

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007

Pages 1 - 1266

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Wednesday
June 6, 2007

Senate called to order by President Beth Edmonds of
Cumberland County.

Prayer by Reverend Linda Hatch of First Congregational Church
in Ellsworth, UCC.

REVEREND HATCH: Let us pray. Holy One, we give You thanks for this morning, the day before us, this assembly, the season, the State of Maine and its beauty; green forests, blue waters, and bird song. Strengthen and empower each person here to be a channel of deep caring for the precious and diverse people and resources of this state. Guide thoughts and voices into clarity. Enable patient listening and growing understanding amid differences. Weave hearts and minds together into connected ways that lead work ever forward into that which has lasting significance for lives that need to be touched in so many ways.

We would remember and lift to You families who have experienced loss of loved one in the Iraq area, those who serve there, their loved ones, and all those in need of care now and in returning. In the working out of this day, bless each one here with needed time to reflect, moments of insight, needed respite, and inner peace. Amen.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

Doctor of the day, Kevin Flanigan, MD of Pittsfield.

Off Record Remarks

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 379

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

May 30, 2007

Honorable Joy J. O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary O'Brien:

Pursuant to our authority under 38 MRSA, § 420-B, we are pleased to appoint Representative David Miramant of Camden to serve as a non-voting member of the Department of Conservation Surface Water Ambient Toxics Advisory Group.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

S/Beth Edmonds
Senate President

S/Glenn Cummings
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 380

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

June 5, 2007

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House
123rd Maine Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| L.D. 476 | An Act To Establish a Reinsurance Fund To Expand Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals and Small Groups |
| L.D. 1592 | An Act To Protect Small Businesses and Individual Health Insurance Consumers |
| L.D. 1894 | An Act To Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Families through Shared Responsibilities |

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Nancy B. Sullivan
Senate Chair

S/Rep. John R. Brautigam
House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

ORDERS

Joint Orders

On motion by Senator **SULLIVAN** of York, the following Joint Order:

S.P. 721

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services shall report out, to the Senate, a bill relating to changes in Maine's health insurance laws and the laws governing Dirigo Health.

READ.

On motion by Senator **ROSEN** of Hancock, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **SULLIVAN** of York to **PASS**.

On motion by Senator **BRANNIGAN** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:

S.P. 724

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services shall review eligibility for and transitioning of the MaineCare program and may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature. The committee shall consider in its review the coverage of young adults 19 and 20 years of age, qualified working disabled persons whose unearned income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level, parents and caretaker relatives whose income exceeds eligibility levels and children whose family income exceeds eligibility for the Cub Care program.

READ.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, placed on the **SPECIAL STUDY TABLE**, pending the motion by Senator **BRANNIGAN** of Cumberland to **PASS**.

Joint Resolution

On motion by Senator **MARRACHÉ** of Kennebec (Cosponsored by Senators: **BRANNIGAN** of Cumberland, **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot, Representatives: **PERRY** of Calais, **WALKER** of Lincolnville), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 723

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CONCEPT OF A MEDICAL HOME FOR ALL MAINE PATIENTS

WHEREAS, prominent physician organizations including the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maine affiliates of these national organizations and the Maine Medical Association recognize that patient care can be improved through a patient-centered practice model called the "medical home"; and

WHEREAS, these organizations and other physician and health care organizations have deliberated about the concept of a medical home and have issued principles or policy statements in support of the concept; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept is grounded in a series of patient-centered, physician-guided principles; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept means that each patient has an ongoing relationship with a personal physician trained to provide first contact, continuous and comprehensive care and who leads a team of individuals at the practice level who collectively take responsibility for the ongoing care of patients; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept means that the personal physician is responsible for providing for all the patient's health care needs or appropriately arranging care with other qualified professionals, including care for all stages of life, acute care, chronic care, preventive services and end-of-life care; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept means that patient care is coordinated and integrated across all domains of the health care system, such as hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes and practices facilitated by registries, information technology, health information exchange and other means to ensure that patients get the indicated care when and where they need and want it; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept has as its hallmarks quality and safety; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept means enhanced access to care through systems such as open scheduling, expanded hours and new options for communication between patients, physicians and office staff; and

WHEREAS, the medical home concept means that payment is commensurate with the added value provided to patients who have a patient-centered medical home; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Flanigan, M.D., of Pittsfield, President of the Maine Medical Association, on behalf of the physicians of Maine, supports the medical home concept for the citizens of Maine and is willing to highlight its concepts to those interested; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the concept of the medical home and to commend the physicians of Maine for using the patient-centered, physician-guided medical home concept as a means to improve the health care of all Maine citizens.

READ and ADOPTED.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Marraché.

Senator **MARRACHÉ:** Thank you Madame President. I just wanted to let you know that the medical home is a national concept that is moving across this country. It is a concept that tries to get physicians connected on a whole level, from the beginning of life to the end of life and all the aspects, whether medical or non-medical. We have with us today our Doctor of the Day, Kevin Flanigan. He will be around this morning, so if you have any questions regarding this concept, he'll be happy to answer them for you.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, To Create a Study Commission To Review and Report on the Possibility of Making All Public School Teachers in Maine Employees of the State
H.P. 633 L.D. 834

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-404).**

Signed:

Senators:
BOWMAN of York
MILLS of Somerset

Representatives:

FINCH of Fairfield
MAKAS of Lewiston
HARLOW of Portland
EDGECOMB of Caribou
McFADDEN of Dennysville
MUSE of Fryeburg

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

Signed:

Senator:
MITCHELL of Kennebec

Representatives:

NORTON of Bangor
FARRINGTON of Gorham
SUTHERLAND of Chapman
STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland

Comes from the House with the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ and ACCEPTED.**

Reports **READ.**

Senator **BOWMAN** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Provide Funding to Postsecondary Marine Training Programs"

H.P. 669 L.D. 884

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

Signed:

Senators:
BOWMAN of York
MITCHELL of Kennebec

Representatives:

NORTON of Bangor
FINCH of Fairfield
MAKAS of Lewiston
FARRINGTON of Gorham
HARLOW of Portland
SUTHERLAND of Chapman
MUSE of Fryeburg
STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-416).**

Signed:

Senator:
MILLS of Somerset

Representatives:
EDGECOMB of Caribou
McFADDEN of Dennysville

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
Reports **READ**.

Senator **BOWMAN** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

Divided Report

Nine members of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act To Enact the Informed Growth Act"

H.P. 1262 L.D. 1810

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-355).**

Signed:

Senators:
SCHNEIDER of Penobscot
BENOIT of Sagadahoc
BRANNIGAN of Cumberland

Representatives:
BARSTOW of Gorham
BOLAND of Sanford
SIROIS of Turner
SCHATZ of Blue Hill
BEAUDETTE of Biddeford
COTTA of China

Three members of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "B" that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Representatives:
WEAVER of York
JOY of Crystal
HAYES of Buckfield

One member of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "C" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-356).**

Signed:

Representative:
CURTIS of Madison

Comes from the House with Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-355) READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-355) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-383).**

Reports **READ**.

Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-355)**, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-355)**, in concurrence.

Senate

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Reporting of Sexual Abuse"

S.P. 60 L.D. 178

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

Signed:

Senators:
HOBBINS of York
HASTINGS of Oxford

Representatives:
SIMPSON of Auburn
MILLS of Farmington
CASAVANT of Biddeford
BERUBE of Lisbon
JACOBSEN of Waterboro
NASS of Acton
GOULD of South Berwick

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-204).**

Signed:

Senator:
NUTTING of Androscoggin

Representatives:
BRYANT of Windham
DUNN of Bangor
DILL of Cape Elizabeth

(Representative LORING of the Penobscot Nation - of the House
- supports the Minority **Ought To Pass as Amended** Report.)

Reports **READ**.

Senator **HOBBINS** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the
Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in
Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to
ACCEPT the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

SECOND READERS

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

House

Resolve, To Provide for a Careful Examination of the Motor Fuel
Taxes

H.P. 1353 L.D. 1919

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

House As Amended

Bill "An Act To Designate May 1st of Each Year as Cold War
Victory Day" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 103 L.D. 111
(C "C" H-334)

Bill "An Act To Increase the Property Tax Exemption for
Veterans"

H.P. 154 L.D. 172
(C "A" H-385)

Bill "An Act To Ensure the Integrity of School Crisis Response
Plans"

H.P. 193 L.D. 222
(C "A" H-415)

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Composition of the Advisory Council on
Tax-deferred Arrangements"

H.P. 215 L.D. 259
(C "A" H-389)

Bill "An Act Permitting Substitute Teachers To Opt Out of the
Maine State Retirement System"

H.P. 258 L.D. 323
(C "A" H-390)

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Tax-exempt Status of Ornamental
Horticulture"

H.P. 260 L.D. 325
(C "A" H-406)

Bill "An Act To Protect the Integrity of Security Deposits"
H.P. 264 L.D. 330
(C "A" H-420)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Reporting Requirements of Guardians
and Conservators"

H.P. 284 L.D. 354
(C "A" H-374)

Bill "An Act To Establish Penalties for Violation of the Severance
Pay Law"

H.P. 308 L.D. 392
(C "A" H-391)

Bill "An Act To Amend Truancy Laws Regarding Parent
Involvement"

H.P. 353 L.D. 454
(H "A" H-384 to C "A" H-168)

Bill "An Act To Allow Civil Penalties for Trespass while Engaging
in Activities Regulated by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife"

H.P. 455 L.D. 588
(C "A" H-375)

Bill "An Act To Protect Household Pets and Other Animals from
Poisoning"

H.P. 579 L.D. 758
(C "A" H-399)

Bill "An Act To Allow Certain Special Education Teachers To
Acquire Time from the Maine State Retirement System"

H.P. 624 L.D. 827
(C "A" H-392)

Bill "An Act To Enhance Special Education"

H.P. 635 L.D. 836
(C "A" H-417)

Resolve, To Study Incentives To Encourage All-terrain Vehicle
Registrants To Join Local All-terrain Vehicle Clubs

H.P. 707 L.D. 932
(C "A" H-410)

Bill "An Act To Continue To Ensure the Long-term Capacity of
Municipal Landfills"

H.P. 710 L.D. 935
(C "A" H-411)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Burial or
Cremation of Certain Persons"

H.P. 740 L.D. 980
(C "A" H-366)

Bill "An Act To Improve the Protection from Abuse Laws"

H.P. 748 L.D. 988
(C "A" H-376)

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - SENATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007

Bill "An Act To Require the Reporting of Executive Branch Lobbying"

H.P. 776 L.D. 1058
(C "A" H-367)

Bill "An Act To Clarify Worker Payment for Clothing and Equipment"

H.P. 804 L.D. 1086
(C "A" H-371)

Bill "An Act To Make Circuitbreaker Program Benefits Proportional If a Resident Moves"

H.P. 814 L.D. 1096
(C "A" H-373)

Bill "An Act To Increase Access to Oral Health Care"

H.P. 822 L.D. 1129
(C "A" H-362)

Bill "An Act To Protect Owners and Occupiers of Homes from Civil Liability"

H.P. 849 L.D. 1156
(C "A" H-396)

Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Study the Effectiveness and Timeliness of Early Identification and Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss in Maine (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 881 L.D. 1239
(C "A" H-365)

Bill "An Act To Use the Date of Injury To Calculate the Average Weekly Wage in Occupational Disease Cases"

H.P. 887 L.D. 1259
(C "A" H-372)

Resolve, To Continue the Tribal-State Work Group (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 891 L.D. 1263
(C "A" H-395)

Bill "An Act To Reimburse MaineCare in Certain Workers' Compensation Cases"

H.P. 922 L.D. 1314
(C "A" H-393)

Bill "An Act To Support Farms and Limit Sprawl"

H.P. 997 L.D. 1414
(C "A" H-407)

Bill "An Act To Limit the Liability of Organized Clubs"

H.P. 1067 L.D. 1542
(C "A" H-377)

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Use of Tips in Payment of Service Employees"

H.P. 1068 L.D. 1543
(C "A" H-370)

Bill "An Act To Improve the Process for Adjustment for Sudden and Severe Disruption of Valuation"

H.P. 1083 L.D. 1558
(C "A" H-360)

Resolve, To Encourage Financial Education of Children from Kindergarten to Grade 12

H.P. 1089 L.D. 1564
(C "A" H-402)

Bill "An Act To Grant Supervisory Privileges to Qualified Independent Nurse Practitioners"

H.P. 1120 L.D. 1598
(C "A" H-386)

Bill "An Act To Promote Recycling of Cellular Telephones"

H.P. 1200 L.D. 1717
(C "A" H-418)

Bill "An Act To Reduce Fraud in the Processing of Beverage Containers"

H.P. 1225 L.D. 1759
(C "A" H-387)

Bill "An Act To Prevent Duplication in Certification of Medical Facilities"

H.P. 1243 L.D. 1781
(C "A" H-401)

Bill "An Act To Fund Pesticide Education in the State"

H.P. 1252 L.D. 1798
(C "A" H-324)

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Definition of Autism and Eligibility for Services from the Department of Health and Human Services"

H.P. 1256 L.D. 1801
(C "A" H-381)

Bill "An Act To Establish the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Act of 2007"

H.P. 1290 L.D. 1851
(H "A" H-380 to C "A" H-321)

Bill "An Act To Enact the Model Registered Agents Act and Amend Entity Acts To Rationalize Annual Filings"

H.P. 1292 L.D. 1853
(C "A" H-397)

Resolve, Regarding the Maine State Cultural Building in Augusta (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1308 L.D. 1876
(C "A" H-400)

Bill "An Act To Protect the Lives and Health of Members of the Maine National Guard" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1321 L.D. 1889
(C "A" H-419)

READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED, in concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Reduce the Size of the Legislature

H.P. 1201 L.D. 1718
(C "A" H-316)

**READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS
AMENDED, in NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate As Amended

Bill "An Act To Provide a Tax Credit for the Purchase of a Hybrid
or Clean Fuel Vehicle"

S.P. 12 L.D. 2
(C "A" S-195)

Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Joint
Select Committee on Research, Economic Development and the
Innovation Economy"

S.P. 90 L.D. 253
(C "A" S-196)

Bill "An Act To Address the Reporting of Oil Spills"

S.P. 138 L.D. 437
(C "A" S-197)

Bill "An Act To Protect Community Safety by Amending Maine's
Bail Code"

S.P. 169 L.D. 514
(C "A" S-198)

Bill "An Act To Create a 5-year Statute of Limitations for
Environmental Violations"

S.P. 275 L.D. 882
(C "A" S-202)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Employment Practices Law Regarding
Substance Abuse Testing of Temporary Workers"

S.P. 306 L.D. 955
(C "A" S-190)

Bill "An Act To Permit Mental Health Professionals To Disclose
Risks to People Likely To Be Harmed by a Patient"

S.P. 371 L.D. 1119
(C "A" S-189)

Bill "An Act To Exempt Nationally Accredited Child Welfare and
Behavioral Health Care Organizations from State Licensing
Requirements"

S.P. 418 L.D. 1170
(C "A" S-194)

Bill "An Act To Change the Statute of Limitations for Gross Sexual
Assault by a Juvenile"

S.P. 535 L.D. 1512
(C "A" S-203)

Bill "An Act To Strengthen and Clarify Maine's Motor Vehicle
Laws"

S.P. 646 L.D. 1817
(C "A" S-200)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Stalking"

S.P. 681 L.D. 1873
(C "A" S-199)

**READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS
AMENDED.**

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Protect Network Neutrality"

S.P. 580 L.D. 1675
(C "A" S-192)

READ A SECOND TIME.

On motion by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo, supported by a
Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll
Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#118)

YEAS: Senators: BARTLETT, BENOIT, BOWMAN,
BRANNIGAN, BRYANT, COURTNEY, DAMON,
HOBBINS, MARRACHE, MARTIN, MITCHELL,
NUTTING, PLOWMAN, RAYE, ROTUNDO,
SCHNEIDER, STRIMLING, SULLIVAN, THE
PRESIDENT - BETH G. EDMONDS

NAYS: Senators: DIAMOND, DOW, GOOLEY,
HASTINGS, MCCORMICK, MILLS, NASS, ROSEN,
SAVAGE, SHERMAN, SMITH, SNOWE-MELLO,
TURNER, WESTON

ABSENT: Senators: BROMLEY, PERRY

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators
having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being absent, was
PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for
concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Senator **WESTON** of Waldo was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

On motion by Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec,
RECESSED until 11:30 in the morning.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

Senator **SAVAGE** of Knox requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Session.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1354

JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RAISE THE WEIGHT LIMIT ON INTERSTATE 95

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the United States Congress as follows:

WHEREAS, Interstate 95 in the State of Maine, which is part of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways and is governed by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, is central to Maine's commerce and industry; and

WHEREAS, the weight limit on the Interstate Highway System is set at 80,000 pounds by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 and consequently by Maine statute, yet the State of Maine has a 100,000-pound limit on its secondary roads, which does not match the national limit; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has given the State of Maine an exemption from the 80,000-pound limit for the last 5 miles of the Maine Turnpike and Interstate 95, which allows for a

100,000-pound limit, and this exemption matches the limit for the rest of the State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to request that the United States Congress allow the State of Maine a 100,000-pound limit on all of the Interstate Highway System in Maine, not only the authorized 5 miles, and that the United States Congress review this request when the Highway Bill comes up for reauthorization; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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. 1355

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, referred to in this order as "the committee," is authorized to meet to study issues related to solid waste management in the State as follows.

1. Convening of committee. The chairs of the committee shall call and convene the first meeting of the committee, which must be no later than September 15, 2007.

2. Duties. The committee's duties include:

A. Reviewing the laws governing the duties and responsibilities for managing solid waste in the State; and

B. Reviewing the laws regarding public benefit determinations, including a review of whether the current determination standards are sufficient and whether currently owned state solid waste disposal facilities must be subject to a public benefit determination.

3. Staff assistance. The Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the committee.

4. Compensation. Members of the committee are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee.

5. Report. The committee may, pursuant to Joint Rule 353, introduce a bill relating to the study during the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

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

READ.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, placed on the **SPECIAL STUDY TABLE**, pending **PASSAGE**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to Probation and Supervised Release for Sex Offenders"

H.P. 1219 L.D. 1736

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-421).

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A"** (H-421).

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

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-421) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act To Exempt Certain Meals Provided to Food Service Employees from the Sales and Use Tax"

H.P. 1271 L.D. 1823

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-413).

Signed:

Senators:

PERRY of Penobscot
STRIMLING of Cumberland
NASS of York

Representatives:

PIOTTI of Unity
RAND of Portland
KNIGHT of Livermore Falls
CLARK of Millinocket
HOTHAM of Dixfield
CHASE of Wells
PILON of Saco
LANSLEY of Sabattus

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

Signed:

Representatives:

WOODBURY of Yarmouth
WATSON of Bath

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A"** (H-413).

Reports **READ**.

Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act To Allow a Tax Credit for College Loan Repayments"

I.B. 2 L.D. 1856

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-414).

Signed:

Senators:

PERRY of Penobscot
STRIMLING of Cumberland

Representatives:

PIOTTI of Unity
RAND of Portland
KNIGHT of Livermore Falls
CLARK of Millinocket
WOODBURY of Yarmouth
HOTHAM of Dixfield
WATSON of Bath
CHASE of Wells
PILON of Saco
LANSLEY of Sabattus

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

Signed:

Senator:

NASS of York

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A"** (H-414).

Reports **READ**.

Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

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

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act To Extend the Time Allowed for Outcome-based Forestry
S.P. 713 L.D. 1914

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

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

ENACTORS

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

Acts

An Act To Limit Liability for the Performance of Community Service

H.P. 313 L.D. 397
(C "A" H-342)

An Act To Amend Laws Relating to Persons Serving as Permanency Guardians or Receiving Permanency Guardianship Subsidies

S.P. 170 L.D. 515
(C "A" S-176)

An Act Concerning Blasting near Residential Areas

S.P. 283 L.D. 895
(C "A" S-169)

An Act To Promote Compliance with the Workers' Compensation Laws

S.P. 359 L.D. 1107
(C "A" S-174)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

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

ENACTORS

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

Acts

An Act To Modernize the Laws Pertaining to the Sport of Skiing and Use of Ski Areas

S.P. 419 L.D. 1171
(C "A" S-171)

An Act To Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection
To Exclude Repeat Violators of Environmental Laws from
Receiving Contracts with the Department

S.P. 388 L.D. 1200
(C "A" S-170)

An Act To Update the Maine Business Corporation Act
S.P. 608 L.D. 1741
(C "A" S-178)

An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to Notaries Public
S.P. 653 L.D. 1835

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the
President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his
approval.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: H.C. 340

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

June 6, 2007

Honorable Joy J. O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
123rd Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Secretary O'Brien:

The House voted today to adhere to its previous action whereby it
Failed to Engross RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to
the Constitution of Maine To Reduce the Size of the Legislature
(H.P. 1201) (L.D. 1718) (C. "A" H-316).

Sincerely,

S/Millicent M. MacFarland
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 381

**123RD LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
3 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0003**

June 6, 2007

Honorable Joy O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary O'Brien:

Pursuant to my authority under Executive Order 31 FY 06/07, I
am pleased to appoint the following Senators to the Governor's
Task Force on Wind Power Development in Maine:

Senator Philip L. Bartlett of Cumberland
Senator Walter R. Gooley of Franklin

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding
these appointments.

Sincerely,

S/Beth Edmonds
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act To Exempt Nationally
Accredited Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Care
Organizations from State Licensing Requirements"

S.P. 418 L.D. 1170
(C "A" S-194)

Majority - **Ought Not to Pass** (10 members)

Minority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee
Amendment "A" (S-194)** (3 members)

In Senate, June 6, 2007, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS
AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED
TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE
AMENDMENT "A" (S-194).**

Comes from the House, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS**
Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

On motion by Senator **BRANNIGAN** of Cumberland, the Senate
RECEDED and CONCURRED.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Protect the Scenic Value of the Kennebec River"
S.P. 531 L.D. 1508
(S "A" S-181 to C "A" S-147)

In Senate, May 31, 2007, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-147) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-181)**, thereto.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-147) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-422)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator **BROMLEY** for the Committee on **BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act To Create the Board of Speech-language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dealing and Fitting"
S.P. 567 L.D. 1623

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-227)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-227) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator **MARRACHÉ** for the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Improve the Legislative Ethics Laws"
S.P. 325 L.D. 1008

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-228)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-228) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Order

The following Joint Order:

H.P. 1357

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs shall submit, to the House, a bill regarding term limits.

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

READ.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE**, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

JOINT ORDER - Directing the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs to submit to the House a bill regarding term limits.

H.P. 1357

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook

Pending - **PASSAGE**, in concurrence

(In House, June 6, 2007, **READ** and **PASSED**.)

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, **READ**.)

PASSED, in concurrence.

Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook,
RECESSED until 6:30 in the evening.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 383 L.D. 499

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-412)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-412) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "T" (H-445)** thereto.

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

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) **READ**.

House Amendment "T" (H-445) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) **READ**.

On motion by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#119)

YEAS: Senators: **BARTLETT, BENOIT, BOWMAN, BRANNIGAN, BROMLEY, BRYANT, COURTNEY, DAMON, DIAMOND, HASTINGS, HOBBS, MARRACHE, MARTIN, MCCORMICK, MILLS, MITCHELL, NUTTING, PERRY, PLOWMAN, ROSEN, ROTUNDO, SAVAGE, SCHNEIDER, SNOWE-MELLO, STRIMLING, SULLIVAN, TURNER, THE PRESIDENT - BETH G. EDMONDS**

NAYS: Senators: **DOW, GOOLEY, NASS, RAYE, SHERMAN, SMITH, WESTON**

28 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 7 Senators having voted in the negative, House Amendment "T" (H-445) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) as Amended by House Amendment "T" (H-445) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, To Create a Study Commission To Review and Report on the Possibility of Making All Public School Teachers in Maine Employees of the State
H.P. 633 L.D. 834

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-404)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not To Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **BOWMAN** of York

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence (In House, June 4, 2007, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.)

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **BOWMAN** of York, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Provide Funding to Postsecondary Marine Training Programs"
H.P. 669 L.D. 884

Majority - **Ought Not to Pass** (10 members)

Minority - **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-416)** (3 members)

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **BOWMAN** of York

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 5, 2007, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.)

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, Reports **READ**.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset, Senator **MILLS**.

Senator **MILLS**: Madame President and men and women of the Senate. The bill comes out with three of us voting Ought To Pass. In final form, as I recall, it is an allocation of approximately one-third of the sales tax revenues that come from the sale of boats. This money, this revenue stream would be allocated to a trust administered by Maine Maritime Academy as trustee, for the very purpose of developing additional training programs for people who want to go into the boatbuilding field. I am reminded by people who are familiar with this field that boatbuilding in Maine is far from gone, and that it can be expanded. The thought was that the major constriction on expansion of this manufacturing industry is the absence of qualified workers. We have situations described to me with boatbuilding firms that would like very much to expand. A couple of recreational building operations that would like to expand and find that they are turning down orders exclusively because they are unable to find well-trained personnel to work. It seems to me that the bill was well thought out. It came to the Education Committee, although it could very well have gone to BRED, it could have gone to Marine Resources, but it came to us and it was our burden to vote on it. I thought the bill had some merit, and for that reason I would urge you to vote 'red' on the division so that we might go on and accept the Ought To Pass report which came out of our committee. Thank you very much.

At the request of Senator **MILLS** of Somerset a Division was had. 19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BOWMAN** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (5/17/07) Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS -from the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act To Create a 10-chance Moose Hunting Permit Application for Residents"
H.P. 12 L.D. 11

Report "**A**" - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-185)** (6 members)

Report "**B**" - **Ought Not to Pass** (6 members)

Tabled - May 17, 2007, by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook

Pending - **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

(In House, May 10, 2007, Report "**A**", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-185)**.)

(In Senate, May 15, 2007, Report "**B**", **OUGHT NOT TO PASS READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.)

(In House, May 16, 2007, that Body **INSISTED**.)

On motion by Senator **BRYANT** of Oxford, the Senate **ADHERED**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (6/5/07) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act To Calculate the Livable Wage and Measure the Bureaucratic Costs To Subsidize Workers Paid Less Than a Livable Wage"
H.P. 1014 L.D. 1445

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **STRIMLING** of Cumberland

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-394)**, in concurrence

(In House, June 4, 2007, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-394)**.)

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Committee Amendment "**A**" (H-394) **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "**A**" (H-394), in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (6/5/07) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Concerning the Natural Resources Protection Laws and Related Provisions" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1039 L.D. 1477

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-388)**, in concurrence

(In House, June 4, 2007, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-388)**.)

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Committee Amendment "A" (H-388) **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **RAYE** of Washington, Senate Amendment "A" (S-224) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-388) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Raye.

Senator **RAYE:** Madame President, I rise to speak to this amendment which corrects a serious error in the underlying committee amendment. As senators may know, existing law has resulted in widespread concern, even outrage, by landowners affected by a newly imposed 250 foot buffer zone adjacent to shorebird, waterfowl and wading bird habitat. The underlying bill, as amended by the committee, while it falls short of my goals, goes a long way toward addressing the most serious concerns with the current law. Specifically, by taking the vast majority of all affected properties except roosting areas from 250 foot down to 100 foot buffer zones. However, the committee amendment contains a drafting error, so my amendment corrects it to reflect the unanimous intention of the Natural Resources Committee, and it has the support of the chairs and leads of the committee from both bodies. It would clarify that shorebird feeding areas will be subject to the less stringent cutting standards currently used within 75 feet of a coastal wetland under shoreland zoning. This will provide critical relief to affected property owners. I know many of you in this chamber who have heard from your constituents that have been affected by the law passed last year. I urge you to join with me in accepting this amendment and the underlying bill. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Martin.

Senator **MARTIN:** Thank you Madame President and members of the Senate. This is to confirm that the Senator from Washington, Senator Raye is correct. The committee came to terms that there was a mistake made in the drafting and this amendment has the approval of the DEP.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-224) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-388) **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-388) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-224) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (6/5/07) Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** on Bill "An Act To Improve Home and Commercial Building Energy Efficiency"

H.P. 1164 L.D. 1655

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-331)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **WESTON** of Waldo

Pending - motion by Senator **BARTLETT** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 1, 2007, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-331)**.)

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **BARTLETT** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-331) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later (6/5/07) Assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Concerning Certain Flavored Cigarettes and Cigars" S.P. 475 L.D. 1361

Tabled - June 5, 2007, by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-180)**

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Committee Amendment "A" (S-180) **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **MILLS** of Somerset, Senate Amendment "A" (S-230) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-180) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset, Senator Mills.

Senator **MILLS:** Madame President, men and women of the Senate. This is a bill that was unanimous coming out of the Health and Human Services committee to prohibit those cigarette and cigar products that are candy flavored or flavored in such a way as to be targeted to the youth market and others who might be interested in the initiation of smoking. It presents a lot of problems with its definition because it's not uncustomary for various cigar products and some cigarette products to be artificially flavored. But we've handled it well, I think, with a committee amendment that grandfathered all of these products that were on the market before January 1, 1985, which was the year in which a number of elements in the tobacco industry began to attract the youth market into smoking, so the date has certain significance. For all products that came on the market for the first time after 1985, only those products that are specifically flavored or flavored in the way that is described in the bill, the Attorney General is tasked to draft up rules and to draft up exemptions for those products that are clearly not targeted to youth or the uninitiated smoker. The language in this senate amendment is, for the most part, just a clarification of the language that came out of committee, and does not change it substantively. There is one substantive change in the senate amendment. Several people in each caucus would prefer that these rules of the Attorney General be brought back to the Legislature as major substantive rules so that we can keep an eye on them. That's the substance of what this senate amendment does. It was a unanimous report coming out of the committee, and we worked hard on this bill, and I for one appreciate their hard work. Thank you.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-230) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-180) **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-180) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-230) thereto, **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

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

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act To Exempt Certain Meals Provided to Food Service Employees from the Sales and Use Tax"
H.P. 1271 L.D. 1823

Majority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-413) (11 members)

Minority - **Ought Not To Pass** (2 members)

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 6, 2007, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-413).**)

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-413) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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

Bill "An Act To Calculate the Livable Wage and Measure the Bureaucratic Costs To Subsidize Workers Paid Less Than a Livable Wage"

H.P. 1014 L.D. 1445

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook

Pending - **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-394)**, in concurrence

(In House, June 4, 2007, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-394).**)

(In Senate, June 5, 2007, Committee Amendment "A" (H-394) **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **DOW** of Lincoln, Senate Amendment "A" (S-215) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-394) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Dow.

Senator **DOW:** Thank you Madame President. This amendment simply removes the fiscal note from the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-215) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-394) **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-394) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-215) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

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

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act To Allow a Tax Credit for College Loan Repayments" I.B. 2 L.D. 1856

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-414)** (12 members)

Minority - **Ought Not To Pass** (1 member)

Tabled - June 6, 2007, by Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 6, 2007, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-414).**)

(In Senate, June 6, 2007, Reports **READ.**)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Nass.

Senator **NASS:** Thank you Madame President and men and women of the Senate. It seems to be my prerogative this year to speak to deep minority reports, and this is another one. However, just to bring to your attention, this is initiated bill number two, which means it's here because there's a referendum proposed. A lot of signatures were collected, the press is reporting 73,000 collected, on what's called 'Opportunity Maine.' It came before the Taxation Committee and I think the Senate was in session so I missed the public hearing. I went down to find that the committee had voted unanimously, except me, to pass this thing as written. I've never voted for one of those, so I voted against it. The point is that it is my hope that this will eventually go out to the voters, which I think is the proper thing. I think the plan from the committee members over there was that it would go to the table and therefore be rejected and then go to the voters. It's not that we disagree on the end point for this initiated referendum, it's just on the passage to get there where some of us differ. Madame President, more importantly, there is a degree of irrationality about this idea. While we may be concerned about how we're going to pay for the things that we're doing, this has the

possibility, even though the fiscal note is small, of developing into a very expensive program. The fiscal note shows the end of the fourth year about \$3 million, maybe \$3.8 million, but looking out into the future it could be huge. As it gets out to referendum and to our constituents, I hope that they realize that too, and with me, try to figure out how in the world we're going to pay for it. Thank you Madame President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Bartlett.

Senator **BARTLETT:** Thank you Madame President. I rise in support of the pending bill. I do think that it is one of the most important things we can do this year. As the good Senator from York, Senator Nass, pointed out, there are 73,000 people signed on to this initiative. It is very popular and I have no doubt if it were to go out to referendum that it would pass. By enacting it ourselves, we have some control over it, the direction of it or how to fund it, and so forth. I think it's important that we take that initiative and take the responsibility for those issues. One of the big reasons that motivated me to run for office was that I was looking around and seeing that a lot of my peers were unable to return to Maine after college or law school because of the expense of paying off their loans relative to the incomes they'd make. I think this is an important issue and as it gets up and running and more young people stay here, we can attract better jobs, people will have higher incomes, it will pay for itself. So I think some of the scariness of long-term high costs are far overstated and I certainly hope you will join me in setting a strong vote of support, as this bill has a small fiscal note for this biennium. Let's see how it works and we can always revisit it in the future.

On motion by Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **SCHNEIDER** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Senator **SULLIVAN** of York was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Senator **DIAMOND** of Cumberland was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate on the Record.

Senator **DIAMOND:** Pertaining to the issue we talked about earlier, flavored cigars and cigarettes, I thought the good Senator from Somerset had come up with a good amendment, but I'm a little nervous about the Attorney General deciding which cigar I can smoke. I would hope that we send the message that this is a more complicated issue than just the obvious. With that, I leave my message on the record.

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

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

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec,
RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

After Recess

Senate called to order by the President.

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

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009

H.P. 383 L.D. 499
(H "T" H-445 to C "A" H-412)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you Madame President and members of the Senate. I'm very proud to lay out this budget for you tonight. It's the culmination of a great deal of work from many great people. I first want to acknowledge and thank my Appropriations Committee members at both ends of this hall for their extraordinary work over the past months. Their individual leadership, dedication and trust resulted in the unanimous committee report before you tonight. In particular I want to thank the good Senator from Aroostook, Senator Martin for his cooperation and support. I also want to thank the good Senator from Cumberland, Senator Turner for his unflinching commitment to creating a solid school administration consolidation plan and to creating a two-thirds budget. Without their commitment to this work, the unanimous agreement would never have been possible. Hundreds of other people helped to make this budget possible, including the patient and unflappable staff of OFPR and the Revisor's Office. Other legislative staff, particularly Deb Friedman, and people throughout the Executive and Judicial branches, I thank you all for your efforts.

This budget began to take shape last summer and fall during last year's election campaigns. As you recall, the people of Maine delivered a clear message to each of us. They told us to

reign in state spending. This budget does that with an overall spending increase not counting the ramp-up in K through 12 spending, of only 3.7 percent over two years, and it includes no tax increases. Even including the additional \$248 million in this budget for schools, we are still \$241 million below the spending cap imposed by the 122nd Legislature. The people of Maine also told us to make government more efficient. This budget does that, with over \$250 million in program cuts and the creation of the initiative to streamline government that will save \$10 million through improved operations and efficiencies in state government. They told us to make government financing more stable and predictable. This budget does that by making only those commitments we can keep. It lowers the structural gap in FY '10 and FY '11 to less than \$200 million, compared to the \$1.2 billion gap we faced in 2003. The people of Maine told us to protect the safety net for Maine's most vulnerable citizens. This budget does that. It protects eligibility for health care programs, while controlling costs. They told us to expand opportunities and grow jobs for all Maine people. This budget does this by creating funding for higher education with the Maine Economic Improvement Fund and the Maine Technology Institute. Those investments, along with the economic development and higher education bonds we passed earlier this year, will drive innovation.

Finally, the people of Maine told us they worry about government taxing and spending at all levels and that we must do more to control spending. This budget does that by flat-funding 25 state agencies, by limiting all non-K through 12 state spending to 3.7 percent growth and by proposing the most far-reaching reorganization of K through 12 schools in the past 50 years, and by doing all this without a tax increase. It's easy to rail against excessive bureaucracies and run away government in the abstract. It's much more difficult to trim bureaucracies and government spending. This budget presents everyone with the opportunity to take the bold action Maine people send us here to take, to control taxing and spending. The time has come for all of us to deliver on the promises we have made to our constituents. We have met our obligations to Maine people, including the ramp-up to 55 percent of our K through 12 funding. That we've done so with existing resources is a major accomplishment. It was only possible because we made the commitment early on to work together, regardless of differences of party, to chart a healthy, sustainable course for our state's future. Today, in supporting this budget, you are voting for efficient, fiscally responsible government. You are voting to control taxes and spending. You are voting for a strong educational system that is more responsive to the needs of the classroom, and you are voting to build a stronger, more vibrant Maine economy. Please join me in voting to enact the unanimous committee report. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Turner.

Senator **TURNER:** Thank you very much Madame President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. I want to take a few minutes to just give you what I think are the highlights of what you are about to vote on. I'll try to give those to you from the perspective of a fellow who considers himself to be a fiscal conservative, something I have labeled myself all my adult life. First of all, I think the sustainability of this budget sets out this very important focus. We've got two key areas of growth in this budget: health and human services, and education. In both of those areas we have made considerable progress in bending the curve of growth

on spending. I think all of you know that our Medicaid budget over the last several years has grown at an uncontained rate of 10 to 15 percent a year. We stopped that in this budget document beginning now. All of our energies in the last couple of days have gone to K through 12 education, but had we not taken the action we have taken this evening, we would have set the 124th Legislature and our schools up for significant financial problems beginning in FY '10. The good Senator from Androscoggin mentioned the efficiency commission, an idea we got from the Brookings report. I think it will bear fruit for us on a going-forward basis in FY '08 and FY '09. Certainly I think it is very important for us to be investing as we're doing in higher education. We channeled huge amounts of money in the last two biennium budgets, including the one we're in and the one we're looking into, for K through 12 spending. Now it's time to put the energy and focus into higher education. We've done that with the university system, allowing them to make critical investments in human capital to support the research and development that we're expecting them to do. We've also allowed them, with the funding we've done, an extra expansion to minimize the cost of tuition increases they must pass on to their students. Additional funding for the community college system will allow them to take people off their wait list and get them on the road to success toward a two-year degree or as a threshold into the university system on a going forward basis.

I'd like to talk a little bit about growth and spending. Some of the negative nabobs who look at you on your television set or across your radio waves when you're driving back and forth here, like to talk about the growth and spending in this budget. 'I've got this \$470 million in this budget I'm going to spend.' They fail to admit to you that more than half of that was mandated by voters themselves for a referendum question that they approved a few years ago. So, of the \$470 million we have here, nearly \$250 million of that is to support K through 12 spending as the voters required. Many of the same voters, by the way, voted for TABOR. It's instructive I think to think about the rate of inflation that's imbedded in this budget, because people talk about the rate of inflation. 'It's exceeding the rate of inflation.' If you look at how the government measures inflation, you take the volatile food sector out, you take the volatile energy sector out. Think about what's happened to your credit card, or your debit card, or your wallet as you stopped into fill up your gas tank over the last several months. A gallon of gas has gone from \$2.25 to \$3.10 a gallon where I live, perhaps higher in some parts of the state. It's not figured in. But when you figure out what it costs to run state government and our other governments we support with money from Augusta, the cost of energy is embedded in there. This is a point people like to exclude when they rail about the cost of increase in this budget. When you take a look, if half of it is tied to GPA funding, we are well below the rate of inflation in this budget.

I have to tell you that I wouldn't have bet you a plug nickel that we could have balanced this budget without doing something with the cigarette tax. This came to us with a \$136 million cigarette tax in it, \$136 million. Now some of you may have forgotten that during this time we had two additional revenue forecasts, the net of which took us down probably another \$40 million. I can't repeat in mixed company and most certainly on the Internet, the rants from the good Representative Millet when he found out we were in a down draft of that magnitude in addition to trying to eliminate the cigarette tax that was so important to many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle. But

we did it and we didn't do it alone. We did it with the help of people on this side of the aisle, and people on that side of the aisle.

I want to talk about the bipartisan nature of this, because all the good in this budget, and there's lots of good, the best part of it for me was the ability to work together and to go into two-thirds. If you're a woman, you probably know about pinky promises. I never heard of pinky promises until this winter when I said to Senator Rotundo, 'Trust us we'll do it together and work together,' and she goes 'Pinky promise?' So we made a promise. I think this has been very much about trust. We had trust when we worked together and put together a bond package that's going to meet the capital needs of infrastructure. We've also made the investments of research and development, and so on and so on. This I believe most fervently of all: that the budget document before you this evening is better than it could have possibly been had we done it ourselves and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle had done it themselves. It's a better document. I hope those who come back to the 124th and beyond remember the great work that the 123rd has done in putting this budget together. This was done together.

Lastly, I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee, and most especially our chair, Senator Rotundo, who is gracious to a fault. Except once in awhile when I would go up to her quietly and complain about something, and she would say, 'Karl, get use to it.' I want to thank leadership on both sides of the aisle. I have to extend a special note to my good friend Senator Rosen, who many, many mornings at 8:00, driving from Bucksport and I driving from Cumberland, would get a ring on his cell phone. He would hang out his 'psychiatrist is in' sign and proceed to say, 'How can I help?' Mostly he would let me vent. He should have done that a little more this morning and things might have gone differently as the day went along. He was incredibly supportive and I am forever grateful for the guidance and leadership he provided. I do hope you can find your finger to the green button. This warrants your support whether you are a Democrat or a Republican. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Mitchell.

Senator **MITCHELL:** Thank you Madame President and members of the Senate. Some of you who may have enjoyed the Grateful Dead at one time in your life, and one of my favorite songs from that period, I also like the Beatles I'd like to remind the good Senator from York, the words are: what a long, strange trip it's been. And I might add that this session has been a long strange trip, but a wonderful trip. In 1974, when I was first elected to this body, the motivation for my running, frankly, was a school teacher who told my daughter she had to wait until everybody else learned to read and advised her to go to the back of the room and find something else to do, and I thought that that didn't seem right. Perhaps we could make some changes. And here I am. Since that period of time, the percentage of students in our schools has dropped by 16 percent. But the number of administrators, including the whole gambit, and I'm also not blaming anyone, because of the demands from special education to all the other things, has increased by 54 percent. I think we all know that that just doesn't work. I know the good Senator from Aroostook would not mind my saying that as I look at his county with 11,000 students and 16 superintendents, Washington County

with 4,000 students and nine superintendents, we just can't sustain this.

This budget that we have carefully crafted today, under some very astute leadership, also wants money for our education of those same kids. Those same young people have the right to have enough money to go to a university that they can afford. And they have the right to have enough money to pay teachers the kinds of salaries to attract the best and the brightest so that little girls like mine didn't have to sit in the back of the classroom until the others learned how to read. It wasn't because she was brilliant, we just read to her at home. We have work to do, and we'll always have work to do, but I am so encouraged. I had the privilege of sitting behind my colleagues in the other chamber. There were such elaborate ceremonies of thanking one another and recognizing that the diverse tapestry of the quilt we all bring to this building. I did think they were going to move to adjourn sine die because they were so celebrating one another. It is a time for celebration. I must admit that two-thirds that was referred to was very frightening to me. I had a bad experience also serving here when we were unable to work together as colleagues. I know that the budget would be a better budget because we've all participated. I'm so happy that my faith has been restored and the institution and, my colleagues, it is a tribute to every person in this room. None of us got everything we wanted in the budget. Some of us got more than we wanted in the budget: bad, good or indifferent. As I look around to the leadership that has been displayed, the other chamber was right to thank its members.

There are people who should particularly get credit. I've often wondered what the good Senator from York thought when he was landing as a first-term senator, as Chair of the Education Committee. As the commander he is, he took right over and led off with a hearing at the Civic Center, because we need to remember how we got here tonight on this long, strange trip. Even though the Governor kick-started this, it was not something that was thought about by someone on the second floor. If you remember the Children's Alliance was very concerned about what we were doing about education, the state Board of Education, the Brookings Report, all agreed that we can't keep on the status quo. We really have to change. The good Senator from York, Senator Bowman, led us through that as far as he could go, and we passed the ball to the Appropriations Committee. And I must say it was a special tribute to work with young people. And I don't care if I insult them, because they behave like my children. The leadership that came from the other body, from Representative Cain, from Representative Fischer, from the Speaker, Representative Pingree and all the others who came together. They always ask me, as my children do to this day, 'why do we do it that way?' And although my tendency is to say, 'just because,' and we know here that just doesn't cut it. So they've challenged us and they made us answer the right questions. I know that we don't know what lies out there. We're taking an extraordinary, bold risk here. The leadership of the people on the Appropriations Committee, the Senator from Androscoggin, and my ever-troubling seatmate, the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Martin, how wonderful to have that connection. I've come to know and love the Senator from Somerset, Senator Mills, who on many occasions, I frustrated him so much that he stormed out of the room. I want to apologize for that. His creativity, his thinking, what he brought to the table to make this process better is much, much appreciated. And of course my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, even though the Senator from Waldo, Senator

Weston and I do not agree on this budget, it's been civil, it's been appropriate and we've worked together; and the same to you, Senator Rosen. Having said all that, the one woman who rescued the education piece when it was totally off-track, was the presiding officer, Madame President. She finally said, 'Please sit down, bring everybody together from the rural caucus, the Appropriations Committee, the Education Committee, and anyone who wanders by who cares about it.' It was her leadership and her absolute commitment that made this happen, and brought us here to this point tonight. I want to thank you all. You'll have to forgive me, it's part of being an old school teacher to make speeches. One of my favorite speeches I've ever read was made by Alan Alda, and I know he's not a great poet, or a great literary person. I thought he was cute and looked a lot like my husband. This was at his daughter's graduation, and I want to challenge you this night as you put all those lights on green to vote on this budget. It's about challenging assumptions, because that's what we've done this time. We really are stretching. None of us know how this is going to work out, we're taking a risk, a risk for our kids, a risk for our taxpayers. It's a complex world and I hope you'll learn to make distinctions. A peach is not its fuzz, a toad is not its warts, and a person is not his or her crankiness. If we can make distinctions, we can be tolerant and we can get to the heart of our problems instead of wrestling endlessly with their gross exteriors. Once you have a habit of making distinctions, you'll begin challenging your old assumptions. Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them every once in a while in order for light to come in. Be as smart as you can, but it's always better to be wise than smart. And nobody ever said that it takes a long, long time to find wisdom. Like a rare virus, wisdom tends to break out at unexpected times. And it's mostly people with compassion and understanding who are susceptible to it. You are all susceptible to it and the wisdom that has broken out in this room tonight has led us to a budget that is unparalleled in terms of its progress towards Maine's future. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Martin.

Senator **MARTIN:** Thank you Madame President, members of the Senate. Let me just say this evening I believe we've reached the point where we are doing the work of Maine people we were elected to do. It is not always easy, but I think that we've accomplished what they sent us here this year to do. I don't want to repeat the many things that have been said, I agree with what's been said, by the three previous speakers. But I do want to add, first a thank you to the staff, and that's not only the staff downstairs, but it's also the staff of the President's Office, the Majority Office, and the offices at the other end of the hall. Without their help we would not have been so successful in putting the document together, and certainly the staff downstairs in the Revisor's Office and throughout this building. I say that in part because I was the sponsor many years ago of an amendment for a professional staff in the Maine Legislature, and I am convinced that it improved the quality of the legislation that we produce. Second, to the legislators who have made this process happen, the Appropriations Committee.

I want to thank my colleagues in this body as well as the body at the other end. I found myself on the Appropriations Committee in addition to some other jobs, and I have been more than happy to serve. And, finally to the administration staff working for the Governor. From the very beginning, I felt very

convinced that we had to have a two-thirds budget. I am convinced that a two-thirds budget helps bring people together. It's not easy, it's difficult, it is sometimes frustrating, and I'd be happy to share some of that frustration with you at a different time. I tell students at the university that you cannot represent yourself, because the only person who can represent yourself is yourself, and your job is to represent everyone in the state, and that you must do. I thought the appropriations process went very well, and I am pleased to be a part of it, and my colleagues to my left and to my right, the chair of the committee, the Senator from Androscoggin and the Senator from Cumberland, making partners with the other crowd from the other end of the hall. We've kept this together and put together the document which you have before you this evening.

I was not overly involved in the education piece, but I do want to point out especially the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Turner, the Representative from Orono, Representative Cain, the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Millett. Those four people who then, in part with the Education Committee and everyone else, came together and tried to put this package together. People said we couldn't do the education piece, but when I look at the amount of money that is in this budget that deals with secondary education, \$2 billion, it's pretty hard to avoid the fact that it is a great part of this budget. So, to them and the people who participated in this draft of what you have before you, you've really earned the respect of every citizen of the state. Many years ago, I've forgotten how long ago, I tried to raise the issue of the numbers of superintendents in the state, in particular in my own county of Aroostook, where we have 16 superintendents full-time and four part-time for the number of students the City of Portland has. It seemed to me that a superintendent should be able to do more than deal with 300 students or less. And every time the bill was brought before this body and the other body when I was a member, the bill died a royal death very quickly. Lo and behold, this year this was an issue that came to the forefront by many people, and especially by the Chief Executive who brought the issue before us. A most difficult one, and I knew it was going to be. I knew it was going to happen, and people said, 'Oh, you only wanted to do this deal with administration, what are you doing about the quality of education?' I can tell you that the money was spent on administration rather than being spent on quality education. Those of you who have been in education and have taught in the elementary and secondary schools, you know how many time superintendents visit your classroom, and how many times they meet with the teachers during the course of the year. They spend a great deal of time running to and from Augusta meeting with the Commissioner and whoever else they care to meet with. Quality education means quality courses taught by quality teachers. I have a list of the 169 communities where superintendents have managed not to give money to teachers, and yet it's in the formula; where money has been spent elsewhere rather than where it ought to be with the quality being able to provide better teachers and better trained teachers. We need to deal with that, and I believe we've begun tonight. To those of you who participated so well in bringing this to the forefront, it is a start and not the end.

Earlier this afternoon there were two phone calls that came in and I want to tell you about them. An individual had a message to call these people, and I said, 'Are you going to call them?' And she said, 'No,' and I said, 'Do you mind if I do?' She said, 'No, go

right ahead.' So I called, and I won't divulge the names, and the message was, 'We are opposed to school consolidation.' And so I told them that I wasn't Senator Mitchell, she's busy but I'm John Martin, can I help you? This elderly lady said, 'We don't want to lose our school.' I said, 'Excuse me? Who told you that you were going to lose your school? Do you know where I live, Eagle Lake?' She said, 'Yes, I know who you are.' I said, 'Do you think I want to do away with the elementary school in my hometown?' She said, 'No, I'm convinced that you don't.' I said, 'Who told you?' 'Well, the superintendent told us our schools were going to close if the merger were to occur.' I said, 'No, we're talking of getting rid of superintendents and administration, not closing schools.' And so the conversation went on and she said, 'I support the Legislature, I want you to know that now that you've told me the truth.' And I hope as we move on that the issue by the Maine School Management Association and superintendents in the state will now tell people of what is being done here tonight, that we can move on and provide quality education to Maine students and not attempt to preserve jobs that should not exist. I want to thank all of you in this body for moving forward to bring quality education to Maine kids.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock Senator Damon.

Senator **DAMON:** Thank you Madame President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. I rise to announce to you that I am supporting the pending motion and extraordinary efforts of all the people who have worked so hard to put this budget together. But in spite of all of those efforts, and all of that hard work, and all of the efforts of the other body, late yesterday and early this morning, to bring together the culmination of that work to this end we can vote on tonight, there have been nagging problems primarily with the education component piece in this budget. And yet, throughout the day we've continued to work tirelessly to take care of those nagging little pieces, and I'm very convinced that we have. I want to thank all of my colleagues who have been working so hard on that behalf, and the Commissioner of Education and members of her staff and the members of the Chief Executive's staff who have worked for that. But I have been asked to and wish to put on the record some words which will codify that attempt and I'll share them with you now. It is our legislative intent that in January 2008, under Section XXXX-46, the Commissioner of Education will report the recommendations of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee of the following home rule issues: one, the protection of municipal charter voting procedures in budget validation referendum. It is our belief that at a minimum conflicts may be addressed by 20-A MRSA section 1487 of this bill, and that any other potential conflicts between local ordinances and charters and local provisions and any other provisions of this bill will be addressed. I have been assured that that will happen. I needed to say that for the record. And before I sit down, Madame President, I would ask my constituents, through the marvels of electronic messaging, and I pose the question through the Chair, 'If two existing administrative units make a good-faith effort to consolidate and the result of that effort ends up costing more than it saves, will those two units still be penalized for not consolidating?' I have done my duty to my constituents. I'll do my duty to the rest of the Legislature and the people of the State of Maine when I cast my vote in favor of this budget. Thank you Madame President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Hastings.

Senator **HASTINGS:** Thank you Madame President and ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. To echo the good Senator from Hancock, Senator Damon, I had some nagging problems with the education piece over the last day. I was happy with the result and I will be supporting the pending motion. Surrounding the issue of the size of districts in rural Maine, I am very concerned that although perhaps the goal of 2,500 per district is a lofty goal, in rural low-density Maine it may create districts and units of such a size as to be impractical for the social fabric of the area. I think of my area, a district where, if you know Oxford, Cumberland and York counties, where Parsonsfield, way down in the south of York county and Casco in the lakes region would be in the same district, I am concerned that that is not appropriate. I know that last evening as the other body was working on this, they were dealing with the issue of population density within school units. As you know, there are parameters within the school consolidation section of the budget that established what cases or what situations the commissioner would approve a plan for consolidation if all of the district was under 2,500.

They talked last night and one of those parameters is population density, a reason to justify such an exemption. They put some language in last night that simply said that population density, including the rural nature of our communities. I know what they're getting at, they're getting at the very problem that I was concerned about, the lack of subjective tests. What does that mean? I know that earlier in the Appropriations committee itself, they were experimenting with the concept of a population density of less than 100 per square mile as being a justification for a smaller district. I understand that that concept works well throughout much of the state, but there were certain parts of the state where that concept may not apply. But it doesn't mean that the concept isn't apt for much of rural Maine. So I posed this question to Commissioner Gendron earlier this morning and we had a further meeting later this afternoon where many in this body were present. I suggested that we put that in the language of the bill itself to make it clear, but I can see there were drafting issues because of evidence where it doesn't work as well, and we found ourselves in a very complicated drafting situation. What the Commissioner suggested, and which I believe is appropriate, she has assured me that she would include a definition of the Department of Education guide that she'll be submitting to school administrative districts as we go through this process, a statement that a school unit having a population density of less than 100 people per square mile will be justification for her approval of a district of less than 2,500. I believe that's a fair statement on what we've heard. She also said there may be other guidelines that she'll insert in her guidelines that would also qualify for this exception. I don't know what those are, but my main concern was the 100 people per square mile, which I understand is an appropriate standard. I just want to state that for the record. That was the last nagging problem I had. I believe that any one of the members who where there will correct me if I've misunderstood. I look forward to seeing that definition within the guide as it goes out to our units. Thank you very much, Madame President.

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

Senator **SCHNEIDER:** Thank you Madame President, men and women of the Senate. I stand to first to thank all of my colleagues who worked tirelessly on the budget. We all worked together in a collaborative fashion and I appreciate that work. I am one of those people who would have chosen a different path to try to achieve the goal of reductions in administration. If I had been the sole person working on this, the education administration consolidation piece would have been pulled out of the budget, but I'm not the only one here. It's reluctantly that I vote green, very reluctantly. I am concerned and have doubts about the cost savings, although I am assured that there is a cost savings. But for the record I have to, in good conscious, at least express these doubts. I have been a strong advocate for my district when it came to the amendment that we are going to approve. I had many concerns, and these concerns were worked on very hard, and many of them have been addressed. One of them being the 2,500 going to 1,200 students in a district. That is a very important piece of this amendment for me, as is the criteria with regard to the 1,200 student units. Although I have my doubts about the savings and I am still concerned about the timelines, that too has been extended. And so it is reluctantly and out of respect, however, for those I work with that I will vote green on this budget amendment. It is a little bit with a wink and a prayer, I feel, that we are moving in this direction.

I hope we remember the collaborative spirit when we work on a very important issue that will come before us soon, and that is tax reform. Because although I think this budget is a critical piece of what we do here, the taxpayers of Maine are waiting for a tax reform package. And so I speak now to the person on the second floor, who I hope is listening, that he and my colleagues will work tirelessly as we have on this budget, to get a tax reform package passed for the people of the State of Maine. Believe me, this is in the spirit of good will and collaboration with my colleagues. Again, I want to thank the leadership and all those who worked so hard to meet the goals and desires of those of us who have concerns. I thank you for your time.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset, Senator Mills.

Senator **MILLS:** Thank you Madame President, men and women of the Senate. I need to reflect back on some history that I looked up back in mid-winter when this issue first came forward, and I found that in 1894, the State of Maine had over 4,000 separate school districts. My hometown alone had 13. My brother informs me that Farmington had 20 or 30. Every corner had its own schoolhouse, indeed its own district to support it. A very brave and courageous state superintendent, called commissioners in those days, had had it with the gross disparities of the quality of education within these 4,000 odd districts. There were some schools that only held sessions for four or five months of the year and they went home and milked the cows the rest of the time. He passed a bill which was refreshingly short, it wasn't any 60 page long, it was four pages, and it said that henceforth all of these one-room schools are turned over to the towns, the towns paid for the schools. Those were the good old days before special education, EDS, federal funding, grant programs, CDS, all of this stuff we have to put up with today. It was another watershed year in 1957, when Senator Sinclair from Pittsfield, who was writing on slate that was a great deal more complicated, and went to the consolidation of most of our municipalities into the districts that we have today and fortunately that gave us the opportunity to

study what works well and what doesn't. Thanks to Professor David Silva and others at the University of Maine we are now able to say that school districts of a certain size are more or less more efficient than other districts. Districts of between 2,500 and 3,000 kids seem to be in the sweet spot for economic effectiveness. That does not mean that the kids in those larger districts necessarily are getting a higher quality education, but high quality education can be delivered cost-effectively in districts of that size. That's all that this 60-odd page measure in the budget addresses. I don't think any of us should be deceived into thinking that we are contending the quality. We are talking about cost efficiencies and the path to deliver quality education at a reasonable cost. If this is another watershed year, we don't know yet. This whole effort may fall flat on its nose. On the other hand, it may take off, and we may change something really significant. Whether the year 2007 is one of those years that belongs with 1957 and 1894 will depend on a whole lot of work that we better start doing now. We're all looking at it as if it's all done, and we can go home and relax. If we do that, this thing will fall flat on its nose. We've got some explaining to do to some very irritated people back home. You've gotten e-mails, I've gotten them.

We have managed to irritate most everybody because we've had at least 20 or 30 different drafts of this plan since we started in the first week of January. There's something in all of those drafts to inflame or irritate almost everybody in Maine for one reason or another. I would say that 90 percent of the e-mails I get from people who don't know and I can't blame them. They don't know what's in the final work product because it's only evolved in its final stages in recent days and hours. But this is representative government, and it's too bad that they haven't been able to check in more closely, but we're elected to do this. We've made mistakes in this document. I'm not quite sure what all of them are, but I've heard reference to several of them in presentations today in the House and the Senate. We haven't done a perfect job. We're going to need to come back to this in January, but it's important to kick this can down the road and keep the momentum going that our Governor started in January with this very brave measure. And think of him what you will, he was at least addressing a topic that desperately needs attention. It's so much more difficult than it was in 1957. We've got some many overlays and different types of systems. We've got unions, municipal districts, CSDs and SADs, all of them built up over a century of different systems and funding preferences, federal mandates, local cost agreements that are sometimes buried in private and special laws, some of which you can't even find, is a complex situation. There's every opportunity for error. But that doesn't absolve us of the responsibility to move drastically in this area. We have to fulfill our roles as emissaries to our constituents. We have to go back home and face these school boards. I'm going to catch you know what from some of them, and I'm prepared for that. I want to learn from them and I want to see how this plan hits the street, to see what problems it creates. I want to be receptive to changing it in January, we've got to be firm, we've got to continue the initiative, and we've got to work with the Commissioner. I've been through several of these, what I would call watershed reform efforts, one I will mention is the reform of workers' compensation in the late 90s. A long story that I won't bother you with tonight, but what kept that movement alive was an unheralded member of the Department of Labor's bureaucracy, who kept feeding us constantly with fresh ideas, print-outs, spreadsheets, notions, and kept us legislators so peppered with imaginative options, choices and solutions that we

eventually stumbled into a resolution of the whole thing. That's a role that I think Commissioner Gendron has played as the Governor's emissary on this cause. She has kept first the Education Committee, the Appropriations Committee, then leadership, just peppered with things, including maps, which I thought were the most visually exciting things to look at, and those ideas kept coming out of the fifth floor of the other building. Without those ideas we wouldn't have the range of choices and options available to choose from to get to resolution. I'll say this once on the record, because I've said it two or three times in less formal settings, she's a brilliant woman, and she's also had training in teaching Kindergarteners which makes her ideal to deal with the Maine Legislature. In any case, we've got to follow through with this work. We have asked her in this bill to send herself and all her emissaries on the road, out into our various districts and constituencies and sell this thing and its various local manifestations and bring home the bacon. We've got that job, too. I don't think we should be sitting here tonight, patting ourselves on the back too hard, because our work is just beginning, along with that of other people. If I'm trying to carry anything away from this conversation this evening, that's what I'm looking forward to doing. It's going to be tough and we're going to have some pretty nasty conversations in some cases, but we've got to have that dialogue at the local level and we're the people to do it. We're going to lose folks and gain folks out of this. We have a real challenge ahead of us. That doesn't mean we shouldn't vote for the bill. I don't want to discourage you. Vote green and go home and take your medicine. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Diamond.

Senator **DIAMOND:** Thank you Madame President, men and women of the Senate. I was going to vote green ... I agree with the comments that have been made and I appreciate all the work. I had and do have some real concerns about the education piece. I think it's a tremendous experiment and I think what's waiting in the wings are the children. I think we do forget that. Finally, if it wasn't for Commissioner Gendron and Commissioner Wyke, who both played key roles in this, I'm not sure how we'd be able to vote for it. I have a high degree of faith in their abilities, and have worked with both of them over the years. There are so many unknowns, and this is truly the mother of all experiments in modern education times. I think we really need to keep a handle on that and understand that. There are provisions in this bill that I think we have to rely on that they'll remain flexible. We'll have to remember that the kids back home really are going to have to have the best that we can give them and that's the best possible education. I'm certain we're going to get caught up in the administration of all of this and I welcome the comments of the good Senator from Somerset, Senator Mills, about having to stay on top of this. I think it's important that we remember that we're here to help kids first and save money second, and keep it in that order. I really hope that my concerns about all the districts in this state are going to be affected by this great experiment. I hope that we do and will maintain due diligence in addressing those areas and staying flexible in working this bill through in the next few years. Thank you Madame President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Raye.

Senator RAYE: Madame President, men and women of the Senate. There is much to like about this budget document, and I want to compliment all of those who worked so hard to craft a budget that achieves balance without a tax increase. It's no small feat, and I'm delighted with the fiscal responsibility that I see weaved throughout this budget and I'm happy to see a budget that makes funding for higher education a priority. Even so, I do have concerns with the budget. Other than the education piece, my greatest concern relates to an area we spent a lot of time on in the Health and Human Services Committee, and that is the impact to community mental health services. I am concerned that the budget, while we had to go in that direction to a great extent, we may have gone too far. We will find out. Clearly, the school administration consolidation issue is the most controversial and difficult issue we faced with this budget. Make no mistake about it. The final product is vastly improved over earlier versions. But, I find myself with lingering reservations with respect especially to the penalties, or the adjustments formerly known as penalties, and with regard to the geographic size of districts required to meet the 1,200 student minimum size in some parts of the state, as well as the uncertainty of achieving projected savings. I do appreciate very much the assurance that the 1,200 student requirement will be eased under a bill to be acted on tomorrow, a consensus of leadership on both sides of the aisle, and that does give me comfort. So while I will not be voting for the budget tonight, I cast that vote with very mixed emotions. I am grateful for most of what it contains, but I'm cognizant of the remaining and unresolved concerns of many in my district and I pray that it will be successful in every respect, especially as the Senator from Cumberland just said, for the children.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the positive spirit and bipartisanship that has characterized this body and the positive impact that bipartisanship has had on all of our work here. My vote is one of conscious, just as I know are the votes of each senator on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the issue. I count it a distinct honor to be a member of this distinguished body and I thank my colleagues for making it, even when we differ, a place of colleague good will and mutual respect.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Nutting.

Senator NUTTING: Thank you ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. I am going to be voting for the budget, and yes I've got some reservations. I think there's been a tremendous amount of work that's gone into this budget, even a lot of work in the past few days, assuring that this budget will receive a two-thirds vote. So much has been talked about. We've got fewer children, more administrators, so we've got to radically cut back the amount of administrators in our school systems. Brookings also pointed out that we have fewer state workers than we did 10 years ago, about 2,500 less state workers, and yet we have more administrators in state government. I'm awful proud of the bipartisan work of the Appropriations committee in Section QQQ, which takes a look at cutting \$10 million from state government administration. To me that goes a long way when I go back to my school systems, and say, 'You need to do what we are going to do.' My grandfather, growing up on the farm, always told me, 'When you point your finger at someone else, you'd better realize that there are three of your fingers pointing back at you.' I think that is so true with this pointing at the schools while we're creating new top administrative positions in state government. In Section QQQ, I

believe firmly will look at cutting our own unnecessary top administrative as well as expecting that of schools. Three months ago the rural caucus pointed out to anyone who would listen that we had concerns about the timeline, school unions, specific density data, and language that made every district try to get as close to 2,500 as possible. I want to compliment the members of the other body, all three parties, who worked so hard yesterday to find a compromise to address the timelines, the school unions, more specific density data, softening the penalties, and removing the language that every district must come as close as possible to 2,500. Those members proceeded yesterday in light of some very inappropriate pressure to not proceed at all. In fact, I firmly believe it's the only way that the budget is going to receive a two-thirds vote in this body as it already has in the other. So, I want to thank them very much.

Lastly, I want to reflect that I firmly believe that this document is very, very close to what it would have been if the issue of school consolidation had stayed in the committee of jurisdiction for several more weeks, and let them continue to work it. I hope everyone here and everyone on the second floor is reminded once again that this is a rural state. I wish everyone the best, and I agree that we're going to have to help sell this, as well as the administration. I will be supporting the budget. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Rosen.

Senator ROSEN: Madame President and Senate colleagues, I would just like to make two or three points and hope I don't repeat myself or what others have already said. The claim has been made through the discussions leading up to this budget vote when you hear descriptions of the school districts, school administrative consolidation piece, that substantial property tax savings will be delivered. I'm not going to stand here and make that claim, and I'm not going to make that claim to my constituents. I am, however, happy to say that the potential exists for those savings to be achieved. We, the members of the Maine Legislature, parents, property taxpayers, and members of the community, face a common challenge. The hope is that the framework ahead of us will allow us to all come together and attempt to achieve those savings. In an effort to be able to accomplish that, I call upon members of the business community that were here the other day in the Hall of Flags encouraging this Legislature to adopt this entire budget, and particularly this component, that their work is also just beginning, as the good Senator from Somerset, Senator Mills indicated. We need their active participation on the ground, and for them to step forward as community leaders and participate in this plan process. If they don't, it won't be productive and it won't be nearly as rich and offer the potential that lies ahead of us.

The budget includes, as we have heard, two major areas of reform: education, and particularly, community mental health. This is a response to the initial proposal brought to us by the Chief Executive. We are about to adopt an over \$12 billion budget and deliver on the role of the obligation of the Legislature, which is to validate, appropriate and to pass statute. Now it's up to the Executive branch to handle the implementation, and as others have said, we rely on their abilities to be able to move ahead both with the community mental health reforms, and the education reforms for them to truly succeed. I'm particularly pleased, as others have stated, that we have returned to super majority biennial budgets. I'm very happy to be here at a time

when that goal has been achieved. I want to recognize the very good work of my leader, the Senator from Waldo, Senator Weston. She has been here every minute that the Appropriations Committee has been meeting, actively involved in every component of this wide and vast budget document. She has stood her ground and she has presented herself based on principle and advocated on behalf of her constituents and for all the citizens of the state. It has been my great pleasure to be able to work at her side. Finally, I would like to ask that when the vote is taken, it be taken by the 'yeas' and 'nays.'

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Sullivan.

Senator **SULLIVAN:** Thank you Madame President, men and women of the Senate. Earlier today, and if we end this quickly I'll be able to say it is still D-Day. It is appropriate that we have this on a day when we are going to land our forces out in the streets and before school boards in talking about this plan. Earlier today I spoke of the early days of this country as it was being established. After working on a document day and night, Ben Franklin went to the window, put the shade up and he looked and said, 'what I see is a sun. I don't know if it is a rising sun or a setting sun.' That is what we have before us today. We believe it will work. In my other life you know I want this to work. So, not only do I have to go back to my constituents, I have to go back to the teachers I teach with. I have to go back to the administration that I work for. So I hope it is a rising sun, and I hope this not for us but for the children that will come after us and sit in these chairs. They may be different chairs, but at least these chairs of this body and the other body, and make rules and laws for the future that will be before them. Since 9/11, we've come up with a great saying, so I say, 'let's get 'er done, let's vote.'

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Bromley.

Senator **BROMLEY:** Thank you Madame President, men and women of the Senate. As I was sitting here listening to all of you and actually listening to the comments in the other body before, there's something really important that's in the air that I want to name, because it's something that's going to serve us going forward. We are facing an uncertain world, an uncertain nation, and an uncertain state. When we stake out really firm positions and we don't bend, we don't serve our constituents and we don't serve our future and the children we all talk about. I can feel that bending and yielding here. We are hearing things like, 'We're not exactly sure, but we think and will work on this.' That's a really different kind of flavor, and it's absolutely the flavor that we need going forward in all we do, whether it's education or economic development or community mental health or whatever. That's a way of letting go of really deeply held stuff to say, 'You know, the world is changing and there might be a different way to do it,' is so affirming to sit here and feel and absorb. I couldn't leave without saying that, and I am so appreciative of all my colleagues, and I'm looking forward to getting it done. Thank you Madame President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Mitchell.

Senator **MITCHELL:** Thank you Madame President. Very briefly, in response to two questions, I will rise only for that purpose. I'd like to address the Senator from Oxford, Senator Hastings. Indeed that was the understanding of those who were trying to deal with the issue of population density. We are putting this into rulemaking and making sure that communities can be served in a way that best suits the population of their area. Also, I'll try to answer the question of the Senator from Hancock, Senator Damon, who I believe asked if two districts came together and made a good faith effort to get costs lowered, would they be penalized if they stayed together. I sort of liken this to a marriage, people getting married are going to be looking very carefully. Remember, this is choosing a partner and before you choose that partner you'd better be analyzing the many things that will be entailed in your coming together. I'd try to think about ways that it would cost more. If two districts come together, they will have one fewer superintendent, one fewer central office, one fewer transportation director, etc. on down the line of central offices. They would not be penalized because they would not vote to come together and basically consolidate. I'm sure the Commissioner would examine the parameters and approve certain plans. The process that's going to begin this June will be choosing partners that did not cause them a disservice, and they would not be penalized.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Weston.

Senator **WESTON:** Thank you Madame President, men and women of the Senate. There are those of us who have only heard the stories about what it used to be like when you did a two-thirds budget, and when it didn't work. I think that what we saw and what we heard was the horror story. There was a lot of anxiety, but I think we have dispelled that notion and we've turned the tide with this budget. Those people who worked in those close quarters downstairs never gave up, back and forth, erasing and writing, and erasing and writing, checking the figures. It's monotonous, it's hard work, and they stayed until they got a bargain. I agree with that bargain, and I praise them for their constancy and for their excellent work. But all along, in all of the discussions that I would have with those who serve on Appropriations and those of us in leadership, I would always have to quantify, and I may be breaking history. The first time I serve in leadership I may be standing and not voting for a budget. Not because the work wasn't excellent and the work wasn't well done, but because I've spent most of my life involved in education in one way or another.

I have some very deeply held beliefs and understanding about children and about schools. The good Senator from Somerset was reading my mind. For many days now I've been thinking that I can go to my district to many, many of my towns, and I can point out the foundations for those one-room schoolhouses. If you come to my town of Liberty, you'll see a brick building that is in use right now for a K-6 school that was built by Dr. Robert. He came to that little town, set up a physician's practice, loved the people, and built them the school. Our state is a mosaic of people, of geography, and schools just seem to radiate that mosaic. It does seem easy here when you're working with words that become law, to simplify that and to almost streamline that. I am concerned that some of that mosaic is going to be diminished and lost. But as many have said before me, times have changed. There do need to be changes. We

have fewer students in our schools today, and the cost of running those schools is increasing. Is this the right way to address that problem? I would like to think so, but I can't agree. So for posterity's sake, as people look back on tonight, read what we've said, and have the advantage of look back, which we don't, I want my words to be recorded that this is the best work, in the framework of time and with what was given to us for tools, to achieve this goal. I just can't add my name to it, but I appreciate the hard work that was there, and I do believe that everything except the educational consolidation language is moving us forward, and is indeed making the tomorrow for Maine a little less scary and a little more sustainable. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Dow.

Senator DOW: Thank you Madame President, ladies and gentlemen of the chamber. I'll try to keep to this as short as possible. I agree with most of the budget, a lot of it. My concern was always with the education part, and that is what has caused me to vote against the budget. I have several concerns, and one of the main ones is the timeline. We are going to ask that everything be done in a year's time, when all the experts that I listened to testifying before the Education Committee said it was a three to five year process to put this all into place. I was worried about putting the cart before the horse, meaning taking the money away from the districts before they have the savings mechanisms put into place in order to save money. Therefore, I have concerns about the towns that will have to raise their taxes higher in order to plug the hole, at least temporarily for a year or two, until these savings can be brought into effect. I don't see how they just automatically save on busing, maintenance, and special education without some of these savings mechanisms in place. I was always concerned that the superintendents, who I consider the major educators in the State of Maine, were never brought in on the plan to begin with. That always bothered me. I was and still am concerned about how they will respond to being told now that their school districts are going to be divided up. I know we say that they've got to decide, but we're forcing it on them pretty hard. And I'm concerned about the marrying different contract schemes together that won't cost some of the districts substantial monies. I know the state is going to save its money, the \$26.5 million. We're going to save it because we're going to take it away from them. Even though there was a great idea put forward, that if this plan did go forward and the towns also saved money, they should take 90 percent of that money and put it toward property tax reformed. I was miffed that we didn't take 90 percent of the \$36.5 in savings and put that toward property tax relief instead of spending it. I do have concerns about this three to five year plan that the experts say will take to put it into place. Therefore, with these concerns, I was not able to vote for the budget. I will say that tomorrow I expect Senator Turner still will have to call Senator Rosen for consultation because I was one of the ones that caused him to still have to seek therapy tomorrow. That's life and I meant no disrespect, but he probably will have to call tomorrow because of me. Those are my concerns, and I will continue to keep those concerns, but I will work toward making the education system in the State of Maine better. I'll work within this plan, if that's what eventually comes out. If so, it will be my job to continue to be positive again and to get on-board and to help the towns save money and create a better educational system. Thank you Madame President.

On motion by Senator **ROSEN** of Hancock, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#120)

YEAS: Senators: BARTLETT, BENOIT, BOWMAN, BRANNIGAN, BROMLEY, BRYANT, COURTNEY, DAMON, DIAMOND, HASTINGS, HOBBS, MARRACHE, MARTIN, MCCORMICK, MILLS, MITCHELL, NUTTING, PERRY, PLOWMAN, ROSEN, ROTUNDO, SAVAGE, SCHNEIDER, SNOWE-MELLO, STRIMLING, SULLIVAN, TURNER, THE PRESIDENT - BETH G. EDMONDS

NAYS: Senators: DOW, GOOLEY, NASS, RAYE, SHERMAN, SMITH, WESTON

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 28 Members of the Senate, with 7 Senators having voted in the negative, and 28 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

On motion by Senator **MITCHELL** of Kennebec, **ADJOURNED**, to Thursday, June 7, 2007, at 10:00 in the morning.