

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Third
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1967

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Tuesday, April 4, 1967

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. W. Vinton Murphy of Wells.

The members stood at attention during the playing of the National Anthem by the Schenk High School Band of East Millinocket.

The journal of the previous session was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: Is there objection this morning out of order for the Chair to take up a matter that he considers of great import? The Chair hears none.

This morning, out of order, and due to an order passed on March 14, Miss Anuradha Shah of India be invited to serve as Honorary Page, and will the Sergeant-at-Arms attend to his duty.

Whereupon, Miss Anuradha Shah of India was escorted to the Well of the Hall of the House amid applause to serve as Honorary Page.

The SPEAKER: This Honorary Page, Miss Shah, is from India and she is four years and eight months old and attends the Colby College Nursery School. Mr. Shah, her father, is Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Karnatak University, and Mrs. Shah is a Journalist and Social Worker. They are the special guests of Representative Sahagian of Belgrade.

The Chair at this time would request Mr. Sahagian to conduct the gentleman from India to the rostrum to be the special guest of the Speaker this morning.

Whereupon, Mr. Kanti J. Shah of India was escorted to the rostrum by the gentleman from Belgrade, Mr. Sahagian, amid applause, the members rising.

The SPEAKER: The Chair feels that this is a good move in better relations with our neighbors across the sea, and this gentleman is teaching at Colby College in the Department of Philosophy. He has been a member of the Boards of Studies in Philosophy in various universities and he has done papers and he is the author of such writ-

ings as "The Life of Reason" in studies in education and culture at his University in India. Also, "Moral Freedom in the Philosophy of G. F. Moore," "Philosophy — Systematic and Analytic". Another paper, "Freedom and Determination—'Ought and Can' ". Another paper, "Is History Possible?" Also, "The Meaning of Meaning" to be published in the Journal of the Indian Philosophical Association; "Tradition and Change — Some Preliminary Consideration;" also "The Concept of Philosophy;" "Science, Technology and Traditional Values" another paper, and "Are Ethical Judgments Non-Cognitive," a paper read as part of a symposium at the Indian Philosophical Conference in 1965 and another paper of his Authorship "Is There Proof in Philosophy?"

It is the privilege of the Chair this morning to introduce Mr. Shah who is a visitor to this country and will be here about one year, and I feel it is a real privilege to welcome him here to the Maine House of Representatives, and I now present to you Mr. Shah. (Prolonged Applause, the members rising)

Mr. KANTI J. SHAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the House of Representatives. I am really grateful to the House and to you, Mr. Chairman, and to Mr. Sahagian and others who have given us, my wife, my daughter and myself, this opportunity to be in this House. I should like to say that we feel greatly honored by this opportunity. I do not think that any of us have done anything to deserve this except that perhaps my daughter, who has deserved it merely by the fact that she has not had any time to have anything against her, but as all of us have had some time to have had something against us.

I am sure that we are overwhelmed with this expression of good will, good will not particularly toward us personally, but toward the Country from which we come. Our two countries have many, many bonds of good will and interests between them, but perhaps more important are the

personal contacts that are established between individuals who come over here and those who come over to India, the people from the United States who come to India.

For the seven or eight months that we have been here, we have enjoyed hospitality and affection from a large number of individuals in abundance and we have profited in a variety of ways from our stay here.

Once again I should like to thank the House Chairman and Mr. Sahagian and others for this wonderful opportunity for us to be here and for the honor done to us. Thank you. (Prolonged Applause)

The SPEAKER: The Chair would also at this time like to recognize Mrs. Shah who is in the balcony of the House, and Mrs. Shah would you please stand and be recognized? (Applause)

Will the gentleman from Belgrade, Mr. Sahagian, escort his guest to the rear of the Hall of the House.

Whereupon Mr. Kanti J. Shah of India was escorted from the Hall of the House of Representatives by the gentleman from Belgrade, Mr. Sahagian.

Papers from the Senate Reports of Committees Ought Not to Pass

Report of the Committee on Labor reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Definition of Employee under Minimum Wage Law" (S. P. 179) (L. D. 369)

Came from the Senate read and accepted.

In the House, the Report was read and accepted in concurrence.

Tabled and Assigned

Report of the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Taking Herring by Use of Artificial Lights" (S. P. 307) (L. D. 746)

Came from the Senate read and accepted.

In the House: Report was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Machias, Mr. Watts.

Mr. WATTS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have this tabled until tomorrow.

Mr. Prince of Harpswell then requested a vote on the tabling motion.

The SPEAKER: A vote has been requested on the tabling motion. All those in favor of tabling this matter pending acceptance of Report in concurrence will vote yes; those opposed will vote no. The Chair will open the vote.

A vote of the House was taken.

97 having voted in the affirmative and 20 having voted in the negative, the motion prevailed.

Report of the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act Limiting Number of Lobster Traps Per Person" (S. P. 308) (L. D. 747)

Came from the Senate read and accepted.

In the House, the Report was read and accepted in concurrence.

Ought to Pass with Committee Amendment

Report of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to Trespass on Unimproved Land Devoted to Preservation of Wildlife" (S. P. 177) (L. D. 367) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Came from the Senate with the Report read and accepted and the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A".

In the House, the report was read and accepted in concurrence and the Bill read twice. Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk and adopted in concurrence, and tomorrow assigned for third reading of the Bill.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Education on Bill "An Act relating to School Entrance Age Requirements" (S. P. 213) (L. D. 476) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. KATZ of Kennebec
MacLEOD of Penobscot
SNOW of Cumberland
—of the Senate.

Messrs. ALLEN of Caribou
SHUTE of Farmington
Mrs. HANSON of Lebanon
Mrs. BAKER of Winthrop
Messrs. LEVESQUE
of Madawaska
RICHARDSON
of Stonington
—of the House

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought not to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following member:

Mr. CARROLL of Limerick
—of the House

Came from the Senate with the Majority Report accepted and the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A".

In the House: Reports were read. On motion of Mrs. Hanson of Lebanon, the Majority "Ought to pass" Report was accepted in concurrence and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk and adopted in concurrence, and tomorrow assigned for third reading of the Bill.

House Reports of Committees Leave to Withdraw

Mr. Richardson from the Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act relating to Clothing Allowances for Personnel of the Lewiston Police Department" (H. P. 395) (L. D. 542) reported Leave to Withdraw.

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Covered by Other Legislation

Mr. Jalbert from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs reported Leave to Withdraw on Bill "An Act to Provide Aerial Photos for Resurvey of Maine's Forest Lands" (H. P. 182) (L. D. 272), as covered by other legislation.

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Ought Not to Pass Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Lycette from the Committee on Transportation reported "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Windshield Wipers on Motor Vehicles" (H. P. 927) (L. D. 1335)

Report was read.

(On motion of Mr. Nadeau of Sanford, tabled pending acceptance and specially assigned for Wednesday, April 5.)

Ought to Pass in New Draft New Draft Printed

Mr. Keyte from the Committee on Transportation on Bill "An Act Authorizing Permanent Registration Plates for Fleet Operated Vehicles" (H. P. 817) (L. D. 1193) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1099) (L. D. 1565) under title of "An Act Authorizing Long Term Semi-permanent Registration Plates for Certain Semitrailers" and that it "Ought to pass"

Report was read and accepted, the New Draft read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Ought to Pass Printed Bill

Mr. Humphrey from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs reported "Ought to pass" on Bill "An Act Appropriating Funds for Administration of Bureau of Public Administration at University of Maine" (H. P. 459) (L. D. 672)

Report was read and accepted, the Bill read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Ought to Pass with Committee Amendment

Mrs. Lincoln from the Committee on Public Utilities on Bill "An Act to Create the Orrington Water District" (H. P. 913) (L. D. 1336) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 913, L. D. 1336, Bill, "An Act to Create the Orrington Water District."

Amend said Bill by inserting at the end of section 2, before the period, the following:

'as well as any other surface or underground source of water in said Town of Orrington. For its said purposes the district may purchase water from any town, city, corporation or district.'

Further amend said Bill by inserting at the end of subsection 3 of section 11 the following:

'The trustees may, in their discretion and in lieu of the establishment of a sinking fund, issue the bonds of the district so that no less than 1% of the amount of the bonds so issued shall mature and be retired each year.'

(On motion of Mr. Robertson of Brewer, tabled pending adoption of Committee Amendment "A" and specially assigned for Thursday, April 6.)

Mr. Snow from the Committee on Public Utilities on Bill "An Act relating to Board of Trustees of Searsport Water District" (H. P. 805) (L. D. 1181) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 805, L. D. 1181, Bill, "An Act Relating to Board of Trustees of Searsport Water District."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 2. P. & S. L., 1947, c. 75, §8, amended. The 4th sentence of section 8 of chapter 75 of the private and special laws of 1947 is repealed as follows:

Ten per cent of the voters qualified to vote in such meetings shall constitute a quorum.'

Committee Amendment "A" was adopted and the Bill assigned for third reading tomorrow.

Mr. Crosby from the Committee on Transportation on Bill "An Act relating to Reregistration of Motor Vehicles of Maine Residents Purchased in Foreign Countries or Out of State" (H. P. 818) (L. D. 1194) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 818, L. D. 1194, Bill "An Act Relating to Reregistration of Motor Vehicle of Maine Residents Purchased in Foreign Countries or Out of State."

Amend said Bill in the last line (next to last line in L. D. 1194) by inserting after the underlined word "vehicle" the underlined word 'directly'

Committee Amendment "A" was adopted and the Bill assigned for third reading tomorrow.

Third Reader Tabled and Assigned

Bill "An Act Creating the Maine Higher Education Loan Authority Act" (S. P. 59) (L. D. 72)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

(On motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, tabled pending passage to be engrossed and specially assigned for Friday, April 7.)

Passed to Be Engrossed

Bill "An Act Appropriating Matching Funds Under Title VI of the Federal Higher Education Act for Maine Maritime Academy" (S. P. 328) (L. D. 983)

Bill "An Act to Permit School Administrative Districts to Join Together" (S. P. 396) (L. D. 1029)

Bill "An Act to Reconstitute School Administrative Districts Numbers 9, 17, 27, 46, 47, 48, 49, 55 and 61" (S. P. 399) (L. D. 1071)

Bill "An Act relating to Farm Supervisor for Department of Mental Health and Corrections" (H. P. 158) (L. D. 221)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading,

read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

**Third Reader
Amended**

Bill "An Act relating to Confering Degrees by Bliss College" (H. P. 262) (L. D. 383)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 262, L. D. 383, Bill, "An Act Relating to Confering Degrees by Bliss College."

Amend said Bill by inserting after section 1 the following section:

'**Sec. 2. Audit.** The institution shall file annually, with the Secretary of State, an audit report prepared and signed by a qualified public accounting firm for the preceding fiscal year.'

Further amend said Bill by renumbering section 2 to be section 3.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Caribou, Mr. Allen.

Mr. ALLEN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I intend to go along with this amendment, but I shall speak on the bill when it returns later.

Thereupon, House Amendment "A" was adopted, the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended and sent to the Senate.

Bill "An Act relating to the Secondary School Contracts Between School Administrative Districts No. 23 and 38 and the Town of Hermon" (H. P. 483) (L. D. 696)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

**Third Reader
Recommitted**

Bill "An Act relating to Refund for Malt Liquor Excise Taxes" (H. P. 768) (L. D. 1115)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

On motion of Mr. Hanson of Gardiner, the House voted to reconsider its action of March 31 whereby it accepted the "Ought to pass" Report of the Committee on Taxation.

On further motion of the same gentleman, recommitted to the Committee on Taxation and sent up for concurrence.

**Third Reader
Tabled and Assigned**

Bill "An Act relating to Exemption from Sales Tax on Materials Used in Repairs of Transient Boats Owned by Nonresidents" (H. P. 770) (L. D. 1117)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

(On motion of Mr. Henley of Norway, tabled pending passage to be engrossed and specially assigned for Tuesday, April 11.)

Bill "An Act relating to Sale of Certain Biologics" (H. P. 789) (L. D. 1151)

Bill "An Act relating to Brucellosis in Swine" (H. P. 790) (L. D. 1152)

Bill "An Act Authorizing State Highway Commission to Study Desirability of Bridge Between Bath and Phippsburg" (H. P. 791) (L. D. 1169)

Bill "An Act relating to Advisory Board of Examinations of Fire, Casualty and Surety Agents" (H. P. 826) (L. D. 1234)

Bill "An Act Providing for a Cost-Estimate Study of an East-West Multi-Purpose Highway Through Maine" (H. P. 833) (L. D. 1241)

Bill "An Act Relating to Tuition for Pupils Attending Secondary Schools in Other States or Countries" (H. P. 1096) (L. D. 1562)

Bill "An Act relating to the Prohibited Practices of Collection Agencies" (H. P. 1097) (L. D. 1563)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Amended Bills

Bill "An Act Prohibiting Annoying Telephone Calls" (S. P. 269) (L. D. 650)

Bill "An Act to Provide for Practical Nursing Course at Central Maine Vocational-Technical Institute" (S. P. 400) (L. D. 1031)

Bill "An Act relating to Costs of Flander's Bay Community School District" (S. P. 470) (L. D. 1162)

Bill "An Act Revising the Laws Relating to Support at State Institutions" (H. P. 149) (L. D. 213)

Bill "An Act Providing for an Itinerant Instructor, Fire Service Training, in the Department of Education" (H. P. 480) (L. D. 693)

Bill "An Act Revising the Vital Statistics Laws" (H. P. 709) (L. D. 1004)

Bill "An Act relating to Qualifications of Insurance Brokers and Agents" (H. P. 874) (L. D. 1286)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" and sent to the Senate.

Third Reader**Tabled and Assigned**

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of State and Providing for the Issuance of Bonds Not Exceeding, at Any One Time Issued and Outstanding, Twenty-Five Million Dollars for Loans to Private Colleges for Construction and Expansion of Facilities (S. P. 60) (L. D. 73)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the second time.

(On motion of Mr. Levesque of Madawaska, tabled pending passage to be engrossed and specially assigned for Friday, April 7.)

Resolve Providing Funds for Dental Education (S. P. 260) (L. D. 640)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the second time, passed to be engrossed as amended by Com-

mittee Amendment "A" and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure
Tabled and Assigned**

An Act Appropriating Moneys for Research Study of Pesticides (S. P. 582) (L. D. 1546)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 90 voted in favor of same and 39 against.

(On motion of Mr. Benson of Southwest Harbor, tabled pending passage to be enacted and specially assigned for tomorrow.)

**Passed to Be Enacted
Emergency Measure**

An Act relating to Registration and Safety of Inland Steamers for Hire (H. P. 523) (L. D. 754)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 130 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act Providing for Oceanographic Research Projects by Division of Geological Survey, Department of Economic Development (H. P. 536) (L. D. 765)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 132 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act Revising the Railroad Workers Credit Union of Maine (H. P. 676) (L. D. 948)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 130 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Finally Passed Constitutional Amendment

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Relating to Time for Codifying the Constitution (S. P. 120) (L. D. 249)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being a Constitutional Amendment and a two-thirds vote of the House being necessary, a total was taken. 131 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the Resolve was finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Passed to Be Enacted

An Act relating to Duties of State Geologist with the Maine Mining Bureau (S. P. 182) (L. D. 372)

An Act Reclassifying Certain Tidal Waters of Cumberland County (S. P. 219) (L. D. 482)

An Act relating to Municipal Advisory Organizations (S. P. 235) (L. D. 560)

An Act Authorizing Work-Release from County Jails (S. P. 264) (L. D. 645)

An Act relating to the Reserve Fund for Uninsured Losses on State Property (S. P. 282) (L. D. 662)

An Act relating to Inspection of Dams and Reservoirs (S. P. 302) (L. D. 741)

An Act Prohibiting Use of Certain Names by Partnerships (S. P. 320) (L. D. 843)

An Act relating to Trial Terms of Superior Court in Penobscot County (S. P. 337) (L. D. 870)

An Act relating to Town's Matching Funds for Reconstructing State Aid Highways (S. P. 359) (L. D. 956)

An Act relating to Forging or Obtaining Absentee Ballots or Applications Therefor under Election Laws (S. P. 404) (L. D. 1035)

An Act Classifying Certain Waters of St. Croix River Watershed (S. P. 479) (L. D. 1200)

An Act relating to Acknowledgement of Absentee Ballot by Voter Outside of State (S. P. 499) (L. D. 1214)

An Act relating to Inventory of Ballots Furnished Polling Places (S. P. 587) (L. D. 1552)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Enactor Tabled and Assigned

An Act relating to Notice of Removal of Name from the Voting List (S. P. 588) (L. D. 1553)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

(On motion of Mr. McMann of Bath, tabled pending passage to be enacted and specially assigned for Wednesday, April 5.)

An Act relating to Salaries Paid by the State to Ministers of the Gospel (H. P. 83) (L. D. 113)

An Act relating to Area Directional Sign for China Lake Region (H. P. 138) (L. D. 202)

An Act Reclassifying Certain Tidal Waters of Hancock County (H. P. 196) (L. D. 285)

An Act Reclassifying Certain Tidal Waters in York County (H. P. 236) (L. D. 304)

An Act Reclassifying Certain Tidal Waters of Waldo County (H. P. 239) (L. D. 347)

An Act relating to Suspensions of Motor Vehicle Operator's License Pending Appeal in Operating under the Influence Cases (H. P. 270) (L. D. 391)

An Act Classifying Certain Inland Waters of the Presumpscot River Basin (H. P. 280) (L. D. 400)

An Act relating to Detention of Juveniles (H. P. 407) (L. D. 573)

An Act to Change the Name of the Congregational-Christian Con-

ference of Maine and to Enlarge its Purposes (H. P. 530) (L. D. 760)

An Act relating to Biennial Elections of Penobscot Tribe of Indians (H. P. 746) (L. D. 1068)

An Act relating to Biennial Elections of Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians (H. P. 748) (L. D. 1095)

An Act relating to Validation of Defects in Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgages (H. P. 753) (L. D. 1100)

An Act Appropriating Money to Supplement Federal Vocational Funds for Area Education Programs for Apprentices and Other Adult Workers (H. P. 777) (L. D. 1139)

An Act relating to Children Needing Protective Custody (H. P. 1089) (L. D. 1556)

Finally Passed

Resolve Providing for Purchase of Copies of History of Richmond-on-the-Kennebec (H. P. 464) (L. D. 677)

Resolve Designating Certain Highways in Lincoln County as Mariner and Pioneer Trail (H. P. 743) (L. D. 1065)

Resolve to Reimburse Dwight H. Wheeler of Manchester for Payment of Fine in Motor Vehicle Speeding Case (H. P. 877) (L. D. 1289)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, Bills passed to be enacted, Resolves finally passed, all signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day

The Chair laid before the House the first tabled and today assigned matter:

HOUSE MAJORITY REPORT (6)—Ought to Pass—Committee on Election Laws on Bill “An Act relating to Opening and Closing Time for Polls” (H. P. 577) (L. D. 809)—MINORITY REPORT (4)—Ought Not to Pass.

Tabled—March 28, by Mr. Henley of Norway.

Pending—Acceptance of either report.

On motion of Mr. Henley of Norway, recommitted to the Commit-

tee on Election Laws and sent up for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the second tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill “An Act Authorizing the City of Portland to Use Park Lands for Public Highway Purposes” (H. P. 520) (L. D. 732)

Tabled—March 28, by Mr. Richardson of Cumberland.

Pending—Passage to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, retabled pending passage to be engrossed and specially assigned for Friday, April 7.

The Chair laid before the House the third tabled and today assigned matter:

An Act relating to Retirement Benefits to Widows of State Police Members Retired Under Noncontributory Statute (H. P. 1077) (L. D. 1540)

Tabled—March 28, by Mrs. Fuller of York.

Pending—Passage to be enacted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from York, Mrs. Fuller.

Mrs. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

At the request of my friend from Lewiston, Representative Jalbert, I tabled this bill which I introduced before the Committee on Retirements and Pensions. Obviously, this may have caused some to wonder about the merits of the bill even though it was reported out of committee unanimously “ought to pass,” and arrived at the final stage of enactment. Therefore, I believe a brief explanation of the merits of the bill is appropriate.

The New Draft, L. D. 1540, is An Act Relating to the Retirement Benefits to Widows of State Police Members Retired under Noncontributory Statute. The purpose of this legislation is to see that all widows receive the same amount of retirement benefits according to the rank of their deceased husbands, no matter when that member died.

For example, Mrs. Mary C. Littlefield now receives \$8.75 per week because her husband died twenty years ago with the rank of trooper. This, to me, is almost an insult. Many of these men were the founders of our State Police System. This bill would allow her to receive the same amount of weekly pension as the widow of a trooper who died three or four years ago. This seems completely fair and for the benefit of those older widows who are in greater need because of their age. For some of these women it is their only source of income. I have several letters from them—I will quote one:

"During twenty or more odd years of service with the Maine State Police, my husband was unable to accrue Social Security eligibility, therefore, I and others in my circumstances are dependent largely upon our widow's pension."

The payment in this bill would be based upon the amount of disability retirement that a State Police member would have been entitled to receive as of September 3, 1965, under Chapter 1595 of the Revised Statutes. It would not be retroactive. The bill will take effect September 1, 1967. For example, again using Mrs. Mary Littlefield, who now receives \$8.75 per week; she would receive \$28.63 a week. The total cost for the biennium is approximately \$18,000.

I want to call to your attention that the number of widows who benefit under this bill will not increase. As they die the number will become less and thus the amount needed to reimburse them, less. I dare say there are few bills that have this unique merit, or provision in it. They usually have an increased number.

My figures tell me that there are seventeen widows that will benefit. They are from communities all over Maine. I also point out that in the last session a bill was passed so that we legislators are eligible for retirement benefits after a certain number of years of service. It hardly behooves us to accept these benefits and deny

commensurate benefits to others who have given dedicated service to the State. I have letters from practically all the widows urging that we give this fair consideration. I urge you to vote to enact this fair, humane legislation. Thank you.

Thereupon the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The Chair laid before the House the fourth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act relating to a Closed Season on Wild Hares and Rabbits in York County" (H. P. 219) (L. D. 309) (House Amendment "A") (H-96)

Tabled—March 28, by Mr. Richardson of Cumberland.

Pending — Passage to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Limerick, Mr. Carroll.

Mr. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: You probably thought it unusual that we played with this rabbit bill the way we have, but I feel you are due for an explanation.

It was discovered that we had two documents that were going to become laws and when added to the statutes of the State of Maine they would conflict with each other. Therefore my bill was tabled and the other bill went through and became a statute. I have tried to contact Mr. Townsend to consult with him and with Mr. Siosberg as to an amendment, and I find at this time that I haven't been able to contact Mr. Townsend and I would urge somebody to table this for at least two more days and then I hope we will be rid of this bill.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, tabled pending passage to be engrossed and specially assigned for Friday, April 7.

The Chair laid before the House the fifth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Providing for a Council-Manager Charter for the Town of Cape Elizabeth" (H. P. 233) (L. D. 341) (Committee Amendment "A") (H-117)

Tabled—March 30, by Mr. Hewes of Cape Elizabeth.

Pending — Passage to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Hewes of Cape Elizabeth, retabled pending passage to be engrossed and specially assigned for Tuesday, April 11.

The Chair laid before the House the sixth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act relating to Leases of Right to Take Marine Algae on Submerged Lands" (S. P. 590) (L. D. 1559) (In Senate, referred to Committee on State Government)

Tabled — March 31, by Mr. Lowery of Brunswick.

Pending — Reference.

On motion of Mr. Lowery of Brunswick, referred to the Committee on State Government in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Richardson.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Mr. Speaker, I would inquire if the House has in its possession L. D. 429 "An Act Amending the Charter of the Augusta Sanitary District" which was recalled from the Governor's desk by joint order, House Paper 1094?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, the House voted to suspend the rules and to reconsider its action of March 24 whereby the Bill was passed to be enacted.

On further motion of the same gentleman, the House voted to suspend the rules and to reconsider its action of March 22 whereby the Bill was passed to be engrossed.

Mr. Brown of Augusta then offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S. P. 195, L. D. 429, Bill, "An Act Amending the Charter of the Augusta Sanitary District."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the 3rd and 4th sentences of the 2nd paragraph of section 1 (same in L. D. 429) and inserting in place thereof the following:

'One of the commissioners at the time of any appointment shall be from the state minority political party according to the last gubernatorial election. All subsequent appointments shall be so made as to continue one commissioner from the minority party.'

House Amendment "A" was adopted, the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.