaska

LR: 3843

TITLE: An Act to Require Abortion Clinics to Inform their Clients about the Option of Adoption

SUMMARY: This bill would require an abortion clinic that receives state funding to inform its clients that adoption is an alternative to abortion.

SPONSOR: Rep. Ahearne of Madawaska

LR: 3860

TITLE: An Act to Increase Penalties Attaching to Convictions

of Violence Against Pregnant Women

SUMMARY: This bill requires that, if a person is convicted of a

violent crime against a pregnant woman, the penalty would

be enhanced.

SPONSOR: Sen. Amero of Cumberland

LR: 3332

TITLE: Resolve, to Create a Sales Tax-free Week in September

SUMMARY: This resolve exempts all sales taking place during the

first full week of September from state sales tax.

SPONSOR: Sen. Amero of Cumberland

LR: 3371

TITLE: An Act to Establish State Death Benefits for Law Enforcement

Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a state death benefit for law

enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

SPONSOR: Rep. Andrews of York

LR: 3437

TITLE: An Act to Increase the Cap on School Construction Funding

SUMMARY: This bill increases the current cap on school construction

funding by \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 and another

\$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2001-02.

SPONSOR: Sen. Bennett of Oxford

LR: 3583

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Taxation of

Manufactured Homes as Stock in Trade

SUMMARY: This bill treats a manufactured home as stock in trade for

purposes of taxation regardless of whether it has been occupied in its present location as long as it is not

connected to water or sewer and is offered for sale to the

general public.

SPONSOR: Sen. Bennett of Oxford

LR: 3695

TITLE: An Act to Ensure Accuracy in the Determination of Income

in the School Funding Formula

SUMMARY: This bill would require that, in determining a

municipality's income for school funding formula purposes,

the Department of Education must use income tax data instead of census data. This bill would also establish a

procedure for appeals of funding determinations.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS: LD(S) 1799

SPONSOR: Sen. Bennett of Oxford

LR: 3710

TITLE: An Act to Allow State Pharmacies a Tax Credit for

Unreimbursed Medicaid Costs

SUMMARY: Maine pharmacies are required to absorb the \$2 co-pay for any Medicaid recipient who asserts that that recipient

cannot pay it. This bill allows pharmacies the opportunity

to receive a tax credit for the unreimbursed sums they

absorb in this process.

SPONSOR: Rep. Berry of Livermore

LR: 3844

TITLE: An Act to Prohibit the Use of Peer Review Teams for the

Purpose of Employee Transfer or Promotion

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits the use of peer review teams for the

purpose of employee transfer or promotion.

SPONSOR: Rep. Brennan of Portland

LR: 3229

TITLE: An Act Regarding Admission to the State University System,

the Technical Colleges and Maine Maritime Academy

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits the University of Maine System, the

technical colleges and Maine Maritime Academy from requiring the submission of Scholastic Aptitute Tests

(SAT's) results as a condition of acceptance.

SPONSOR: Rep. Brooks of Winterport

LR: 3340

TITLE: Resolve, to Require Oversight of Strategic Planning

Conducted by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Including Long-term Care Needs of the Chronically Mentally Ill

SUMMARY: This resolve will provide a role for the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in the planning and

delivery of services to persons with chronic mental illness in hospitals and other settings, both public and private.

SPONSOR: Rep. Bruno of Raymond

LR: 3369

TITLE: An Act to Repeal the Unitary Pricing Law

SUMMARY: This bill repeals subchapter 10 of the Maine Pharmacy Act which prohibits competition in pharmaceutical pricing.

SPONSOR: Rep. Bruno of Raymond

LR: 3425

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating Farm Wineries

SUMMARY: This bill amends the laws regulating farm wineries as they

relate to wine blending and fortification.

SPONSOR: Rep. Bull of Freeport

LR: 3226

TITLE: An Act to Ensure Maintenance of the Hold-harmless Clause in

the School Funding Formula

SUMMARY: This bill ensures that school units who might otherwise

experience a loss of funds are funded at current levels under the school funding formula in effect for the 1999-00

school year.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS: LD(S) 1799

SPONSOR: Rep. Campbell of Holden

LR: 3283

TITLE: An Act to Provide Assistance in the Cleanup of the Plymouth

Waste Oil Site

SUMMARY: This bill assists the Town of Plymouth in the cleanup of

waste oil by providing similar aid as was provided to the

Town of Wells in Public Law 1999, chapter 505.

SPONSOR: Rep. Campbell of Holden

LR: 3284

TITLE: An Act to Create a Purple Heart Motorcycle License Plate

SUMMARY: This bill creates a Purple Heart motorcycle license plate.

SPONSOR: Rep. Campbell of Holden

LR: 3307

TITLE: Resolve, to Recognize Veterans of the Vietnam War in the

State House Hall of Flags

SUMMARY: This resolve requires that a plaque be installed in the

Hall of Flags in the State House recognizing veterans of

the Vietnam War.

SPONSOR: Sen. Carey of Kennebec

LR: 3666

TITLE: An Act to Support E-9-1-1 Database Development and

Maintenance

SUMMARY: This legislation would provide for the payment to local exchange carriers for their assistance in transforming the

current customer information maintained by the local exchange carrier into a format usable by the E-9-1-1

databases and for updating customer information in the

State's E-9-1-1 databases on an ongoing basis.

SPONSOR: Sen. Carey of Kennebec

LR: 3724

TITLE: An Act to Encourage Biomass Ethanol in Maine

SUMMARY: This bill will encourage the development of biomass ethanol in Maine in order to promote the use of agricultural waste, forest products waste, including sawmill waste, and other forms of waste by-products as renewable value-added resources that can be used for the production of biomass ethanol and ethanol by-products for transportation fuel, transportation fuel additives and other technologies, including emerging technologies such as fuel cells.

SPONSOR: Sen. Carey of Kennebec

LR: 3819

TITLE: An Act to Lower Fees Charged to Users for Equipment Replacement Costs for the E-9-1-1 System

SUMMARY: This bill lowers the fee charged to users for replacement equipment costs in the E-9-1-1 system.

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3263

TITLE: An Act to Provide Adequate Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathologists

SUMMARY: This bill provides adequate reimbursement for speech and language pathologists.

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3264

TITLE: An Act to Provide More Science and Mathematics Teachers to

Maine Schools

SUMMARY: This bill improves the teaching of science and mathematics

in Maine schools.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3733 - MURPHY T

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3266

TITLE: An Act to Create a Special License Plate for Combat Veterans

SUMMARY: This bill creates a special license plate for combat

veterans.

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3500

TITLE: An Act to Protect the Health and Well-being of a Nursing

Infant of Separated or Divorcing Parents

SUMMARY: This bill would add to the list of factors a judge must

consider in deciding parental rights and responsibilities whether the mother is breast-feeding an infant under one

year of age.

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3501

TITLE: An Act Regarding Wages and Benefits for University of Maine

System Employees

SUMMARY: This bill would alter the wages and benefits provided to

employees of the University of Maine System.

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3502

TITLE: An Act to Upgrade Maine's University Libraries

SUMMARY: This bill would provide funds to upgrade Maine's university

libraries.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3748 - ROWE

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3503

TITLE: An Act to Create New Jobs for Rural Maine

SUMMARY: This bill would enact measures designed to create new jobs

for rural Maine.

SPONSOR: Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot

LR: 3504

TITLE: An Act to Expand State and Local Authority to Arrest People

Who Disturb the Peace

SUMMARY: This bill expands state and local authority to arrest

people who disturb the peace.

SPONSOR: Rep. Clark of Millinocket

LR: 3794

TITLE: An Act to Keep the Bag Limit at Chesuncook Lake at 5 Fish

SUMMARY: This bill would keep the bag limit at Chesuncook Lake at 5

fish.

SPONSOR: Rep. Clough of Scarborough

LR: 3323

TITLE: An Act to Reimburse Parents of Home-schooled Children for Necessary Books and Supplies

SUMMARY: This bill reimburses parents of home-schooled children for necessary books and supplies if the children are registered with the State for equivalent instruction and if the parents provide receipts for the purchase of qualifying educational materials. Educational materials that qualify for reimbursement are textbooks and related educational materials, teaching supplies and bona fide educational software. Reimbursement is limited to \$400 per child and \$1000 per family.

SPONSOR: Rep. Colwell of Gardiner

LR: 3659

TITLE: An Act to Appropriate Funds for Acquisitions for the Maine State Library

SUMMARY: This bill increases the Maine State Library's acquisition budget to the level of the other area reference and resource centers located at the Bangor and Portland Public Libraries. It also makes it possible for the Maine State Library to continue to purchase books, magazines and online products that are essential to the library's statewide role as a research facility and an information provider.

SPONSOR: Rep. Cote of Lewiston

LR: 3432

TITLE: An Act to Appropriate Funds for the Creative Photographic Arts Center of Maine in Lewiston

SUMMARY: This bill appropriates \$20,000 for the current fiscal year and \$20,000 for the next fiscal year to the Creative Photographic Arts Center of Maine in Lewiston.

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SPONSOR: Rep. Cote of Lewiston

LR: 3433

TITLE: An Act to Prohibit an Employer from Discriminating Against an Employee Who is Compelled to Testify in a Court of Law

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee who is compelled to testify in a court of law.

SPONSOR: Rep. Cote of Lewiston

LR: 3434

TITLE: An Act to Provide the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans to Anyone Who Served in the Military After the End of World War II

SUMMARY: This bill provides the property tax exemption for veterans to anyone who served in the military in peacetime after the end of World War II, including veterans of the cold war.

SPONSOR: Rep. Cowger of Hallowell

LR: 3505

TITLE: An Act to Appropriate Funds to Build the Capitol Park Connector Trail

SUMMARY: This bill appropriates \$75,000 to build the Capitol Park Connector Trail from Capitol Park to the Kennebec River Rail Trail.

SPONSOR: Sen. Daggett of Kennebec

LR: 3613

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Law Relating to the Renewal of Liquor

Licenses

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies that the provision establishing a

60-day automatic renewal of a liquor license does not apply when an applicant for renewal has an existing license that

is extended while the application is being processed.

SPONSOR: Sen. Daggett of Kennebec

LR: 3785

TITLE: An Act to Set Minimum Air Quality Standards for Schools

SUMMARY: This bill sets minimum air quality standards for schools.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1459 ALSO LD1269

SPONSOR: Sen. Daggett of Kennebec

LR: 3848

TITLE: An Act to Protect State Taxpayers and State Jobs

SUMMARY: This bill would authorize state and local governments to recapture the value of economic development incentives from

employers that move jobs out of Maine.

SPONSOR: Rep. Daigle of Arundel

LR: 3289

TITLE: An Act to Revise the Funding of Coastal and Inland Surface Oil and Groundwater Oil Cleanup Fund

SUMMARY: This bill amends existing oil clean-up funding mechanisms to ensure that funds go to pay for the Department of Environmental Protection Programs and personnel directly related to clean-up and prevention.

SPONSOR: Rep. Davidson of Brunswick

LR: 3669

TITLE: An Act to Encourage Energy Efficiency in Government Facilities

SUMMARY: This bill sets up a bid process for comprehensive energy efficiency modifications to government facilities, establishes energy conservation goals for existing facilities and sets efficiency standards for new construction.

SPONSOR: Rep. Davidson of Brunswick

LR: 3715

TITLE: An Act to Encourage Technology Expansion in Maine

SUMMARY: This bill encourages technology expansion in Maine.

SPONSOR: Sen. Davis of Piscataquis

LR: 3276

TITLE: An Act to Increase the Fine for Allowing Dogs to Run at

Large

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to increase the fine for

allowing a dog to run at large.

SPONSOR: Sen. Douglass of Androscoggin

LR: 3727

TITLE: An Act to Ensure that Fingerprinting and Background Checks

Currently Required by State Law for Educators and Others

Working with Children are Paid for by the State

SUMMARY: This bill requires the State to pay all costs for

background checks and fingerprinting of educators and others working with children that are required by state law.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 878

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3301 - MITCHELL B

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3328 - LIBBY

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3482 - RICHARD

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3494 - MURPHY T

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3517 - TRAHAN

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3559 - O'NEAL

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3573 - WATERHOUSE

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3630 - CAMERON

SPONSOR: Sen. Douglass of Androscoggin

LR: 3816

TITLE: An Act to Increase Access to High-quality Jobs Through

the Workforce Investment Act

SUMMARY: This bill would increase access to high-quality jobs by

creating the Workforce Investment Act.

SPONSOR: Sen. Douglass of Androscoggin

LR: 3849

TITLE: An Act to Target Public Assistance to Responsible Employers

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to ensure that resources for economic development are made available only to employers that respect workers' rights to choose a representative at work and refrain from hiring professional strikebreakers or permanent replacements.

SPONSOR: Rep. Dudley of Portland

LR: 3589

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Taxation of Clean Vehicle Fuels

SUMMARY: This bill amends the Special Fuel Tax Act to lower the tax for clean fuel.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS: LD(S) 1337

SPONSOR: Rep. Dudley of Portland

LR: 3757

TITLE: An Act to Appropriate Funds to Help Restore Historic
St. Lawrence Church

SUMMARY: This bill appropriates \$100,000 to assist the restoration of the local and national landmark St. Lawrence Church in Portland.

SPONSOR: Rep. Duplessie of Westbrook

LR: 3769

TITLE: An Act to Ensure Public Control over Access, Display and

Use of the E-9-1-1 System

SUMMARY: This bill ensures State, county or municipal control over

access display and use of the E-9-1-1 system and related

dispatch functions.

SPONSOR: Sen. Ferguson, Jr. of Oxford

LR: 3261

TITLE: An Act to Change the Definition of Personal Watercraft

SUMMARY: This bill excludes certain types of watercraft that are

capable of carrying 3 or more people from the definition of

"personal watercraft".

SPONSOR: Rep. Foster of Gray

LR: 3254

TITLE: An Act to Provide a Credit for a Trade-in When Calculating

the Sales Tax Due on the Purchase of a Vehicle or Heavy

Equipment

SUMMARY: This bill provides a credit equal to the value of a

trade-in when calculating the sales tax due on the purchase

of a vehicle or heavy equipment.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1300

SPONSOR: Rep. Fuller of Manchester

LR: 3766

TITLE: An Act to Recognize School-based Health Center Providers as Specialty Providers under Government and Private Insurance Programs

SUMMARY: This bill seeks recognition of the unique services that physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants provide to fill a gap in service to the adolescent population and seeks appropriate reimbursement from both private and government insurers. The school-based health centers provide on-site care for young people and co-manage the care with primary health care providers.

SPONSOR: Rep. Gagnon of Waterville

LR: 3293

TITLE: An Act to Provide Municipalities Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Tax-exempt Properties

SUMMARY: This bill provides a municipality payments in lieu of taxes for tax-exempt properties located in that municipality based on the number of jobs a tax-exempt property provides.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3416 - STANLEY

SPONSOR: Rep. Gagnon of Waterville

LR: 3294

TITLE: An Act to Encourage the Development and Maintenance of Residential Neighborhoods

SUMMARY: This bill encourages the development and maintenance of residential neighborhoods by providing neighborhood infrastructure such as sidewalks, walking paths and trails and supporting empowerment for neighborhood groups.

SPONSOR: Rep. Gagnon of Waterville

LR: 3550

TITLE: An Act to Establish Criteria for Tax Incentive Programs

SUMMARY: This bill establishes specific criteria for tax incentive programs such as a statement of the objectives of the program, a method to measure the attainment of these objectives, a reporting requirement for both the appropriate government agency and the program recipient, an analysis of the long-term cost of the program and the provision of incentives for meeting objectives and penalties for failure to meet objectives. The bill also provides for a systematic review of existing tax incentive programs.

SPONSOR: Sen. Goldthwait of Hancock

LR: 3452

TITLE: An Act to Authorize an Increase in Tuition for Mount Desert Island Regional School District Tuition Students

SUMMARY: This bill would allow the trustees of the Mount Desert Island Regional School District to charge a tuition amount closer to the actual cost of educating a student and would set an upper limit on the amount that could be charged.

SPONSOR: Sen. Goldthwait of Hancock

LR: 3453

TITLE: An Act to Prevent Misuse of Mortuary Trust Funds

SUMMARY: This bill would provide additional protection to the consumer of a mortuary trust by bonding the trustee, revising the process for investment of the funds and increasing the hours per week of the state inspector.

SPONSOR: Sen. Goldthwait of Hancock

LR: 3544

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Deer Hunting Season in the Town of

Cranberry Isles

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a deer hunting season in the Town of

Cranberry Isles in order to address deer overpopulation of

5 islands in this community.

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3730

TITLE: An Act to Place a Limit on Landfill Heights

SUMMARY: This bill would limit the height of a landfill.

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3731

TITLE: An Act to Increase General Purpose Aid to Local Schools by

\$40,000,000 from the Rainy Day Fund

SUMMARY: This bill increases General Purpose Aid to Local Schools by

\$40,000,000 from the Rainy Day Fund.

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3746

TITLE: An Act to Establish the Tobacco Smokers Medical Fund

SUMMARY: This bill would take 75% of the funds received from the

tobacco settlement and use them to set up a fund to be used

for medical treatment for individuals with diseases determined to result from smoking or secondhand smoke.

SPONSOR: Sen. Harriman of Cumberland

LR: 3277

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Collection of Sales Tax on Heavy

Equipment

SUMMARY: This bill eliminates the sales tax on all out-of-state

sales of heavy equipment, regardless of whether the seller or the purchaser arranges the delivery of that equipment.

SPONSOR: Sen. Harriman of Cumberland

LR: 3279

TITLE: An Act to Establish the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act

SUMMARY: This bill establishes the Uniform Electronic Transactions

Act.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch of Skowhegan

LR: 3370

TITLE: An Act to Limit the Duration that Businesses May Hire

Employees as Temporary Employees

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits a business from hiring a temporary

employee for a period greater than 90 days unless the temporary employee is filling in for a permanent employee

who is out on family medical leave.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch of Skowhegan

LR: 3580

TITLE: An Act to Exempt the Town of Skowhegan from Contributing to the Operations Cost of the Somerset County E-9-1-1

Communications Center

SUMMARY: This bill exempts the Town of Skowhegan from contributing

to the operations cost of the Somerset County E-9-1-1

communictions center.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch of Skowhegan

LR: 3728

TITLE: An Act to Provide Pension Equity for Mental Health Workers

SUMMARY: This bill provides State mental health workers with a retirement plan that provides for full pension benefits at age 55 provided that the worker has 25 years of State

service in the mental health field.

of Skowhegan SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch

LR: 3850

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Recruitment and

Retention Stipends

SUMMARY: This bill amends the laws governing recruitment and retention stipends to provide that stipends not include conditions for eligibility; stipends not be conditioned on any other pay consideration such as withdrawal of a pay range request or appeal; and stipends apply to

classifications as a whole.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch of Skowhegan

LR: 3851

TITLE: An Act to Improve the Working Effectiveness of the State Employee Health Insurance Commission

SUMMARY: This bill equalizes the distribution, information gathering and requests for information to all members of the State Employee Health Commission. This enhances the timely distribution of materials and information to commission members.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch of Skowhegan

LR: 3853

TITLE: An Act to Change the Retirement Eligibility Requirements for Certain Employees of the Department of Environmental Protection

SUMMARY: This bill provides that oil and hazardous waste materials workers in the Department of Environmental Protection are eligible to retire after 55 years of age or 25 years of service.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3856 - NUTTING J

SPONSOR: Rep. Hatch of Skowhegan

LR: 3854

TITLE: An Act to Change the Retirement Eligibility Requirements for Investigators in the Attorney General's Office

SUMMARY: This bill provides that investigators in the Attorney General's Office are eligible to retire after 55 years of age or 25 years of service.

SPONSOR: Rep. Heidrich of Oxford

LR: 3339

TITLE: An Act to Provide for Forest Ranger and Public Safety

SUMMARY: Under this bill, law enforcement officers within the Department of Conservation, Division of Forest Protection are required to have training equivalent to other law enforcement personnel and are authorized to use personal protective equipment.

SPONSOR: Rep. Jabar, Sr. of Waterville

LR: 3506

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Prosecution of Aggravated Operating While Intoxicated

SUMMARY: This bill would allow a prior conviction for aggravated OUI or vehicular manslaughter to be used as grounds to bring a charge of aggravated OUI.

SPONSOR: Rep. Jacobs of Turner

LR: 3563

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Election of a Harness Racing Bargaining Agent

SUMMARY: This bill removes the provision of law that repeals the laws governing the election of a harness racing bargaining agent effective January 1, 2001.

SPONSOR: Rep. Kane of Saco

LR: 3754

TITLE: An Act to Enhance the Availability of Neuropsychological Assessment Services to Maine's Children

SUMMARY: This bill would direct the Department of Education to promulgate regulations allowing and governing the use of neuropsychological technicians, under the supervision of licensed psychologists, for the administration and scoring of neuropsychological tests for school children in this State.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kieffer of Aroostook

LR: 3421

TITLE: An Act to Require Donors of Goods to be Informed of Tax Consequences

SUMMARY: This bill would require a nonprofit organization that receives donated goods to inform the donor that the donation is subject to the use tax.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kieffer of Aroostook

LR: 3426

TITLE: An Act to Change the Snowmobile Registration Laws

SUMMARY: This bill requires nonresidents who snowmobile in Maine to register their snowmobiles in Maine unless the snowmobiles are used in trail-grooming activities.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 3390

TITLE: An Act to Prohibit the Double Charging of Day Use Fees on Leased Land

SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit the Great North Woods or other land managers from charging a leasee or owner, or family

and designated guests, to stay at the property they lease or own. A nominal gate fee could be charged for access.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 3628

TITLE: An Act to Encourage Assisted Living Facilities Projects in

the State

SUMMARY: The intent of this bill is to direct the Bureau of Elder

and Adult Services to reimburse assisted living project organizations that are renovating existing, easily accessible buildings at the same rate as new construction reimbursement. This policy should also reflect that state

resources should be directed in such a way that does not

contribute to sprawl.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 3709

TITLE: An Act to Clarify Responsibilities and Assist Agricultural

Businesses in the Management of Nutrients

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies the roles of the various state agencies in the development of and governance of the construct of

nutrient management plans for agricultural businesses engaged in beneficial land application of residuals.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 3779

TITLE: An Act to Direct the Maine Revenue Services to Reimburse a Maine Business for Tax Overpayment

SUMMARY: The bill directs the Maine Revenue Services to reimburse a Maine business for tax overpayments.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kontos of Cumberland

LR: 3223

TITLE: An Act to Create a Maine Children's Trust Fund Registration Plate

SUMMARY: This bill creates a Maine Children's Trust Fund registration plate.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kontos of Cumberland

LR: 3595

TITLE: An Act to Appropriate Funds to Match a Federal Department of Energy Research and Development Award

SUMMARY: This bill appropriates \$750,000 per year for 3 years to match an anticipated federal award from the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, a federal-state partnership to build research capacity in 18 states that have traditionally received a low proportion of federal research funding.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kontos of Cumberland

LR: 3597

TITLE: An Act to License Cued Speech Transliterators for the Deaf

and Hard-of-Hearing

SUMMARY: This bill includes provisions for the licensing of cued

speech transliterators in the recently enacted law

regarding sign language interpreters.

SPONSOR: Sen. Kontos of Cumberland

LR: 3814

TITLE: An Act to Promote the Use of an Advocate Staff

SUMMARY: This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to

assign an advocate staff person in an adjudicatory proceeding if all parties request an advocate.

SPONSOR: Sen. LaFountain III of York

LR: 3815

TITLE: An Act to Stabilize the Maine Workers' Compensation

Insurance Market

SUMMARY: This bill would require Maine Employers Mutual to return to

the employers funds resulting from charging premiums in excess of its costs and requires that the retained surplus

be used exclusively to support the issuance of Maine

Workers' Compensation Insurance policies.

SPONSOR: Rep. LaVerdiere of Wilton

LR: 3351

TITLE: An Act to Address the Teacher Shortage in Maine

SUMMARY: This bill provides student loan payoffs to teachers hired to work in those schools that demonstrate to the Department of Education that the school is unable to hire enough teachers in certain academic subject areas.

SPONSOR: Sen. Lawrence of York

LR: 3272

TITLE: An Act to Support the Maine Rural Development Council and Community Capacity Building in Rural Maine

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate \$125,000 to the Maine Rural Development Council.

SPONSOR: Sen. Lawrence of York

LR: 3488

TITLE: An Act to Increase Access to Higher Education

SUMMARY: This bill would provide additional funding for the University of Maine System in order to lower tuition costs for students eligible for the community college initiative.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3747 - ROWE

SPONSOR: Sen. Lawrence of York

LR: 3489

TITLE: An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief and Invest in K-12

Education

SUMMARY: This bill would fully fund the new school funding formula

in fiscal year 2000-01.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS: LD(S) 1799

SPONSOR: Sen. Lawrence of York

LR: 3490

TITLE: An Act to Provide University of Maine System Students with

Marketable Skills

SUMMARY: This bill provides additional funding for the University of

Maine System to ensure that each student receives training in marketable skills, including computer skills, in order to provide employers in the State with a highly skilled

workforce.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3750 - ROWE

SPONSOR: Sen. Lawrence of York

LR: 3615

TITLE: An Act to Provide Equitable Delivery of Mental Health

Services

SUMMARY: This bill provides equitable delivery of mental health

services.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS: LD(S) 1158

SPONSOR: Sen. Lawrence of York

LR: 3682

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Rights of Residents within Wildlife

Sanctuaries

SUMMARY: Current law prohibits the possession of any firearm within wildlife sanctuaries, even for those residents of privately owned residences within the sanctuaries. This law will clarify that such residents may own firearms, store them in their homes and transport them to and from their homes. It will not in any way amend the prohibition on hunting within

wildlife sanctuaries.

SPONSOR: Rep. Lemoine of Old Orchard Beach

LR: 3306

TITLE: An Act to Preserve the Integrity of Court-ordered Child

Support Obligations

SUMMARY: This bill requires that, if a court order for child support

is in place and the party responsible for paying child support files for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, a court must review whether to rescind or modify the

existing support order.

SPONSOR: Rep. Lemoine of Old Orchard Beach

LR: 3311

TITLE: An Act to Enhance Maine's Historic Districts by Efficiently

Installing Underground Delivery Systems During Road

Construction

SUMMARY: This bill requires that whenever road construction occurs

within a municipality's historic districts, all overhead

wires be replaced by an underground wire system.

SPONSOR: Sen. MacKinnon of York

LR: 3481

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program

SUMMARY: This bill would increase the tax credit allowed under the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program from 30% to 50% of the amount invested in a Maine business in any calendar year. The bill would also increase the amount of the investment from \$200,000 to \$500,000 in any one business.

SPONSOR: Rep. Matthews of Winslow

LR: 3458

TITLE: Resolve, to Create a Commission to Study the Establishment of Ethical Investment Policies and Ethical Purchasing Policies by the State

SUMMARY: This bill would create a commission to study the establishment of ethical investment policies and ethical purchasing policies by the State. The commission would consider such factors as exploitation of workers, frequency of OSHA violations and layoffs of Maine employees solely for economic gain.

SPONSOR: Rep. Matthews of Winslow

LR: 3791

TITLE: An Act to Require the Maine Turnpike Widening to be
Performed by State Firms and to Require the Payment of the
Prevailing Wage

SUMMARY: This bill would require that at least 50% of the work performed on the Maine Turnpike widening be assigned to Maine-based firms. This bill would also require that all workers involved in the project be paid at least the prevailing wage.

SPONSOR: Rep. Matthews of Winslow

LR: 3792

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Bi-weekly Pay Law to Allow Employee Choice

SUMMARY: This bill would require that an employer with at least 25 employees pay its employees on a weekly basis if a majority of the employees choose to be paid on a weekly basis. This bill would apply to all employees except those whose pay is governed by a written contract or agreement.

SPONSOR: Rep. McGlocklin of Embden

LR: 3349

TITLE: An Act Concerning Access Fees on Tree Growth Lands

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits gate fees charged by companies benefitting under the tree growth laws.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3402 - CLARK CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3835 - MILLS

SPONSOR: Rep. McGlocklin of Embden

LR: 3560

TITLE: An Act to Remove Barriers to Adequate Transportation for Low-income Working Parents

SUMMARY: This bill would allow low-income people with vehicles who qualify for subsidized child care to also qualify for food stamp eligibility. Currently, ownership of a vehicle is determined an asset for purposes of food stamp eligibility, while it is not for subsidized child care.

SPONSOR: Rep. McGlocklin of Embden

LR: 3810

TITLE: Resolve, to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Increase Enforcement of Timber Weights and Measures

SUMMARY: This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to increase enforcement of timber weights and measures by conducting more spot checks at mills.

SPONSOR: Rep. McKee of Wayne

LR: 3673

TITLE: An Act to Allocate Certain Penalties Levied by the Department of Environmental Protection to the Maine Lakes Heritage Trust Fund

SUMMARY: This bill allocates penalties levied by the Department of Environmental Protection for violations of laws related to great ponds to the Maine Lakes Heritage Trust Fund.

SPONSOR: Rep. McKee of Wayne

LR: 3795

TITLE: An Act to Revitalize Teacher Certification

SUMMARY: This bill revitalizes teacher certification by funding teacher certification support teams, increasing staffing in the Department of Education's certification office and proposing a study of an autonomous professional standards board for teachers.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3372

TITLE: An Act to Provide a Cost-of-living Adjustment to Income that may be Retained by Nursing Home Residents

SUMMARY: This bill increases the amount of income that may be retained by a nursing or residential care facility resident based on the increase in the cost of living.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 369

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3576

TITLE: An Act to Preserve Academic Integrity in Maine's Higher Educational Institutions

SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit higher education institutions from accepting funds from any source that would place conditions or restrictions on the use of those funds in such a way as to interfere with or otherwise restrict the academic freedoms of state colleges and universities.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3805

TITLE: An Act to Guarantee Equal Protection under the Laws Governing Domestic Violence

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies that the domestic violence statutes apply to all sexual partners, regardless of gender.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3806

TITLE: An Act to License the Technique of Colonics

SUMMARY: This bill would establish licensing requirements for

persons administering colonics.

SPONSOR: Sen. Michaud of Penobscot

LR: 3562

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Solid Waste Disposal

Districts

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies the laws governing solid waste disposal

districts by providing that if a municipality has more than

one director on the board of a solid waste disposal

district, those directors may vote independently and split

that municipality's vote.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3796

TITLE: An Act Requiring that Administrators, Teachers and

Educational Technicians be Provided with Professional

Development

SUMMARY: This bill requires each employing school system to provide

professional development to every administrator, teacher

and educational technician it employs.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3822

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Maine Clean Election Act in Regard to Matching Funds

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies the Maine Clean Election Act in regard to matching funds in cases in which the opponent of a Maine Clean Election Act candidate exceeds the allowable distribution amount.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3823

TITLE: An Act to Adjust Rates for Unemployment Compensation to Reflect Changes in Demands on the System

SUMMARY: This bill adopts a method for the Commissioner of Labor to adjust the planned yield in future years by reference to changes in statewide experience as measured by the average benefit cost rate. The method provides for upward and downward adjustments that are proportional to annual changes in statewide experience. The bill also adjusts the wage base every 5 years to account for inflation.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3832

TITLE: An Act to Impose a Sales Tax on Polluting Sources of Electricity and to Reduce the Income Tax

SUMMARY: This bill imposes a tax of 3 cents per kilowatt-hour on coal-fired sources of electricity, 2 cents on oil and nuclear and one cent on gas. The proceeds are used to reduce income tax rates.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3833

TITLE: An Act to Ban Smoking in Places of Public Accommodation

SUMMARY: This bill removes the exceptions to the smoking ban for taverns, beano halls and private clubs with food or liquor licenses. The bill would eliminate the current inequity of allowing smoking in some establishments and prohibiting it in others.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REO: LR 3683 - ETNIER

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3834

TITLE: An Act to Implement Progress Toward Equity in School Funding

SUMMARY: This bill is a proposal for implementing certain advisory school funding targets set by the Part II budget document adopted this past spring. It sets certain budget parameters for General Purpose Aid to Schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS: LD(S) 1799

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3835

TITLE: An Act to Deny Tree Growth Tax Relief Privileges to those who Restrict Access to Great Ponds and Wild Lands

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits participation in the Maine Tree Growth
Tax Law program to landowners who restrict access to a
great pond or to tracts of land in excess of 1,000 acres in
the unorganized territory.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3349 - MCGLOCKLIN CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3402 - CLARK

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3836

TITLE: An Act to Impose a Capital Gains Tax on Rapid Turnover of

Land and Timber Sales

SUMMARY: This bill imposes a capital gains tax on the rapid turnover

of land and timber sales.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3837

TITLE: An Act to Grant Municipalities Greater Flexibility in

their Arrangements for Tax-based Sharing Agreements

SUMMARY: This bill permits flexibility among municipalities that are

parties to a tax-based sharing agreement to specify a period of time within which the collecting municipality must remit the respective shares of those taxes to the municipalities that are parties to the tax-based sharing

agreement.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 3838

TITLE: An Act to Provide Revenue Sharing to Relieve the

Municipal Service Component of the Property Tax

SUMMARY: This bill provides revenue sharing to relieve the municipal service component of the property tax. The bill provides

municipal revenue sharing that distributes sales and income tax revenue in proportion to municipal costs only, without

regard to the school funding component of the local

property tax.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mitchell of Penobscot

LR: 3299

TITLE: An Act to Establish an Office of Women's Health

SUMMARY: This bill establishes the Office of Women's Health in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Public Health, but also draws resources and personnel from DMHMR and SAS to provide leadership and coordination in developing a comprehensive outlook on the overall health status of women.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3787 - POWERS

SPONSOR: Rep. Murphy of Berwick

LR: 3440

TITLE: An Act to Preserve Maine's Lighthouse Heritage

SUMMARY: This bill would establish a lighthouse specialty license plate. Revenue from the plate would be appropriated to Maine Light, Inc. , a nonprofit organization established to preserve Maine's lighthouses.

SPONSOR: Rep. Murphy of Berwick

LR: 3664

TITLE: An Act to Create the Governmental Mutual Aid Compact

SUMMARY: This bill would create the Governmental Mutual Aid Compact.

SPONSOR: Rep. Murphy, Jr. of Kennebunk

LR: 3493

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Process for a County Bond Referendum

Election

SUMMARY: This bill establishes the process to be used in conducting

a county bond referendum.

SPONSOR: Rep. Murphy, Jr. of Kennebunk

LR: 3733

TITLE: An Act to Enhance Opportunities in Math and Science for

Maine Students

SUMMARY: This bill provides funds to help build an educational facility with classrooms, an auditorium, a science library,

labs, etc, in partnership with the University of Southern

Maine.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3264 - CATHCART

SPONSOR: Sen. Murray, Jr. of Penobscot

LR: 3407

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Maine Human Rights Act Concerning

Compensatory and Punitive Damages

SUMMARY: Current law specifies that a person may recover punitive and compensatory damages under the Maine Human Rights Act only if the person cannot recover under federal human

rights laws governing race. This bill clarifies that such recovery is permissible only if the person is unable to

recover under the general federal human rights laws.

SPONSOR: Sen. Murray, Jr. of Penobscot

LR: 3411

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Definition of Oil Terminal Facilities

SUMMARY: Current law regulates "oil terminal facilities," which are defined to mean only those facilities that receive their petroleum products via waterborne sources. This bill would amend the law to include terminals that receive their product by pipeline or transport truck.

SPONSOR: Rep. Muse of South Portland

LR: 3620

TITLE: Resolve, to Create a Commission to Study the Regulation of Firearms in Maine

SUMMARY: This resolve would establish a 7-person commission to study the need for changes in the regulation of guns in the State in order to reduce gun-related violence. The commission will file a report, including recommendations for any statutory changes, by December 31, 2000.

SPONSOR: Rep. Nass of Acton

LR: 3275

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Rainy Day Fund for the Department of Transportation

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to establish a rainy day fund for the Department of Transportation.

SPONSOR: Rep. Norbert of Portland

LR: 3847

TITLE: An Act to Establish Minimum Environmental Compliance Standards for Employers Receiving Public Assistance

SUMMARY: Under this bill, employers receiving economic development incentives will be required to demonstrate that they are in substantial compliance with federal, state and local environment rules and regulations in order to continue receiving assistance.

SPONSOR: Rep. O'Neal of Limestone

LR: 3557

TITLE: An Act to Appropriate Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics for Fiscal Year 2001

SUMMARY: This bill would appropriate \$160,000 for FY 2000-2001 to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. This amount is equal to the difference between what was actually budgeted and what the Board of Trustees and the Department of Education recommended.

SPONSOR: Sen. Paradis of Aroostook

LR: 3274

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Social Worker Licensure Laws

SUMMARY: This purpose of this bill is to remove the grandfather clause in the social worker licensure laws.

SPONSOR: Sen. Paradis of Aroostook

LR: 3633

TITLE: An Act to Fund the Cost of the Waiver of Tuition, Fees and Other Expenses for Native American Students in the Maine Technical College System and the University of Maine System

SUMMARY: This bill provides funds to cover the cost of the waiver of tuition, fees and other expenses for students who are Native Americans in the Maine Technical College System and the University of Maine System.

SPONSOR: Sen. Paradis of Aroostook

LR: 3652

TITLE: An Act to Change the Name in the Statutes of a Native
American Organization Able to Issue Hunting and Fishing
Licenses

SUMMARY: This bill would change the name in the statutes of a Native American organization able to issue hunting and fishing licenses.

SPONSOR: Rep. Perry of Bangor

LR: 3784

TITLE: An Act Regarding the Drying of Laundry

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits ordinances by municipalities or neighborhood associations that do not allow air drying of laundry.

SPONSOR: Rep. Pieh of Bremen

LR: 3342

TITLE: An Act to Reimburse Municipalities for Land Receiving an Agricultural Tax Break

SUMMARY: This bill requires the State to reimburse municipalities for tax revenue lost as a result of land classified as "farmland" under Title 36, chapter 105.

SPONSOR: Rep. Pieh of Bremen

LR: 3343

TITLE: An Act to Ban the Sale and Use of Terminator Seeds in the State of Maine

SUMMARY: This bill bans the sale and use in the State of "terminator seeds," which are seeds that do not reproduce.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3511 - TWOMEY

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3366

TITLE: An Act to Strengthen Maine's Corporate Accountability Law

SUMMARY: This bill makes changes to the law governing return on public investment from economic development incentives to encourage greater accountability and return and to strengthen the law.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3401

TITLE: An Act to Create the Maine Sustainable Job Fund

SUMMARY: This bill would create the Maine Sustainable Job Fund. The fund would be administered by the Maine Development Foundation to help start-ups and expansions of small business, improve access to capital, support community facilities building, help leverage resources, encourage public and private partnerships, and develop a new economic development tool in Maine.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3514

TITLE: An Act to Discourage Discrimination by Agricultural Fair Associations

SUMMARY: Under this bill, an agricultural fair association that discriminates against a person or organization wishing to have an exhibit or display at a fair as authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 64, is prohibited from receiving a fair stipend resulting from participation in pari-mutuel racing meets.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3623

TITLE: An Act to Exempt Municipalities from Liability Regarding Skateboarding and Rollerblading Parks (BY REQUEST)

SUMMARY: This bill would exempt municipalities that build skateboarding and rollerblading parks from liability for personal or property damage when no fees are charged and in cases when no gross negligence has been found.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3625

TITLE: An Act to Improve Standards for Public Assistance to Maine Employers

SUMMARY: The intent of this bill is to establish additional standards for the delivery of Maine's limited tax resource for economic development purposes. Employers receiving more than \$10,000 per year in economic development incentives will be required to pay a living wage, provide health insurance and pension benefits, and comply with federal, state and local laws.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3626

TITLE: An Act to Prohibit Minors from Purchasing Handguns

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to make it a felony to sell handguns in Maine to anyone under the age of 21.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3634

TITLE: An Act to Expand Protection Against Profiteering from the Necessities of Life

SUMMARY: This bill would expand the current law prohibiting profiteering in necessities of life, such as food and clothing, by defining "prescription drugs" as a necessity of life.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3635

TITLE: An Act to Protect the Trust Established by the Sale of Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Maine

SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit a nonprofit hospital and medical service organization that converts to a domestic stock insurer from increasing insurance rates in order to fund the charitable obligation.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3636

TITLE: An Act to Establish Fair Pricing for Prescription Drugs

SUMMARY: This bill would establish maximum manufacturers', wholesalers' and retailers' prices for patented prescription drugs, establish a procedure for determining the price and appealing the determination and appropriate funding for those purposes.

SPONSOR: Sen. Pingree of Knox

LR: 3840

TITLE: An Act to Allow Maine Pharmacies to Operate more Efficiently and Improve the Delivery of Services

SUMMARY: This bill allows pharmacies to transmit some prescriptions to a central location for filling, then have them returned to the local pharmacy for dispensing to and counseling of the patient. The bill also allows the Maine Board of Pharmacy to consider waivers to existing rules and regulation governing the practice of pharmacy in certain well-defined circumstances to allow pilot or test programs while retaining the need for legislative approval for any permanent change.

SPONSOR: Rep. Pinkham of Lamoine

LR: 3484

TITLE: An Act to Prohibit Dragging in a Portion of the Taunton

River

SUMMARY: This bill would probibit a person from fishing with a drag

in the coastal waters inland of the Route 1 bridge that connects the towns of Hancock and Sullivan in Hancock

County.

SPONSOR: Rep. Pinkham of Lamoine

LR: 3485

TITLE: An Act to Exempt Lobster Traps, Fishing Nets and Lobster

Cars from Personal Property Tax

SUMMARY: This bill exempts lobster traps, fishing nets and lobster

cars from personal property tax.

SPONSOR: Rep. Pinkham of Lamoine

LR: 3486

TITLE: An Act to Exempt Business Property with a Value of Less

Than \$1,000 from the Personal Property Tax

SUMMARY: This bill exempts business property with a value of less

than \$1,000 from the personal property tax.

SPONSOR: Rep. Powers of Rockport

LR: 3786

TITLE: An Act to Clarify Crosswalk Law

SUMMARY: This bill allows vehicles to proceed cautiously through a

crosswalk after a pedestrian has safely crossed the

vehicle's lane.

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SPONSOR: Rep. Powers of Rockport

LR: 3787

TITLE: An Act to Coordinate and Improve Access to Health Care for

Women

SUMMARY: This bill coordinates and improves access to health care

for women.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3299 - MITCHELL B

SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Brunswick

LR: 3546

TITLE: An Act to Permit the Option of Retaining Health Insurance

Coverage for Law Enforcement Personnel Who Have 25 Years

of Creditable Service

SUMMARY: This bill permits law enforcement personnel with 25 years

of creditable service who are members of the Maine State Retirement System to maintain their state-paid health insurance coverage if they separate from employment prior

to retirement age.

SPONSOR: Rep. Rowe of Portland

LR: 3749

TITLE: An Act to Invest in Capital Assets in the University of

Maine System

SUMMARY: This bill would provide for a one-time appropriation of

\$10,000,000 for modernization of classrooms and

laboratories for University of Maine System campuses and for facility and technology upgrades for university centers.

SPONSOR: Rep. Rowe of Portland

LR: 3751

TITLE: An Act to Broaden Business Ownership in Maine

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to broaden the local ownership of Maine businesses through employee ownership and other forms of community and consumer ownership.

SPONSOR: Rep. Rowe of Portland

LR: 3752

TITLE: An Act to Allocate from the Fund for a Healthy Maine

SUMMARY: This bill would establish specific allocations from the Fund for a Healthy Maine in accordance with the categories set forth in Public Law 1999, chapter 401.

SPONSOR: Rep. Rowe of Portland

LR: 3753

TITLE: An Act to Promote Safe Mobility for Maine's Aging Population through Education and Community-based, Economically Sustainable Alternative Transportation

SUMMARY: This bill provides \$1,800,000 in 3-year matching grants to educate about age-related driving problems and to build an efficient, dignified, consumer-oriented, community-based, economically sustainable transportation service for senior citizens who no longer drive.

SPONSOR: Rep. Saxl of Bangor

LR: 3367

TITLE: An Act to Create a Public/Private Purchasing Alliance to Ensure Access to Health Care for all Maine Citizens

SUMMARY: This bill creates a Public/Private Purchasing Alliance to ensure access to health care for all Maine citizens.

SPONSOR: Rep. Saxl of Bangor

LR: 3777

TITLE: An Act to Create Employment Opportunities by Clarifying Maine's Tax Laws Regarding Mutual Fund Companies

SUMMARY: This bill amends the tax code to make Maine more attractive to mutual fund companies.

SPONSOR: Rep. Saxl of Portland

LR: 3318

TITLE: An Act to Promote Educational Opportunity and Economic Development

SUMMARY: This bill provides funding for 4 years of tuition for 250 Maine students who agree to take information technology classes, maintain a B average or better and work for a Maine business in the information technology field.

SPONSOR: Rep. Schneider of Durham

LR: 3641

TITLE: An Act to Permit the Attorney General to Request Records of Internet Service Providers and Cellular Telephone Providers

SUMMARY: This bill will amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 200-B to permit the Attorney General, a deputy or a district attorney to request records of Internet service providers and cellular telephone providers in the same way other utility records are requested.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sherman of Hodgdon

LR: 3431

TITLE: An Act to Provide Greater Oversight in the Purchase or Acquisition of Large Parcels of Public Lands

SUMMARY: This bill would require legislative approval of the acquisition of land by the Land for Maine's Future Board if the parcel exceeds a certain acreage. The bill requires that the board make recommendations concerning such large purchases to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and that the full Legislature would vote to approve or disapprove the acquisition.

SPONSOR: Rep. Shiah of Bowdoinham

LR: 3587

TITLE: An Act to Preserve the Charitable Mission of Nonprofit Health Insurance Organizations

SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit the conversion, sale or transfer of any nonprofit insurer, such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield, to any other form of structure other than nonprofit.

SPONSOR: Rep. Shiah of Bowdoinham

LR: 3841

TITLE: An Act to Prohibit the Erection of Communication Towers

on State-owned Mountains

SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit any entity other than the

Department of Conservation from placing communication

towers or facilities on state-owned mountains.

SPONSOR: Rep. Shields of Auburn

LR: 3574

TITLE: An Act to Identify the State's Waterways

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Department of Transportation to post signs readable to motorists on both ends of all bridges on state-maintained roads to identify the body of water the bridge is crossing. The Department of Transportation will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of these signs.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sirois of Caribou

LR: 3336

TITLE: An Act to Create a Patent Program in Maine

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to create a program to support the invention and commercialization process by providing services and cost sharing with companies and partnerships that are committed to innovation and implementing innovations in Maine.

SPONSOR: Rep. Skoglund of St. George

LR: 3400

TITLE: An Act to Institute a System of Parole

SUMMARY: This bill would institute a parole system for prisoners

leaving prison.

SPONSOR: Rep. Skoglund of St. George

LR: 3658

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Commemorative Day Recognizing General

Henry Knox

SUMMARY: This bill would establish a commemorative day recognizing

General Henry Knox.

SPONSOR: Rep. Skoglund of St. George

LR: 3660

TITLE: An Act to Change Regulations Regarding Punctured Tires

SUMMARY: This bill changes certain regulations regarding punctured

tires.

SPONSOR: Rep. Snowe-Mello of Poland

LR: 3513

TITLE: An Act to Provide Additional Options for Services to

Troubled Teens

SUMMARY: This bill allows judges to refer teenagers to private

residential treatment facilities in lieu of incarceration

when appropriate.

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SPONSOR: Rep. Snowe-Mello of Poland

LR: 3604

TITLE: An Act to Strengthen the Laws Governing Teenage Drivers

SUMMARY: This bill provides that for the first 3 months a person holds a learner's permit, that person may operate a vehicle only during daylight hours and that a person 17 years of age or under may operate a motor vehicle after 11 pm and before 6 am only if accompanied by a licensed driver 21 years of age or older unless that person is driving directly to or from work. The bill also encourages young drivers to stay in school.

SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

LR: 3466

TITLE: An Act Concerning Offensive Names

SUMMARY: This bill expands the law prohibiting the use of offensive names to designate places to also prohibit the use of the word "squaw".

SPONSOR: Rep. Stevens of Orono

LR: 3762

TITLE: An Act to Equalize State Funding of Higher Education Programs within the University of Maine System

SUMMARY: This bill equalizes state funding of higher education programs within the University of Maine System.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sullivan of Biddeford

LR: 3235

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Formula to Allocate Child Development

Funds

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a formula by which child development

funds are allocated.

SPONSOR: Rep. Thompson of Naples

LR: 3257

TITLE: An Act to Restore a Process for Local Governments to Dispose

of Abandoned Property

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a process for local governments to

dispose of abandoned property.

SPONSOR: Rep. Thompson of Naples

LR: 3632

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services and Child

Protection Act

SUMMARY: This bill amends the Child and Family Services and Child

Protection Act by clarifying the intent of certain provisions and enhancing the permanency planning

requirements of the act.

SPONSOR: Rep. Thompson of Naples

LR: 3778

TITLE: An Act to Amend Maine's Probate Code

SUMMARY: This bill returns the Maine Probate Code to the uniform version by removing references to estates from the section that covers trusts.

SPONSOR: Rep. Townsend of Portland

LR: 3797

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Renewable Resources Requirement for Electricity Providers under the Electric Restructuring Laws

SUMMARY: Under this bill a dam will not qualify for inclusion under the renewable resources requirements unless the dam has all necessary and applicable regulatory approvals for upstream and downstream fish passage, a permanent license from FERC and fish passage facilities constructed and operational.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy of Rome

LR: 3734

TITLE: An Act to Increase Funding for Education

SUMMARY: This bill increases funding for education with an emphasis on improving special education programs and services.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3230 - BRENNAN

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy of Rome

LR: 3736

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Requirements for the Maintenance of Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs for Public Use

SUMMARY: This bill would allow the use of nonchlorine chemical additives in the maintenance of pools, spas, hot tubs and the like when they are available for public use.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy of Rome

LR: 3737

TITLE: An Act to Address Safety Concerns Posed by the Use of Fishing Nets in Rivers

SUMMARY: This bill establishes the authority of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to regulate the use of fishing nets in the rivers of the State.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy of Rome

LR: 3774

TITLE: An Act to Protect the Elderly from Excessive Increases in Blue Cross Blue Shield Premiums

SUMMARY: This bill stabilizes and subsidizes premiums of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, or its equivalent, in order to protect the elderly from excessive increases.

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 3243

TITLE: An Act to Provide Review by the Legislature of an Agreement

between State Government and the Federal Government

Governing the Acquisition of Land

SUMMARY: This bill provides that any agreement between the State and

federal governments regarding the acquisition of land by

the State is subject to review by the Legislature.

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 3244

TITLE: An Act to Require Legislative Approval for a Change in the

Use of Land Owned by the State

SUMMARY: This bill requires legislative approval of a change in the

use of land owned by the State.

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 3245

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Permit Requirements for Stream

Crossings

SUMMARY: This bill would override recent amendments to rules adopted

by the Department of Environmental Protection concerning permit requirements for stream crossings in the forest

products industry.

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 3329

TITLE: An Act to Require Legislative Review of Substantive
Amendments to Existing Agency Rules

SUMMARY: This bill requires legislative review of substantive amendments to existing agency rules.

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 3516

TITLE: An Act to Change the Effective Date of the Decrease in the Sales Tax

SUMMARY: This bill changes the effective date of the decrease in the sales tax to March 1, 2000.

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 3517

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fingerprinting of School Personnel

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits a state agency from retaining a record of the fingerprints of a school employee after a background check of that employee has been completed. It also requires that the State to pay for the cost of the background check.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 878

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3301 - MITCHELL B CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3328 - LIBBY CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3482 - RICHARD CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3494 - MURPHY T CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3559 - O'NEAL CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3573 - WATERHOUSE CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3630 - CAMERON CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3727 - DOUGLASS

SPONSOR: Sen. Treat of Kennebec

LR: 3359

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Authority of State Environmental and Public Health Officials to Monitor and Regulate Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning, Site Cleanup and Restoration Activities

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies that state environmental and public health officials have the authority to: 1. Conduct independent objective sampling of soils and other media at the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant site; 2. Require that particular monitoring equipment be used by those carrying out decommissioning; and 3. Set standards for residential levels of radiation at the site after decommissioning is complete.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tripp of Topsham

LR: 3467

TITLE: An Act to Create a Medicaid Pass for Free Bus Transportation

SUMMARY: This bill would create a pass program for people who receive Medicaid that would allow them to ride free on local bus routes.

SPONSOR: Rep. True of Fryeburg

LR: 3341

TITLE: Resolve, Authorizing Reimbursement to John Calley for Expenses Incurred as a Result of an Overassessment of Sales Tax

SUMMARY: This resolve authorizes the Bureau of Taxation to reimburse John Calley of Fryeburg for expenses incurred as the result of an overassessment.

SPONSOR: Rep. True of Fryeburg

LR: 3593

TITLE: An Act to Provide a Minimum Cost-of-living Adjustment to Certain Members of the Maine State Retirement System

SUMMARY: This bill would provide a minimum cost-of-living adjustment for older retirees under the Maine State Retirement System by establishing a base amount upon which the cost-of-living adjustment is applied.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tuttle, Jr. of Sanford

LR: 3515

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Valuation of Property in Municipalities in a School Administrative District

SUMMARY: This bill provides that a change in the manner in which property is valued in a municipality in a school administrative district must be approved by a majority vote in each municipality in the school administrative district.

SPONSOR: Rep. Twomey of Biddeford

LR: 3511

TITLE: An Act to Place a Moratorium on Planting Genetically Engineered Seeds

SUMMARY: This bill places a moratorium on planting genetically engineered seeds until the federal government completes an environmental impact statement.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3343 - PIEH

SPONSOR: Rep. Twomey of Biddeford

LR: 3512

TITLE: An Act to Penalize a Company that Does Not Submit the Report Required by Law Regarding State Subsidies

SUMMARY: This bill penalizes a company that does not submit the report required by current law regarding state subsidies received by that company.

SPONSOR: Rep. Volenik of Brooklin

LR: 3475

TITLE: An Act to Change the Aquaculture Lease Process

SUMMARY: This bill would change the process for establishing aquaculture sites through public hearings held jointly by the Department of Marine Resources and the municipality in which the site would be established. Approved sites would be leased by the Department of Marine Resources on a limited-term basis based upon the applicant's needs and abilities.

SPONSOR: Rep. Wheeler of Bridgewater

LR: 3419

TITLE: An Act to Allow Certain Employers to Provide Bottled Water to Their Employees In Lieu of Having Their Well Water Tested

SUMMARY: Current law requires that a business that employs more than 25 people and that has a well must have the water tested. This bill allows such a business to provide bottled water to its employees in lieu of having the water tested.

SPONSOR: Rep. Wheeler of Bridgewater

LR: 3571

TITLE: An Act to Protect the Assets of Senior Citizens

SUMMARY: This bill mandates that financial eligibility for all state

programs, particularly Medicaid, for citizens age 65 and over be based on income only, rather than taking into

account income and assets.

November 8, 1999

Mark Lawrence, Chair Legislative Council State House Station #115 Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mark,

I'm writing on behalf of the legislation proposed by Joanne Twomey, L.R. 3511, An Act to Place a Moratorium on Planting Genetically Engineered Seeds.

I have written you previously on this matter and would again strongly encourage you to give this bill the green light on November 15.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Singerely,

John Rensenbrink November 2, 1999