

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1937

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

**HOUSE**

Tuesday, March 9, 1937.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Brown of Gardiner.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

At this point Mr. Ellis of Rangeley, assumed the Chair as Speaker pro tem, amid the applause of the House.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Public Utilities on bill an act relating to the Guilford and Sangerville Water District, S. P. 209, L. D. 295, reporting leave to withdraw.

Comes from the Senate, report read and accepted.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Snow of Dover-Foxcroft, tabled pending acceptance in concurrence.

**Senate Bill in First Reading**

S. P. 170, L. D. 247: An act decreasing the subsidy contributed by the State relative to physical and industrial education.

The following remonstrance and petition were received and upon recommendation of the committee on Reference of Bills were referred to the following committees:

**Taxation**

Remonstrance of Lena Welch and others of Newport and vicinity against enactment of any legislation which will impose a tax on admissions (H. P. No. 1698) (Presented by Mr. Merrill of Stetson by request)

**Ways and Bridges**

Petition of Hanson T. Crockett and 245 other residents of Vinalhaven and North Haven in favor of H. P. 711, relating to apportionment of motor vehicle registration fees (H. P. No. 1699) (Presented by Mr. Crockett of North Haven)

**Orders**

On motion by Mr. Chase of Barre, it was

Ordered, that the hall of the House of Representatives be reserved for the use of the committee

on Legal Affairs on the afternoon of Friday, March 12th.

On motion by Mr. Chase of Barre, it was

Ordered, that 500 additional copies be printed of H. P. 1294, L. D. 470, bill an act licensing steam engineers and firemen.

**First Reading of Printed Bills**

(H. P. No. 1691) (L. D. No. 825) An act imposing a tax of one cent per barrel on potatoes for advertising and stabilizing the potato industry of the State.

(H. P. No. 1692) (L. D. No. 826) An act to create the Hampden Water District.

(H. P. No. 1693) (L. D. No. 827) An act to incorporate the Danforth Water District.

(H. P. No. 1694) (L. D. No. 828) An act to provide a Town Council and Manager Form of Government for the town of Old Orchard Beach.

(H. P. No. 1695) (L. D. No. 824) An act to enlarge and define the powers of the Androscoggin and Kennebec Railway Company.

(H. P. No. 1696) (L. D. No. 823) An act relating to a State Geologist. (Tabled by Mr. Hinman of Skowhegan, pending first reading)

At this point Speaker Hill resumed the Chair, Mr. Ellis of Rangeley, retiring amid the applause of the House.

**Passed to be Engrossed**

(H. P. No. 64) (L. D. No. 28) An act regulating the labeling of fresh eggs for sale.

(Tabled by Mr. Viles of Augusta, pending third reading)

(H. P. No. 469) (L. D. No. 159) An act relating to operators' licenses.

(H. P. No. 474) (L. D. No. 162) An act relative to the Maine Unitarian Association.

(H. P. No. 628) (L. D. No. 105) An act to extend the rights, powers and privileges of The Sabattus Water and Sewer District.

(H. P. No. 877) (L. D. No. 279) An act relating to prepayment of excise tax on motor vehicles.

(Tabled by Mr. Ellis of Castle Hill, pending third reading)

(H. P. No. 1062) (L. D. No. 355) An act relating to town ordinances.

(H. P. No. 1063) (L. D. No. 317) An act relating to boxing contests.

(H. P. No. 1423) (L. D. No. 575) An act defining the word "chauffeur".

(H. P. No. 1425) (L. D. No. 577)  
An act relating to motor cycles.

(H. P. No. 1427) (L. D. No. 631)  
An act requiring proof of insurance before exemption from registration fees in certain cases.

(H. P. No. 1432) (L. D. No. 581)  
An act relating to fees for registration of motor trucks.

(H. P. No. 1439) (L. D. No. 633)  
An act relating to the registration of house trailers and camp trailers.

(Tabled by Mr. Seabury of Yarmouth, pending third reading)

(H. P. No. 1561) (L. D. No. 705)  
An act relating to all railroads.

(H. P. No. 1023) (L. D. No. 822)  
Resolve in favor of Ernest R. Woodbury of Saco.

### Orders of the Day

Mr. FLANDERS of Auburn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent of the members to address the House.

Permission was granted.

Mr. FLANDERS: The members will find on their desks this morning the report of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs of the estimate of expenditures and revenues for the next two fiscal years.

The members might be interested at this time to listen to a few explanations in regard to the money that will be necessary to meet these claims and orders which come before the Legislature.

After "Appropriations for State Departments and Institutions", Item 1, you will find Item 2, "Amount requested in Claims Resolves, \$519,004.00". I would say that in 1935—you cannot tell what will be reported out from the committee this year, but in 1935 there was \$39,000 voted out from that committee for claims.

The next amount, for Pensions, the claims before that committee this year so far total \$33,111 for each fiscal year. In the year of 1935 that committee voted out \$12,000.

The next four items take care of all the requests, all the bills before the Legislature. Of course it is very uncertain what those committees will do, and how much money it will be necessary for this Legislature to raise.

We come down to the fifth item, amount requested for New Educational Bill. We all, I think, are

interested in our children of the State of Maine; we all want them to have the best opportunities we can afford.

This bill calls for \$1,700,000. Now I do not think there is any member of this House who wants to go along with that bill in its present form; in fact, I was talking with one of the Committee on Education this morning, and he said he thought without a doubt that bill would be reported out asking for an appropriation of \$500,000. If that were so, it would furnish the equalization money.

In the State of Maine, Dr. Packard tells me there are 2500 teachers in our schools who are receiving \$500 or less. Now I do not think that condition should exist. I think we are all unanimous on that question, and I think by having the appropriation with that matter of \$500,000 on the equalization plan it would put them where they would receive a living wage.

There are also, Dr. Packard told me, one thousand schools that have not the necessary equipment and necessary books; and this \$500,000 would furnish that requirement.

Now the next item is the Welfare Department, Old Age Assistance. Of course nobody knows what that will cost the State of Maine in the next two years. There are at the present time 4000 persons receiving Old Age Assistance, and Mr. Leadbetter tells us by June 30th there will be probably 10,000. That would amount to \$2,500,000. We may have over-estimated a little: we hope we have.

Total requests before the Legislature: \$15,527,614. And we have set up the total estimated available income crediting to General Funds, \$9,985,878. If all the bills before the Legislature were voted out in their present form, we would have to raise sufficient money to take care of \$5,541,736. I will say that two years ago there were bills before the Legislature calling for three million and a half, and at that time they voted out some \$113,000, I think. You will remember the comments in the papers were very satisfactory to the Legislature.

Now I want to say to the members of the House, there may be a great many bills you favor, and we do not want you to feel we have anything against your bills; it is just that we want to hold them on

the table until we can find out how much they all aggregate.

Now in regard to the revenue, you will find it in the Budget Report on Pages 2 and 3 and it is not necessary for me to say anything on that.

If there are any questions the members would like to ask, I would be glad to answer them.

The SPEAKER: The House is proceeding under Orders of the Day, and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Wilkes.

On motion by Mr. Wilkes it was voted to take from the table the sixteenth unassigned matter, House report ought not to pass of the committee on Judiciary on bill an act relating to service of precepts, H. P. 467, L. D. 134, tabled by that gentleman on March 3rd pending acceptance of the report; and on further motion by the same gentleman the report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Donahue of Biddeford, it was voted to take from the table the first unassigned matter, House report ought not to pass of the committee on Judiciary on bill an act to amend an act to provide for alternative method of enforcement of tax liens, H. P. 116, L. D. 50, tabled by that gentleman on February 11th pending acceptance of the report; and on further motion by the same gentleman the report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Cole of Kittery, it was voted to take from the table the twenty-first unassigned matter, an act relating to the taking of fingerprints, S. P. 398, L. D. 762, tabled by that gentleman on March 4th pending passage to be enacted.

Mr. PHILBRICK of Cape Elizabeth: Mr. Speaker, I now move that the rules be suspended and the House reconsider its action of Friday, February 26th, whereby it passed this bill to be engrossed; and I will explain that if this motion prevails, I will then move that the bill be recommitted to the committee on Judiciary so that the committee may consider certain amendments which have been proposed to this bill to satisfy the objections raised to the bill in its present form by the objecting parties.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Philbrick, moves that the rules be suspended and that the House reconsider its former action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed.

The motion prevailed, and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was recommitted to the committee on Judiciary in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Bragdon of Wells,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.