

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

VOLUME I

1957

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

SENATE

Wednesday, January 23, 1957

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. Alfred H. Ives of Gardiner.

On motion by Mr. Curtis of Cumberland, Journal of yesterday read and approved.

House Papers

"Resolve Authorizing Preparation and Sale of Index to Private and Special Laws." (H. P. 62) (L. D. 91)

Which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in concurrence.

"Resolve to Reimburse the Town of Freeport for Aid Extended to Family of Earl S. Williams." (H. P. 63) (L. D. 92)

"Resolve in Favor of Town of Milo for Aid to Emile Thibodeau." (H. P. 87)

"Resolve in Favor of Town of Milo for Burial Expenses for Son of William S. Stone." (H. P. 88)

"Resolve in Favor of Town of Milo for Aid to John Maki." (H. P. 89)

Which were severally referred to the Committee on Claims in concurrence.

"Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Date of the General Election." (H. P. 66) (L. D. 93)

Which was referred to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments in concurrence.

"Resolve in Favor of St. Francis Plantation." (H. P. 67) (L. D. 94)

"Resolve Authorizing State Highway Commission to Study Desirability of a Bridge Across the Androscoggin River." (H. P. 68) (L. D. 95)

Which were referred to the Committee on Highways in concurrence.

"Resolve to Clean Salmon Spawn Beds at Square Lake Thoroughfare." (H. P. 69) (L. D. 96)

Which was referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Procedure of Municipal Tax Collectors in Issuing Warrants of Distress." (H. P. 70) (L. D. 97)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Procedure for Municipal Tax Collectors in Settling Accounts When Removing from Municipalities." (H. P. 71) (L. D. 98)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Definition of Registered Mail Under Municipal Tax Laws" (H. P. 72) (L. D. 99)

Bill, "An Act Creating Deputy Municipal Tax Collectors." (H. P. 73) (L. D. 100)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Power of Municipalities in Collection of Personal Property Taxes." (H. P. 74) (L. D. 101)

Which were severally referred to the Committee on Judiciary in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act to Create the Lewiston Parking District." (H. P. 75) (L. D. 102)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Planning Board for City of Lewiston." (H. P. 84) (L. D. 110)

Which were referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Amending the Charter of the Caribou Utilities District." (H. P. 77) (L. D. 103)

Which was referred to the Committee on Public Utilities in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Providing for Group Life Insurance for Certain Members of the State Police." (H. P. 78) (L. D. 104)

"Resolve in Favor of Nellie K. Freeman of Acton." (H. P. 79) (L. D. 105)

Which were referred to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Taking of Alewives in Town of Sullivan." (H. P. 80) (L. D. 106)

Which was referred to the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act to Provide Fire Protection for Township 17, Range 5, Aroostook County." (H. P. 81) (L. D. 107)

Which was referred to the Committee on Towns and Counties in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Registration of Fire Department Vehicles." (H. P. 82) (L. D. 108)

Which was referred to the Committee on Transportation in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Requisites for Old Age Assistance." (H. P. 83) (L. D. 109)

Which was referred to the Committee on Welfare in concurrence.

Senate Papers

The following bills and resolves were received, and on recommendation by the Committee on Reference of Bills were referred to the following committees:

Inland Fisheries and Game

Mr. Carpenter of Somerset presented

"Resolve Opening Moose Pond, Cumberland and Oxford Counties, to Ice Fishing." (S. P. 72)

The same Senator presented

"Resolve Regulating Fishing for White Perch in Cobbosseecontee Lake, Kennebec County." (S. P. 73)

The same Senator presented

"Resolve Regulating Fishing in Silver Lake, Kennebec County." (S. P. 74)

The same Senator presented

"Resolve Prohibiting the Use of Live Fish as Bait in Certain Waters in Somerset County." (S. P. 75)

Which were severally referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Judiciary

Mr. Cole of Waldo presented

Bill, "An Act Relating to Powers of Court Under Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act." (S. P. 76)

Mr. Martin of Kennebec presented Bill, "An Act Relating to Surviving Trust Companies after Merger or Consolidation." (S. P. 77)

Which were referred to the Committee on Judiciary and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Retirements and Pensions

Mr. Pike of Oxford presented

"Resolve Providing for State Pension for Barbara Anne Parlin of Norway." (S. P. 78)

Which was referred to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions.

Sent down for concurrence.

Taxation

Mr. Davis of Cumberland presented

Bill, "An Act Relating to Exemption of Volunteer Fire Departments from Sales Tax." (S. P. 79)

Which was referred to the Committee on Taxation and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Towns and Counties

The same Senator presented

Bill, "An Act Increasing Clerk Hire and Salaries of County Officers of Cumberland County." (S. P. 80)

Which was referred to the Committee on Towns and Counties and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Orders of the Day

The PRESIDENT: The Chair has a very brief addition to the remarks of yesterday morning. The Chair would cordially and courteously invite any member of the Senate to visit at any time the Committee on Reference of Bills. That is one of your committees whose deliberations are always open, and the committee would particularly like to have you meet with us if you have a bill or bills where you think there is a reference question or where suggestions can be helpful to the committee. The committee meets in the office of the President of the Senate at one o'clock each legislative day following the morning session, and so long as afternoon sessions are established at one o'clock we meet at 12:30. There is a feeling, the Chair is told, that these meetings are secret in nature. That is not true. Each one of you are cordially invited to come in and listen to our deliberations and, if you feel impelled, to participate in that debate.

Mr. Silsby of Hancock was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. SILSBY of Hancock: Mr. President and members of the Senate, I sometimes feel that it is my duty as a member of this honorable Body that if I find or obtain or have any information which I think is vital to this Body or which you might not all know, that it is my duty to relay that information and pass it on to you.

My purpose this morning is to inform you of some of the observations that you probably have all had opportunity to make since we first convened, in the matter of some repairs, or which appear to be repairs or improvements or changes to this beautiful building, the statehouse. I had heard, as we walked through the northerly entrance, that there were certain repairs or alterations but it did not give any particular significance to my mind until yesterday when my good friend, the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Reed and I were having lunch together, and I must confess that at that time I was amazed and surprised to know or to have knowledge that there is in progress an alteration to this statehouse which will eliminate its beauty in every particular. I will say to you that we are having installed not fire doors but smoke doors. The information that we received was that on the northerly part of the corridors from our Hall of Flags there will be a fire door or smoke door; that on the southerly end of the hall from the Hall of Flags there will be another fire door or smoke door, and by the same token on the northerly end of our rotunda here on the third floor between the Senate and the House there will be another smoke door, and the same on the other end.

Now that does not seem very serious in itself, but the specifications of the doors—and that I took time to ascertain—are that the corridor will have a door or two doors each of which will be three feet wide, two doors swinging both ways. The rest of our corridor will be built-in, and we will have little transoms above the doors. The doors will be seven to eight feet high, with glass, with wire, and the doors will have to be kept closed, as I understand it, and as we walk down through the

corridor we will have to swing the doors back and forth.

To me, I think that is ruining the beauty of this statehouse. I think that we all enjoy and get a thrill in looking out this door and down to the door of the House and vice versa, and I cannot see any purpose in making this statehouse an institution.

I am not unmindful that safety rules must be had, but I am not unmindful that a great many times safety has to yield to convenience and to beauty and to joy, like many times if we want to be secure then we must get ourselves into a cage and we haven't anything to bother us. It is one of the things we have all got a great deal of thrill out of, the American eagle, and if we want to secure the eagle then all we must do is to put it in a cage and then it has no further fear of the hunter and his weapon. But security is not freedom and we find no joy or freedom when we look down through that corridor and find it closed up. I certainly feel that you all should know and that it is up to you to decide whether or not you want to ruin the beauty of this floor and of the second floor. I make no brief whatever for the basement; they can do what they want to about it, but I am very serious in my thoughts and my objection to this floor and the floor below it being obstructed by any fire doors or smoke doors.

On the other hand, it is ridiculous in the first instance; the stairways are open, not closed, and I cannot see why we should sit here and tolerate it or even take the risk of it being done. I would like to have you all give thought to the information I have given you and inquire into it further, and I firmly believe that we should at an early date file a petition with the Honorable Governor and Council, asking them to defer and desist and restore it at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for listening.

On motion by Mr. Silsby of Hancock

Adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at one o'clock.