

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature
State of Maine

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**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 13, 1997

Senate Called to Order by the President, Mark W. Lawrence of York.

Prayer by Reverend Richard Cullen of the United Methodist Church in Auburn.

REVEREND RICHARD CULLEN: I have to wait for the ringing to clear from my ears. Let us pray.

Oh God of all peoples, we acknowledge before You today that all that we are and all that we have, is a gift that you have freely bestowed upon us. We thank You for the gifts of knowledge, insight, wisdom and perception, which are present in this room today. May all these gifts be used for the good, of the whole of humanity. Guide now these public servants, as they struggle with the issues which touch the very core of so many lives. Give to them both wisdom and guidance in the decisions which need to be made. May they be governed by love and compassion, especially for the poorest and most disenfranchised of our society. Bless now the hard work which is done in this legislative session, and bless richly those who do this work. May they be rewarded with the sense that what they accomplish does matter in the lives of their constituents. May they know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that their work will better the lives of others who are depending upon them. All this we pray in Your name, Oh God. Amen.

Doctor of the Day, Allen Bassler, M.D., Pittsfield.

Reading of the Journal of Wednesday, March 12, 1997.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox the following Joint Order:
S.P. 493

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the House and Senate Adjourn they do so until Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 10:00 in the morning.

Which was **READ** and **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Permit Municipalities to Restrict the Sale of Tobacco Products"
S.P. 72 L.D. 211

In Senate, March 4, 1997, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-4) in NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**.

Non-concurrent Matter

Resolve, to Compensate Janice Burns of South Portland as Personal Representative of the Estate of Wrendy Hayne of Augusta
S.P. 461 L.D. 1433

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

In Senate, March 11, 1997, referred to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**. Subsequently, on motion by Senator **CAREY** of Kennebec, **RECONSIDERED**. On further motion by the same Senator, referred to the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Senator **CAREY** of Kennebec, moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**.

On motion by Senator **DAGGETT** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **CAREY** of Kennebec to **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Apprenticeship Program"
S.P. 455 L.D. 1429

In Senate, March 11, 1997, referred to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **LABOR** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Allow ATV Use on Public Lands Not Specifically Designated as Primitive-use Land" (Emergency)
S.P. 450 L.D. 1424

In Senate, March 11, 1997, referred to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Prohibit a Person Whose License to Operate a Motor Vehicle Has Been Suspended from Operating an All-terrain Vehicle on Roads and Highways" S.P. 462 L.D. 1434

In Senate, March 11, 1997, referred to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**.

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Increase Access to and Affordability of Mental Health Services" H.P. 1062 L.D. 1500

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE**.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session pending **REFERENCE**.

Bill "An Act to Require Consent of a Legal Guardian for the Provision of Prescription Contraception to a Minor" H.P. 1011 L.D. 1403

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

On motion by Senator **PARADIS** of Aroostook, referred to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enable Victims to Benefit from the Profits from Crimes" H.P. 1064 L.D. 1502

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Step-pay Increases in Wages in Expired Collective Bargaining Agreements" H.P. 1060 L.D. 1498

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **LABOR** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **LABOR** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Lobster Laws and to Study the Feasibility of Basing Categories of Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses on the Percentage of Income Derived from Commercial Lobster Fishing" H.P. 1063 L.D. 1501

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Laws" (Emergency) H.P. 1065 L.D. 1503

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Harmful Additives in Gasoline" H.P. 1061 L.D. 1499

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Joint Order

The following Joint Order: H.P. 1059

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that Joint Rule 208 be amended to read:

Rule 208. Requirements for Drafting.

A request for a bill or resolve filed with the Revisor of Statutes is considered complete when the request is properly titled and accompanied by sufficient instructions, information and data required for its preparation. Drafts prepared by an outside source must be filed in final form by the appropriate cloture date.

When directed by the sponsor, the Revisor of Statutes shall prepare a bill or resolve in concept form. The bill or resolve shall contain only an enacting clause and a summary of the proposed legislation and shall not be fully drafted by the Revisor of Statutes. The bill or resolve prepared in this form shall be printed and referred to a committee in the same manner as other legislation and may be reported in fully drafted form by that committee in the same manner as other legislation. Each committee may establish a limit on the number of bills or resolves in concept form that it hears. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, members of legislative leadership and committee chairs have access to the contents of a file for a bill or resolve that is prepared in concept form. This method of drafting legislation is not allowed for legislation submitted by the Governor, by agencies or departments of state government, by study commissions, or pursuant to statute. Any request for a bill or resolve submitted after cloture must state if it is a request for a concept draft. Any committee amendment must be germane to the detailed summary of the concept draft. This paragraph of Joint Rule 208 shall have a sunset date of ~~March 1, 1997~~ December 1, 1998. The sunset date may be extended by a majority vote of both branches of the Legislature.

Comes from the House **READ** and **PASSED**.

Which was **READ**.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE**.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Reinstate the Death Penalty"
S.P. 492 L.D. 1524

Presented by Senator **BENOIT** of Franklin
Cosponsored by Representative **WATERHOUSE** of Bridgton
and Representatives: **KASPRZAK** of Newport, **LABRECQUE**
of Gorham, **LANE** of Enfield, **PLOWMAN** of Hampden,
SNOWE-MELLO of Poland

Which was referred to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make the Workers' Compensation System More Equitable"
S.P. 491 L.D. 1523

Presented by Senator **NUTTING** of Androscoggin

Cosponsored by Representative **BUMPS** of China and Senator: **CLEVELAND** of Androscoggin

Which was referred to the Committee on **LABOR** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** on Bill "An Act to Classify Vehicular Homicide as a Class A Crime"
H.P. 176 L.D. 231

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Which Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

The Bill **READ ONCE**.

The Bill **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING**.

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** on Bill "An Act Concerning Defendants' Ability to Attack Orders of Restitution"
H.P. 227 L.D. 291

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Which Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

The Bill **READ ONCE**.

The Bill **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING**.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Name the New Bridge over the Fore River in Portland
H.P. 720 L.D. 984

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Which Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

The Resolve **READ ONCE**.

The Resolve **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.**

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Territory Included within Lake Arrowhead Community, Incorporated"
H.P. 168 L.D. 223

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass.**

Signed:

Senators:

NUTTING of Androscoggin
GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock
LIBBY of York

Representatives:

AHEARNE of Madawaska
BUMPS of China
BAGLEY of Machias
FISK, JR. of Falmouth
GIERINGER, JR. of Portland
KASPRZAK of Newport
DUTREMBLE of Biddeford
SANBORN of Alton

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass.**

Signed:

Representative:

GERRY of Auburn

Comes from the House, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

Which Reports were **READ.**

On motion by Senator **NUTTING** of Androscoggin the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

The Bill **READ ONCE.**

The Bill **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.**

Senate

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Advertise Public Legal Notices in Weekly Papers"
S.P. 18 L.D. 16

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass.**

Signed:

Senator:

GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock

Representatives:

AHEARNE of Madawaska
BAGLEY of Machias
GIERINGER, JR. of Portland
FISK, JR. of Falmouth
SANBORN of Alton
LEMKE of Westbrook

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-14).**

Signed:

Senators:

NUTTING of Androscoggin
LIBBY of York

Representatives:

BUMPS of China
GERRY of Auburn
KASPRZAK of Newport

Which Reports were **READ.**

Senator **NUTTING** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

SECOND READERS

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the following:

House

Bill "An Act to Correct Certain Errors and Inconsistencies in Marine Resources Laws"
H.P. 395 L.D. 540

Which was **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following

An Act Concerning Service Relating to the Disclosure of Financial Records
H.P. 403 L.D. 548

Which was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matter in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (3/12/97) Assigned matter:

Bill, An Act to Establish Victims' Rights Laws
H.P. 1054 L.D. 1486

Tabled - March 12, 1997, by Senator **LONGLEY** of Waldo.

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(In House, March 11, 1997, referred to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.)

Which was referred to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (3/12/97) Assigned matter:

JOINT ORDER - relative to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES** reporting out, to the Senate, legislation to provide permanent funding for the Maine Health Data Organization and to amend the health data laws.
S.P. 482

Tabled - March 12, 1997, by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox.

Pending - motion by Senator **PARADIS** of Aroostook to **PASS**

(In Senate, March 12, 1997, **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **PARADIS** of Aroostook, **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (3/12/97) Assigned matter:

Bill, An Act to Amend the Benefits Received by Legislators
S.P. 489 L.D. 1497

Tabled - March 12, 1997, by Senator **RAND** of Cumberland.

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **LABOR** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.)

(In Senate, March 12, 1997, referred to the Committee on **LABOR**. Subsequently, on motion by Senator **RAND** of Cumberland, **RECONSIDERED**.)

On motion by Senator **CATHCART** of Penobscot, referred to the Committee on **LABOR**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, all matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator **MURRAY** for the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** on Bill "An Act to Remove the State Prisoner Population Limit for Knox County" S.P. 190 L.D. 608

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Which Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill **READ ONCE**.

The Bill **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING**.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator **JENKINS** for the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Grandfather Ambulance Attendants from Additional Rulemaking" S.P. 34 L.D. 32

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-15)**.

Which Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
The Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-15) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

The Bill as Amended, **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING**.

Senator **JENKINS** for the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Right of Campground Owners To Evict or Deny Accommodations to Problem Guests" S.P. 55 L.D. 165

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-16)**.

Which Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-16) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

The Bill as Amended, **TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING**.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Resolve, to Establish the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission H.P. 1081 L.D. 1518

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve, to Create a Restriction on Requiring the Early Payment of Loans H.P. 1072 L.D. 1509

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Health Insurance" H.P. 1084 L.D. 1521

Come from the House, referred to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which were referred to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Dealership Protection to Forestry, Construction and Utility Contracts" H.P. 1069 L.D. 1506

Bill "An Act Pertaining to the Real Estate Consumer's Right to Seller Disclosure Information" H.P. 1075 L.D. 1512

Come from the House, referred to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which were referred to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Juvenile Laws" (Emergency) H.P. 1085 L.D. 1522

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Review and Reform the System of Learning Results H.P. 1079 L.D. 1516

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Search and Rescue Capabilities" H.P. 1082 L.D. 1519

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

On motion by Senator **KILKELLY** of Lincoln, referred to the Committees on **MARINE RESOURCES** and **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Concerning Service of Process by the Department of Human Services" H.P. 1071 L.D. 1508

Bill "An Act to Enforce Payment of Spousal Support" H.P. 1073 L.D. 1510

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Lawsuits Based on Disclosure of the HIV or AIDS Status of Health Care Practitioners" H.P. 1074 L.D. 1511

Come from the House, referred to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which were referred to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance the Collection of Unemployment Benefit Overpayments" H.P. 1080 L.D. 1517

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **LABOR** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **LABOR**, in concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Allow Unenrolled Voters to Serve as Election Workers at Polls" H.P. 1078 L.D. 1515

Bill "An Act to Amend Various Election Laws" H.P. 1083 L.D. 1520

Come from the House, referred to the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which were referred to the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change the Department of Environmental Protection's Regulatory Process from an Instruction-based Process to a Contractual Performance-based Approach" H.P. 1076 L.D. 1513

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Require That All Income and Sales Tax Increases Be Approved by Referendum H.P. 1077 L.D. 1514

Comes from the House, referred to the Committee on **TAXATION** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which was referred to the Committee on **TAXATION** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Notification Requirements for Insurance Companies and Towing Companies" H.P. 1067 L.D. 1504

Bill "An Act to Preserve the Privacy of Commuters" H.P. 1068 L.D. 1505

Bill "An Act to Change the Fine for Speeding in a School Zone" H.P. 1070 L.D. 1507

Come from the House, referred to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and **ORDERED PRINTED**.

Which were referred to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (3/5/97) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Reimburse Law Enforcement Agencies for Their Costs Related to the Prosecution of Criminal and Traffic Violation" S.P. 436 L.D. 1382

Tabled - March 5, 1997, by Senator **LONGLEY** of Waldo.

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.)

On motion by Senator **MURRAY** of Penobscot, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **REFERENCE**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Specially (3/13/97) Assigned matter:

Bill, An Act to Make Habitual Truancy a Crime H.P. 1015 L.D. 1407

Tabled - March 12, 1997, by Senator **RAND** of Cumberland.

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED**.)

(In House, March 11, 1997, referred to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**.)

On motion by Senator **MURRAY** of Penobscot, referred to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** and **ORDER PRINTED**, in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Increase Access to and Affordability of Mental Health Services" H.P. 1062 L.D. 1500

Tabled - March 13, 1997, by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox.

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and **ORDERED PRINTED.**)

(In House March 12, 1997, referred to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE.**)

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of York, referred to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** and **ORDERED PRINTED**, in concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease

Senate called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

Senator **AMERO** of Cumberland was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks

Senator **PINGREE** of Knox was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks

Senator **NUTTING** of Androscoggin was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Order

The following Joint Order: H.P. 1066

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PEACE EFFORTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

WHEREAS, the celebration of St. Patrick's Day reminds us of the ongoing quest for peace in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine and the people of Ireland have been deeply touched by the decades of violence in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, former United States Senator George Mitchell of Maine has played a key role in the ongoing peace negotiations to help establish economic stability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the 118th Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, extend our heartfelt support and encouragement for efforts to bring about a lasting peace in Northern Ireland; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to His Excellency, Dermot A. Gallagher, Ambassador of Ireland and the Honorable George J. Mitchell.

Comes from the House **READ** and **PASSED.**

Which was, under suspension of the Rules, READ.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Ruhlin.

Senator **RUHLIN:** Thank you Mr. President, men and women of the Senate. I want to take note of this resolution, urging and hoping for the success of Senator Mitchell, former Senator Mitchell of Maine, in helping to bring about a peaceful resolution of a long dispute that's gone on in Ireland. And can't help but note that I think those opportunities for success, which I'm sure we'll all join in, would be greatly enhanced were the neighbors, the immediate neighbors to go back home and leave Ireland in the peace that they'd had for many thousands of years before they interfered in the process to start with. I'd just like to note that for the record.

Which was **PASSED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **PINGREE** of Knox **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 10:00 in the morning.