

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

***One Hundred and Tenth
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume I

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 3, 1980 to May 1, 1981

KJ PRINTING
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Tuesday, January 27, 1981

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

Prayer by Father Royal J. Parent of St. Martin of Tours Church, Millinocket.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: At this time, the Chair would like to thank the gentleman from Fairfield, Mr Gwadodsky, for what I hear was an outstanding job yesterday, and I appreciate his acting as Speaker pro tem.

Papers from the Senate

Bill "An Act to Change the Requirements for Appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Profession of Pharmacy" (S. P. 140) (L. D. 379)

Came from the Senate read and referred to the Committee on Business Legislation and ordered printed.

In the House, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Business Legislation in concurrence.

**Petitions, Bills and Resolves
Requiring Reference**

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

Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act Prohibiting the Trapping of Bear" (H. P. 408) (Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Unjust Retaliatory Evictions" (H. P. 409) (Presented by Ms. Benoit of South Portland) (Cosponsor: Mr. Davies of Orono)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Fee for Serving Civil Process" (H. P. 410) (Presented by Mr. Hanson of Kennebunkport)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator Collins of Knox of that branch, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to His Excellency, Joseph E. Brennan, Governor of Maine an invitation to attend the Convention and to make such communication as he may be pleased to make.

Thereupon, the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 11:00 a.m. and the Speaker appointed Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro to convey this message to the Senate.

Subsequently, Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Labor

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Double Affirmation Rule under the Employment Security Law" (H. P. 411) (Presented by Mr. Dexter of Kingfield)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Local and County Government

Bill "An Act to Increase the Salary of the Aroostook County Register of Probate" (H. P. 412) (Presented by Mr. Smith of Mars Hill)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Change the Sales and Use Tax Law to Exempt Purchased and Leased Equip-

ment from Sales Tax when the Equipment is Engaged in Interstate Commerce" (H. P. 413) (Presented by Mr. Soulas of Bangor)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Transportation

Bill "An Act Requiring Protective Headgear for Motorcycle Riders" (H. P. 414) (Presented by Mr. Tuttle of Sanford) (Cosponsors: Mr. Diamond of Windham, Mr. Carroll of Limerick and Mr. Pearson of Old Town)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Special Sentiment Calendar

In accordance with House Rule 56, the following items (Expressions of Legislative Sentiment):

Recognizing:

Rep. Susan Jane Bell of Paris, who has been designated as "Outstanding Young Woman of America," 1980; (H. P. 405) by Mr. Kiesman of Fryeburg. (Cosponsors: Mr. Leighton of Harrison, Mr. Armstrong of Wilton and Senator Sutton of Oxford)

Rep. Karen Lee Brown of Bethel, who has been designated as "Outstanding Young Woman of America," 1980; (H. P. 406) by Mr. Kiesman of Fryeburg. (Cosponsors: Mr. Leighton of Harrison, Mr. Armstrong of Wilton and Senator Sutton of Oxford)

The Wiscasset Fire Society, which held its 180th annual meeting on January 13, 1981; (H. P. 407) by Mr. Soule of Westport.

No objections being noted, the above items were considered passed.

Consent Calendar**First Day**

In accordance with House Rule 49, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H. P. 66) (L. D. 96) Bill "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Statutes to Allow the Secretary of State to Enter into the Nonresident Violator Compact" (Emergency) — Committee on Judiciary reporting "Ought to Pass"

No objections being noted, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of January 27, under listing of the Second Day.

Passed to Be Engrossed

Bill "An Act Relating to Permits and Inspection for Electrical Installation in Commercial Buildings under the Electrician Law" (H. P. 392) (L. D. 378)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading, read the second time, passed to be engrossed and sent up for concurrence.

Orders of the Day

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT—Majority (12) "Ought to Pass" - Minority (1) "Ought Not to Pass" - Committee on Health and Institutional Services on Bill, "An Act Redesignating the Bureau of Resource Development as the Bureau of Income Maintenance." (H. P. 64) (L. D. 95)

Tabled—January 26, 1981 by Mr. Diamond of Windham.

Pending—Acceptance of either Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hampden, Mrs. Prescott.

Mrs. PRESCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the Majority "Ought to Pass" Report.

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman from Hampden, Mrs. Prescott, moves that the Majority "Ought to Pass" Report be accepted.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Canton, Mr. McCollister.

Mr. MCCOLLISTER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: We are going to be asked to approve spending \$81 million for social welfare, but it will not be spent for welfare—income maintenance is where it will go,

the Bureau of Income Maintenance, maintenance of income.

How have we arrived at the point of considering a major plank in McGovern's disastrous attempt to become President? We must go back to the McGovern era to a bill, L. D. 1187 in the year 1971, which became L. D. 1827, An Act to Create the Department of Human Services, a bill to downgrade two basic departments. This is followed by a joint select committee of the legislature on government reorganization in the special session of the 105th Legislature, L.D. 2012, eliminating the Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections, eliminating the Commissioner of Health and Welfare, the Commissioner of Corrections, and nine directors, and gave these responsibilities to one man, the Commissioner of Human Services.

The intent of L.D. 2012 was that the functions of the new department be centralized in order to expedite the business of the state. Further, he shall have the authority to organize, reorganize, transfer and abolish bureaus, divisions or other administrative units.

In their attempt to legislate out the "stigma" of welfare, L.D. 2012 replaced the wisdom of 11 men with the apparent indecision of a single commissioner. Indecision, yes, for we now had a Department of Human Services that created a Bureau of Human Services. In 1973, the Bureau of Human Services became the Bureau of Resource Development by an act of the legislature—why an act of the legislature when the commissioner clearly had the authority to organize, reorganize and abolish bureaus?

In 1978, the act recreating the bureaus of Social Welfare, Health, Rehabilitation, State Health Planning, Resource Development—again—Elderly.

In 1981, we had before us L.D. 95, An Act Redesignating the Bureau of Resource Development as the Bureau of Social Services and the Bureau of Social Welfare as the Bureau of Income Maintenance.

As I said, the indecision of one commissioner replacing the wisdom of 11 men—one can't help wondering if someone is playing antonyms. The Bureau of Resource Development becomes the Bureau of Social Services—BOSS; that's boss.

The Bureau of Income Maintenance could be the Bureau of Maintaining Income—maintaining it at what level? Maintaining it to a mean, maintaining it to an average or maintaining it to minimum wage. The minimum wage being proposed of \$4.00 per hour becomes \$160 a week or \$8,320 a year.

Beware, bureaucratic minds are devious. We named the Bureau of Income Maintenance; now they need a goal. McGovern gave them this goal—guaranteed annual incomes—\$4.00 an hour, \$160 a week, and no income tax, no social security and no major health expenses. Then, why not index the whole package to the cost of living, or better yet, to the prime interest rate? But the bottom line is, we have taken one step further than Senator McGovern dared. We are removing the last vestige of honesty in the system if you accept the "ought to pass" report. You can truthfully tell your people back home you settled once and for all for "the welfare mess in Augusta;" you voted it out of existence. That's right, there will be no department, bureau or employee working for welfare. The word will be legislated out of existence—what an accomplishment!

Is there something wrong with the word "welfare"? The dictionary defines it as "the state of doing well, especially in respect to good fortune, happiness, well-being or prosperity." So if we are going to spend \$81 million for what is now called welfare and you legislate welfare out of the state government, how do you explain why taxes don't go down. So let's be honest with the taxpayers and keep the definitions of state government in words they know and understand. Let's call "welfare" welfare.

I ask for your support in defeating the "ought to pass" motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hampden, Mrs. Prescott.

Mrs. PRESCOTT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I am very pleased this morning that we are finally debating an issue. The legislature has been slow coming to this, but I realize that changing the names of the bureaus is probably not a number one priority issue of this legislative session.

The intent of the bill is simply to change the title to more clearly reflect what the bureaus are already doing. It will then be consistent with the federal terms.

The committee voted this out 12 to 1, and it appears that the only opponent that we had was the gentleman that just spoke and gave you his opposition.

The bill does not require any reorganization at all. There is no appropriation and there is no \$81 million price tag, as the gentleman might have suggested.

I hope you will accept the "Ought to Pass" Report, and, Mr. Speaker, when the vote is taken, I request a division.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is on the motion of the gentlewoman from Hampden, Mrs. Prescott, that the Majority "Ought to Pass" Report be accepted. All those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken.

86 having voted in the affirmative and 41 having voted in the negative, the motion did prevail.

Thereupon, the Bill was read once and assigned for second reading tomorrow.

The following papers appearing on Supplement No. 1 were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

In accordance with House Rule 56, the following items (Expressions of Legislative Sentiment):

Recognizing:

Walter M. Farren, of Cherryfield, who celebrated his 100th birthday on January 16, 1981; (S. P. 167)

Mr. and Mrs. William P. Mohrman, of Damariscotta, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on February 14, 1981; (S. P. 168)

The Acton-Milton Mills Free Baptist Church on its 200th anniversary (1780-1980); (S. P. 169)

Charles West of Parsonsfield, who has been named "Outstanding Conservation Farmer for 1980" in York County; (S. P. 170)

There being no objections, these Expressions of Legislative Sentiment were considered passed.

The following paper from the Senate appearing on Supplement No. 2 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

The following Communication: (S. P. 173)

State of Maine
Senate Chamber
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 23, 1981

Honorable Roland L. Sutton
Honorable Joseph C. Brannigan
Chairmen, Committee on
Business Legislation
State House
Augusta, Me 04333

Please be advised that Governor Joseph E. Brennan has nominated Harvey E. DeVane to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Business Regulation.

Pursuant to Title 10 MRSA Section 8001, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Business Legislation and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,
JOSEPH SEWALL
President of the Senate
JOHN L. MARTIN
Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate read and referred to the Committee on Business Legislation.

In the House, the Communication was read

and referred to the Committee on Business Legislation in concurrence.

The following papers from the Senate appearing on Supplement No. 3 were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

Reports of Committees

Ought Not to Pass

Report of the Committee on Business Legislation reporting "Ought Not to Pass" on Bill "An Act to Adjust the Standard Width Dimensions for Sawn Shingles" (S. P. 17) (L. D. 15)

Report of the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife reporting "Ought Not to Pass" on Bill "An Act to Establish and Limit Deer Hunting to a Northern and a Southern Zone" (S. P. 49) (L. D. 58)

Were placed in the Legislative Files without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 22 in concurrence.

The following paper from the Senate appearing on Supplement No. 4 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Maintain and Protect the Integrity of the Maine State Retirement System" (H. P. 294) (L. D. 338) which was referred to the Committee on State Government in the House on January 20, 1981.

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Aging, Retirement and Veterans in non-concurrence.

In the House: The House voted to recede and concur.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro, Recessed until the sound of the gong.

After Recess

11:00 a.m.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

(Off Record Remarks)

At this point, the Senate entered the Hall of the House and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, Joseph Sewall, in the Chair.

On Motion of Senator Collins of Knox, it was ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency, Governor Joseph E. Brennan, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature were in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

AULT of Kennebec
GILL of Cumberland
VIOLETTE of Aroostook

Representatives:

PEARSON of Old Town
JALBERT of Lewiston
CARTER of Winslow
KELLEHER of Bangor
CHONKO of Topsham
BRENERMAN of Portland
SMITH of Mars Hill
ALOUPI of Bangor
DAVIS of Monmouth
LANCASTER of Kittery

Subsequently, Mr. Ault of the Committee reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged, and the Governor was pleased to say that he would forthwith attend the Convention.

Whereupon, Governor Joseph E. Brennan entered the Convention Hall amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

Governor Brennan addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Men and Women of the 110th Maine Legislature:

One week ago today, I stood among my fellow governors, facing the west front of the Capitol, as another chief executive spoke to the leaders of government and to the people of his hopes and goals for the future.

It was, as he stated, the orderly and peaceful transfer of leadership from one political party to another.

It was the culmination of a constitutional process.

But it was also the result of a mandate of the people as a whole, a message sent so clearly from the voting booth, that no one in public life could miss its implications:

—Stop the growth of government.

—Curtail the spiraling cost of doing the people's business.

—Stop intruding into our lives.

—Redefine our notion of what government can and should be doing.

As the President spoke, I found myself reflecting on Maine.

I believe we anticipated that message long ago. It found its first embodiment in the election six years ago of Governor Longley.

To many Americans, the national government has taken it upon itself to assume powers which neither the states nor, increasingly, the people wish it to have.

At the same time, underlying the actual words that were spoken and, indeed, permeating the entire atmosphere of Washington last week, was a tone and an attitude with which I could not agree.

It was a belief that government itself is the cause of our problems.

I reject that idea. I believe the people of Maine reject it.

Government at all levels may have taken on too many responsibilities, tried to do too many things, and in fact may well have created major problems by trying to solve small ones.

But the sins and mistakes of government have often been caused by an excess of good intentions.

Washington, D.C. may not really understand Washington County.

But that doesn't make Washington, D.C. or City Hall or this Legislature enemies of the people.

And it would be a mistake for President Reagan or the Maine House and Senate or my Administration to misinterpret the message of the people last November.

It was not a mandate to bring the wheels of government to a dead stop. But rather, it was a message to us that they expect better government — not more government.

And it is in this spirit that I submit to you my legislative program for 1981.

It is a program which is consistent with the budget I presented two weeks ago, a budget which recognized — for the first time in recent history — that programs can be eliminated as well as added. This program respects the will of the people to check the growth and power of government. But it also recognizes that government must still take action to further the common good.

There are bills to address problems which cannot be responsibly ignored, bills to make government do a better job, bills that are consistent with improving the quality of life for the 1980's.

CORRECTIONS

Among the most urgent priorities is corrections.

The budget I have proposed underscores the importance of making improvements to the State Prison.

The budget recommendations, however, do not exist in a vacuum.

There are necessary changes which must be made if we are to continue our efforts to provide a decent, humane and workable corrections system.

Accordingly, I am proposing the creation of a separate Department of Corrections because I

believe this will place greater public and government focus on our corrections problems.

A separate Department will have more accountability.

It will end the insensitive policy of placing the mentally ill and retarded together with criminal offenders under a single bureaucratic umbrella.

The greatest single problem area within corrections is the host of difficulties related to the State Prison. These problems exist because of the very nature of a maximum security facility, but they have been compounded by overcrowding, physical deterioration and lack of attention over the years.

This Administration has made a good start at reducing what had become, by this time last year, the potentially explosive conditions there.

Two bills in my program are intended to continue our progress there.

During the past year, we established a minimum security facility at Charleston. Its greatest benefit to the state has been that of easing the dangerous overcrowding at Thomaston. It enables our corrections officials to assign offenders to the most appropriate facility for the individual's needs.

Legislative authorization is required to make this facility a permanent state institution.

I am proposing another bill that will also ease conditions at Thomaston and, we hope, contribute to the successful return of prisoners to society.

A few years ago, we tried to address inequities in the law by eliminating parole.

Many in our criminal justice system would agree that abolition of parole has not worked. The certainty of a fixed term has not served as a deterrent. The prison has become more crowded. And inmates have no incentive to work toward early release.

I am proposing a bill to allow some inmates to qualify for parole — with supervision — after serving at least half of their terms.

It provides flexibility to a rigid system. It holds out the opportunity for early release through a cooperative attitude and personal progress.

Passage of these three bills will continue the progress we've made since we took control of the prison last April.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protection of the public from the dangers that affect us all is a basic responsibility of government.

In the 1950's, we set out to improve the quality of our water.

In the 1960's, we undertook air quality improvement programs, and in the 1970's land quality became a principal focus of our environmental efforts.

In the 1980's, the challenges grow more complex, and if we are to continue to safeguard our environment, we must again take action.

I am proposing that we create an environmental health unit.

We do not understand all the immediate and long-range health threats we have created for ourselves and for future generations.

We have seen the great public health threats from substances that have been introduced to our environment.

Mercury was found in the Royal River in Yarmouth.

Quantities of the chemical tris were carried away when the Piscataquis River flooded.

A truck loaded with propane gas overturned in Falmouth.

The ground water supply was contaminated in Gray.

An environmental health unit will give state government the capability of investigating, assessing and acting to solve these problems.

I believe this unit is overdue and urgently needed to address what is potentially our greatest public health problem of the 1980's.

State government has also begun serious ex-

amination of the problems of hazardous waste.

My Administration is proposing the establishment of a hazardous waste fund.

It is similar in design to the successful Oil Conveyance Fund. Those who create or transport hazardous waste would be required to pay a small fee for each gallon of hazardous waste they create or handle.

This fund and the toxic waste unit it finances will enable the state to administer an effective, responsive hazardous waste program.

Let me briefly mention three other proposals under the general heading of health and safety.

First, I have asked a cabinet subcommittee to evaluate the recent report on the problem of drivers who operate under the influence of alcohol.

The committee will report to me shortly, and I will submit what I promise will be very tough legislation against this intolerable social menace.

Secondly, I have a bill to address one of the leading causes of death of young children by setting standards and requirements for safety restraints for children under four years of age in cars.

Third, the recent outbreak of Rubella in Sanford has reawakened our awareness of the dangers of many diseases for which effective vaccines now exist. Because these diseases are no longer as common as they once were, many have become lax about immunization. I am submitting legislation to ensure all school children will be properly protected against German Measles, Polio and other diseases.

ENERGY

Developing a comprehensive, cohesive energy plan for Maine's future has been one of the most demanding responsibilities of my Administration for the past two years.

We have developed an integrated, forward-looking program that encourages public and private conservation and public and private resource development.

Part of this comprehensive program is the extensive energy legislation I have submitted, bills that will have a lasting impact on the people of Maine.

They include two bills that require your immediate attention.

Both are aimed at overcoming the federal government's decision to remove federal allocation controls. These controls will expire no later than this fall. However, according to responsible published reports, the Reagan Administration may permit them to lapse as early as February 1st, less than one week away.

Therefore, I am asking your immediate attention to a bill to require petroleum dealers to give notice of at least one year before they reduce or discontinue supplies to their customers in Maine — or to locate an alternative supplier before withdrawing from the Maine market. This bill is necessary to protect us from the shortages that could result from the sudden curtailment of supplies following federal deregulation.

A second bill will guarantee that we will continue to have necessary information about existing petroleum supplies within the state. My bill would require suppliers to report their deliveries in Maine to the Office of Energy Resources on a monthly basis. We have already learned the hard way how important this information can be in offsetting the effects of shortages.

I also wish to call your attention to some of the other bills I am introducing this year.

We propose to end the customer service charge, a step toward encouraging fuel conservation and helping those consumers who use very little electricity.

We are calling for authorization to require our major electric utilities to assist customers with financing for energy conservation improvements in their homes. Conservation of this type may well avoid the need to build costly new generating facilities.

We are proposing a bill to allow the PUC to purchase electricity from Canada for resale to Maine utilities.

Another bill will ensure the public interest is adequately represented in the deliberations of the PUC by creating a public staff to evaluate rate requests from the consumer's point of view.

We are underscoring our commitment to the development of renewable resource technology through a bill to use bonding authority to finance low-interest loans for energy development projects.

Our proposals include bills to encourage energy audits, to promote ridesharing, to continue energy efficiency improvements to state government buildings, and to improve our weatherization program for low-income people.

Another bill would extend the Housing Authority's loan program to enable owners of apartment houses to apply for low-interest energy-efficiency improvement loans.

I urge your close attention to these and our other energy initiatives, for no area of public concern more directly relates to our future independence and success as a state and as a nation.

There is, however one other energy topic I would like to address. I do not plan to introduce any legislation concerning nuclear power in light of the statutes already on the books. However, there is great public interest and concern over Maine Yankee's application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expand the capacity for the storage of spent fuel. This issue is sufficiently important and timely to warrant your attention at this time.

Tomorrow, the NRC will publish in the Federal Register a new notice of hearing on the Maine Yankee application. Within the next 30 days, the state will have to file the necessary documents to indicate what role we intend to play in the consideration of the application.

According to NRC regulations, it is possible for the state to participate without taking a position for or against the proposal.

I know that some legislators and your subcommittee on radio-active Waste have recommended this approach — that of participating but not stating a position for or against. I, as Governor, have decided after careful consideration, that the state must take stronger, more aggressive action. Therefore, I have decided that the state will intervene in those proceedings as a full party in opposition to the Maine Yankee proposal.

Tomorrow, in accordance with our laws, I will ask the attorney general to begin the intervention process. I may request an appropriation to fund the state's intervention, if additional funds are necessary. Let me assure you, that this decision has been carefully weighed. Maine Yankee should be required to prove the safety of its plan every step of the way.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Another major category of legislation reflects my Administration's commitment to economic development. It is the tool by which we can mold a healthier business climate for our farmers, manufacturers, tourist industry, merchants, and for those who might consider locating their firms in Maine.

Perhaps the single most important bill I will submit this session is the \$29 million bond issue I described in my Budget Message.

It includes \$23 million for the cargo port development projects which will do so much to improve our export capability.

The bond issue also includes \$6 million for the construction of centralized potato storage and packing facilities. This will give Maine potato producers facilities similar to those available to their competitors. It is a central element in efforts to promote a high quality product and to improve our share of this market.

In addition, this bond issue includes a provision that up to \$3 million of the cargo port funding go toward the construction of a centrally located feed grain transfer facility.

It is no exaggeration to state that the feed grain facility could mean the difference between survival or extinction for Maine's poultry industry.

Maine's producers need a more equitable rail rate structure, and this can only come about through volume shipments — and adequate storage and handling facilities are required to take advantage of these better shipment rates.

Last year, the 109th Legislature enacted most of my proposed Agricultural Development Act.

This year, we propose to build upon this success with bills to improve the marketing system for agricultural commodities.

I am submitting a proposal to improve the marketing of potatoes.

It includes a provision to change the branding law to make the packer whose name appears on the container responsible for the contents, and another provision licenses packers to ensure better coordination of quality control.

Like Agriculture, the fishing industry is receiving enthusiastic cooperation from my Administration in its efforts to rebound from a period of hard times.

Among my proposals is a bill to create a state Groundfish Council, which would enable producers to act cooperatively to build market creditability through careful quality control, and to locate new markets.

Tourism is, of course, another major industry closely tied to our natural resources.

In addition to my budget proposals to enhance our tourism promotion programs, I am submitting a \$2.5 million bond issue for the development of new state park facilities in the following places: the Bangor area, Colonial Penmaquid in Bristol, Little Chebeague and Jewell Islands in Casco Bay, Laudholm Farms in Wells, Aroostook and Kennebec Counties, and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

These new facilities will increase accessibility to — and enhance the use of — recreational and historic sites which are enjoyed and appreciated by Maine residents and visitors alike, and which contribute to the quality of life, while also contributing to the tourist industry.

My economic development program includes these additional initiatives:

First, I am proposing a bill to make office buildings eligible for funding through municipal revenue bonds.

This would help stimulate more innovative and comprehensive community development efforts and would be especially helpful in communities that are struggling to develop greater economic stability.

Second, I am introducing legislation to broaden the scope of the Jobs Investment Tax Credit. This tax credit approach can be a powerful tool to help encourage businesses to move to Maine. It should also be used to assist existing businesses to create job opportunities.

I wish to mention one final economic development proposal.

It's a bill to provide for the financing of new housing construction through the Maine State Housing Authority.

My bill would provide for additional financing of \$125 million.

Over 3500 jobs would be created as a result of this bill.

GOVERNMENT REFORM FOR THE 80's

A significant portion of my legislative program includes bills to streamline government and to improve government finances.

I am proposing legislation to deregulate the trucking industry within Maine.

My bill would eliminate the PUC's Transportation Division, saving the state 14 jobs, and would consolidate all truck and safety enforcement within the Department of Public Safety. This bill also deregulates intrastate rail, bus

and moving van service.

Another deregulation measure would strip away an unnecessary layer of government for local water companies.

It would allow municipal and quasi-municipal water districts, departments and companies to set their rates without the approval of the PUC. These districts and companies are already accountable to the public through the public election or appointment of trustees. My proposal will not apply to privately owned companies whose operations are not subject to any public accountability other than through the PUC.

One other bill comes under the general heading of reducing government controls.

I intend to submit a measure to turn the retail sale of liquor over to the private sector — where it belongs.

I believe the private sector is perfectly capable of selling a bottle of liquor.

And the state is perfectly capable of realizing as much revenue with this reform.

These three measures all propose important streamlining of government controls.

One other bill in my program is aimed at improving an important government process.

I am again offering a bill to eliminate the necessity of convicting drunk drivers and other offenders twice before they're really convicted.

My bill will speed up the system, reduce court dockets, reduce waste and inefficiency in our courts — and make a positive contribution to our criminal justice system.

Several bills in my program are aimed at reforming government finances to cope with the realities of the 1980's.

My budget process proposes the first step toward undedicating the Highway Fund by eliminating gas tax allocations to the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Motor Vehicles during the second year of the biennium.

I am submitting legislation to complete the process by treating the gasoline tax the same as our other revenue sources.

I am introducing a bill to allow the state to keep money seized in drug raids.

And I am submitting legislation permitting the state to apply refunds owed to individuals and firms toward any debts against the state these same individuals and firms may owe.

I am also proposing a bill to support our efforts to improve Maine's credit rating. My bill would take \$1 million each year from the state's surplus to create a reserve fund of up to \$10 million. This account would be used to cover defaults which may occur on Maine Guarantee Authority loans. Creation of this reserve fund would be a long stride toward Maine's recovery of its AAA credit rating.

QUALITY OF LIFE

I believe deeply in the idea that every government activity directly relates to improving the quality of the lives of its citizens, whether that means providing safe roads, prosecuting offenders, regulating business, creating job opportunities or helping an elderly person maintain her own household.

This is not a policy.

It is an obligation.

It is not a luxury.

It is our job.

And this obligation is even more important in the cases of those individuals who, because of physical or emotional health problems, personal difficulties or weaknesses or special circumstances, have highly personalized needs.

Accordingly, I am submitting several bills that recognize government's responsibility to ensure that compassion, fairness and respect for the individual remain at the forefront in our dealings with our citizens.

I am asking this Legislature to enact a bill of rights for our mentally ill citizens.

This bill will make it state policy that all those who care for this special class of citizens always act in a manner that is highly sensitive

to their rights. Its cornerstone is the belief that the mentally ill have the right to the least restrictive environment and the most appropriate treatment that can be provided. It details explicit regulations to ensure that care for the mentally ill be undertaken with respect and dignity.

One of the most stressful and traumatic of all human experiences is the breakup of a family. I am asking this Legislature to protect the precious right of privacy of those involved in divorce and child custody proceedings by treating these cases as confidential. This legislation declares that the individual's dignity is more important than the public's right to gossip.

I am proposing legislation to help handicapped workers. It would allow the state to purchase the products of sheltered workshops on a non-competitive basis. We already have authorization to make such purchases from facilities serving and staffed by blind workers. The purchase of quality goods and services by the state will create new revenues for sheltered workshops and will create expanded work opportunities for the handicapped.

I am submitting legislation to address the educational needs of the most severely handicapped among our school-age children. My bill would enable the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to provide assistance on an extended school year basis to approximately 3 percent of the students who have special education needs. This group will benefit because the extended school year is necessary to sustain their learning progress, which cannot be maintained on a schedule that is adequate for the majority.

It is an unfortunate fact of modern life that there is an increased prevalence of abused, neglected and abandoned elderly people unable to fully care for themselves. I am proposing legislation that will make a greater effort on the state's part to help them. My measure is a modest but significant attempt to deal with this troubling problem.

The state is the legal guardian for some 2200 children. Yet these children are being adopted at a rate of only 50 to 60 a year. I am convinced that many Maine families would make permanent homes for some of these unfortunate children if the financial penalty were reduced. I am submitting legislation to assist with the costs of their education. This bill takes a step toward placing more children in permanent homes.

In conclusion, this legislative program and the budget I have submitted are, I believe, the kind of leadership which those we represent want for the 1980's.

There is no major expansion of government. But neither are we sounding retreat.

We are implementing programs to take government out of areas that the private sector can do better.

We are working together with the private sector to enrich the opportunities for our working people.

And we are meeting the needs, as we must, for those among us whose only hope for a better life is our help.

At the conclusion of the Governor's address, the Governor withdrew amid applause, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved and the Senate retired to its chamber amid applause of the House, the members rising.

In the House

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

On motion of Mrs. Berube of Lewiston, Adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning.