

# 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)

**Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Daily Edition**

**First Regular Session**

December 5, 2012 – July 10, 2013

pages H-1 – H-1282

challenge everyone for every bill we have like this limiting access to abortion, that we should also submit a bill helping women to pay for the full medical costs associated with pregnancy. Women are too often left alone to bear the costs of children.

This bill would add another level of paperwork and actions required before a woman can have an abortion. Maine law already requires informed consent for every medical procedure including abortion, so that a woman can know about the medical procedure that she is considering. This bill is scripting what a doctor should say to his or her patient. We are interjecting ourselves into an area that should be up to an individual and their health care provider. Also, women already can ask for and receive an ultrasound if they so desire. LD 760 is political interference in a woman's most personal and private decisions.

All across our great nation, including now in Maine, men are paying considerable attention to women's health. I thought it would be only fair that we should return the favor. If we believe in informed consent for women while making reproductive health decisions, then why shouldn't we offer the same legal regulations to men? Both genders have to make serious and personal decisions about their reproductive health. Shouldn't men have to have informed consent too? Shouldn't they be counseled and provided with accurate scientific information when considering such reproductive medications as Viagra? Heck, if we believe in informed consent, shouldn't men be required to have a physical and colonoscopy and maybe a 48-hour waiting period before obtaining Viagra to make sure they are making an informed decision and have all the right information? We need to make sure that they are up to the physical demands of the drug.

Jokes aside, in this Legislature we hear time and time again that government needs to be smaller. That it needs to get out of our lives and allow us to live a life of liberty and freedom. Yet with bills like this, it seems like we want government to be just small enough to fit in my uterus. When I read the U.S. Constitution, I read that I am endowed with certain liberties and protections, which include making my own decisions about my body. Bills like this violate my constitutional right to decide what to do with my body. We can't pick and choose when we want to follow the Constitution when it is convenient to our cause.

So once again, I want to state that abortions are rare and that everyone wants abortions to be rare. In fact, abortions performed in Maine are going down. So is teen pregnancy. No one wants to have to have an abortion. So I challenge everyone in this room who wants to end abortions, that we should take another approach instead of these bills scripting doctors and their patients. We should take a preventative approach. We should make sure that all women have access to health care. The more people who have access to health care, the fewer abortions we will see. They will have access to a doctor. They will be able to have a planned family approach. They will be able to get reproductive health care. So I remind everyone that if you want to end abortion and take care of the living, we should expand health care and make sure that every person, when they go out in the world, has someone that they can make informed decisions about their personal health care, and that we can end abortion together by making sure that everyone has access to preventative health care. So thank you and I urge you to follow my light and support the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Houlton, Representative Fitzpatrick.

Representative FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to remind folks that ideology is sometimes getting in the way of our thought and listening. I believe Ellie Espling, the good Representative from New Gloucester, has informed us that she has limited her bill in an amendment and if we vote this

down, we'll get a chance to minimize what she has asked for in her original bill. Ultrasounds are something that weren't around when *Roe v. Wade* – well, they probably were around, but they weren't as popular. Modern technology has not caught up. I mean, sometimes these bills have not caught up with modern technology. Having the use of an ultrasound, if the patient requests it, I can't imagine that they wouldn't be allowed to see it. If we could vote this down and get on. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

#### ROLL CALL NO. 295

YEA - Beaulieu, Beavers, Beck, Bennett, Boland, Bolduc, Brooks, Campbell J, Carey, Casavant, Cassidy, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Daughtry, DeChant, Devin, Dickerson, Dill, Dion, Dorney, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gideon, Gilbert, Goode, Graham, Grant, Hamann, Harlow, Hayes, Hickman, Hobbins, Hubbell, Jones, Jorgensen, Kaenrath, Kent, Kornfield, Kumiega, Kusiak, Lajoie, Libby A, Libby N, Longstaff, Luchini, MacDonald W, Marks, Mason, Mastraccio, McCabe, McLean, Monaghan-Derrig, Moonen, Moriarty, Morrison, Nadeau C, Nelson, Noon, Nutting, Parry, Peoples, Plante, Powers, Priest, Pringle, Rankin, Rochelo, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saucier, Saxton, Schneck, Shaw, Short, Stuckey, Tipping-Spitz, Treat, Tyler, Villa, Welsh, Werts, Wood, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Ayotte, Black, Briggs, Campbell R, Chase, Clark, Cotta, Crafts, Cray, Davis, Doak, Dunphy, Duprey, Espling, Fitzpatrick, Fredette, Gifford, Gillway, Guerin, Harvell, Jackson, Johnson D, Johnson P, Keschl, Kinney, Knight, Lockman, Long, MacDonald S, Maker, Malaby, Marean, McClellan, McElwee, Nadeau A, Newendyke, Pease, Peavey Haskell, Pouliot, Reed, Sanderson, Sirocki, Stanley, Timberlake, Turner, Verow, Volk, Wallace, Weaver, Willette, Wilson, Winchenbach, Winsor.

ABSENT - Beaudoin, Berry, Crockett, Herbig, Kruger, McGowan, Peterson, Theriault.

Yes, 90; No, 53; Absent, 8; Excused, 0.

90 having voted in the affirmative and 53 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (5) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-448)** - Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act To Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated Persons"

(H.P. 956) (L.D. 1339)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham pending his motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Priest.

Representative **PRIEST**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, fellow Representatives. This is the third of the abortion trilogy. This bill is "An Act To Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated Persons." This bill modifies Maine's present law on consent to abortion for minors. That law, which was enacted in 1989, was a complete bipartisan measure, which has worked well since 1989. I remember being present when that was voted on and I understand my seatmate,

Representative Hobbins, was there as well. Current law, which is the same law we've had since 1989, provides for counseling of a minor who is considering an abortion. This can be done by a physician or by a counselor. The law encourages parental involvement, but if that's not possible, it provides for the district court or probate court to hear a petition when parental consent is not available. The court may grant permission for a minor to have an abortion or may find that the minor is not able to give consent to an abortion, in which case she would not have an abortion after a life-threatening situation. The bill before you modifies that law which has worked so well since 1989. It makes it more difficult for a minor to show a physician that she has parental consent, requires the physician who has to be the one giving the counseling to provide the minor a form listing a detailed list of risks and hazards related to the abortion. Interestingly enough, informed doesn't have anything to say about the risks and hazards of actual childbirth. The bill provides that if the minor seeks court authorization for an abortion because she cannot get parental consent, she must show by clear and convincing evidence that she is able to give consent to the abortion. For those of you who aren't lawyers, clear and convincing evidence is a much higher standard than the normal standard which is simply probability or 51 percent. This bill tries to solve a problem which doesn't exist by making it harder for a minor to get an abortion. Maine's law, enacted in 1989 on a bipartisan basis, has worked well and abortions for minors in the state are relatively rare in Maine. There is no need for this bill and the majority asks you to please support the Ought Not to Pass Report. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sangerville, Representative Davis.

Representative **DAVIS**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Maine House of Representatives. My friend from Brunswick is correct on one thing. It was enacted in 1989. Whether or not it has worked well is a matter of interpretation and opinion. Currently, under Maine law, a minor may obtain an abortion with the consent of what is called a trusted adult friend. That is the choice of the minor of who it may be. After naming the friend, they go to the abortion facility, she gives her consent, those providing the abortion provide counseling and, of course, there is always the exchange of some money. Now to be clear, the same young woman can't have her body pierced without either a parent or a guardian's consent. Maine law does not allow a minor to have plastic surgery without the parent or guardian's consent. The same goes for field trips from schools, the taking of medications, the tattooing of their bodies, the drilling of their teeth, and on and on. However, the issue of an abortion is quite a bit different. This bill does encourage parents and guardians to be far more involved. Also, at the same time, it does provide a lot of protections for the minor if the abuse is caused by the parents or the guardians. This bill brings to being more family support, something that here in America needs strengthening desperately. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the family can be strengthened at such times and will result in a much better situation for both the young woman and the family, regardless if they choose to have an abortion or not. Mr. Speaker, I have four beautiful granddaughters. I have Allison who graduated from high school this last Sunday. She is the oldest. Olivia will be a junior this fall and Sadie and Hannah are in the fourth grade next year. I love them, Mr. Speaker, more than I can ever describe, and I will tell you, I hope and I pray should they ever find themselves with an unwanted pregnancy that they turn to their family and their parents. I'm not alone in this, Mr. Speaker. Recently, a Gallup poll showed 71 percent of Americans feel that parental consent should be present when a

minor has an abortion. Sixty percent of those that feel that way described themselves as pro-choice. Also, 72 percent of that group or 72 percent were women. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you consider well, vote down this motion and I would ask for a roll call. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrison, Representative Villa.

Representative **VILLA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am on the Judiciary Committee and I rise in support of the pending motion. I was very conflicted about this bill, as I voted in favor of the so-called "tanning bed bill" which banned the use of tanning beds for children under the age of 18. Afterwards, I talked to my 15-year-old daughter about it and she didn't like my vote. I heard someone on the radio say, "How can one vote to ban a teenager's ability to tan and yet allow a 16-year-old to have an abortion without parental consent?" A good question, I thought. So when this bill came to the Judiciary Committee, I thought how could I not support a parent being involved in this sort of procedure. As the mother of a teenage daughter who attends a high school in rural Maine, I explained the bill to her and I said, "As your mom, I would want to know. I would want to be there to support you, regardless of what you decided." She said, "Mom, I would tell you. I could tell you. But you can't support that bill." When I asked why, she said, "I have friends in high school whose parents would kick them out of their house or even beat them up if they got pregnant. Most girls don't have a relationship with their moms like I have with you." Her friends share things with her that they can't share with adults and in telling me that I shouldn't support this bill, she was not protecting herself, she was protecting her friends and sharing with me the sad fact that some of them live in conditions that are unimaginable to you and me, which is why I ask my fellow legislators to support the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative Verow.

Representative **VEROW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Abortion is a medical procedure and I know any medical procedures that are performed on minors require parental consent. Two of my children had their wisdom teeth taken out and we had to sign a consent to that. I just find it troubling that parents are not consulted in this matter and given their consent. I think it's not a great idea. I look at the bill and although it says, and I can just read you part of the summary, the bill requires a written consent of a parent or legal guardian before an abortion may be performed on a minor or incapacitated person. Consent may be given in certain circumstances by a brother or a sister who is at least 21 years of age or by a stepparent or a grandparent. So I think the measure in the bill before us here does cover the ability of a minor to proceed and make that choice. I am just troubled by the parents not being allowed or being absent from that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Glenburn, Representative Guerin.

Representative **GUERIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Maine does a wonderful job of protecting her children. We make sure that parents give consent for ear piercing, tattooing, surgery, field trips and report cards. My son needed a physical to attend a Boy Scout event while I was here in Augusta, so I called my faithful

mother and asked her to take him to a walk-in clinic for a sport's physical. To my surprise, they were unwilling to give him the physical without my consent. Surely, we can do the same for our daughters and granddaughters, having them have a trusted relative or other faithful person to protect them in the case of a complication or emotional distress. I urge you to vote no on the pending motion.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Grant.

Representative **GRANT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. In reference to a previous concern by one of my good colleagues here in the House, in looking at this bill, I did some research and discovered that Title 22, subtitle 2, part 3, subsection 1598, in Maine's current law, is quite comprehensive and very inclusive of parents in the case of minors seeking abortions or incapacitated persons. The difference with this bill is that it replaces that law concerning minors' abortions and in places where a child, a minor, is claiming that they, under a difficult situation with their parent, may be in danger at their home, this requires a court order if that parent is not to be informed. So I think we're really talking about some very rare situations and some situations in which young teens might find themselves in very precarious and unsafe situations. The current law is quite comprehensive and I don't think we need to amend it in this way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Reed.

Representative **REED**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand again in opposition to this bill and this motion. Would anyone here want your underage daughter to undergo an abortion without a written consent of a parent or parents? To answer yes to this statement is unbelievable. If you said yes, I probably wouldn't believe it. Consideration of such a procedure should only be done when the underage person, with the pregnancy, finds that her life is in immediate danger and the danger increases with each passing moment and the parents cannot be found. Heavens, a child cannot go on a fieldtrip without a parent's permission slip. I've coached since I was in college, and in coaching, a player cannot ride home with his or her parents without first clearing it with the athletic office, and presenting the coach with a written notice. All of these permissions are necessary because we are dealing with our greatest treasures, our kids. But not to require parental consent when an underage girl is about to have an abortion is just beyond my ability to comprehend. This year, I have sat in meeting after meeting where we have discussed the saving of salamanders and frogs found in vernal pools. We have protected the habitat of shore birds and wading birds. We discussed for hours regulations that pertain to the cutting of 40 percent of birch trees located along the Portland waterfront. I am thankful that people care this much about the environment of this state, and I'd admit that I grew in my knowledge and understanding of why permission to do some of these things is necessary. Otherwise, real abuses could and would occur. If permission from the DEP is necessary in regards to vernal pools, bird habitats, and waterfront birches, how much more should written parental consent be required when a minor is about to undergo one of the most traumatic procedures of her life, an abortion?

I don't believe for a minute that anything I say here today will change anyone's mind, but I must say it nevertheless. I believe our country has been wrong on this issue since the 1970s. I realize also that it appears that we are losing the discussion on this issue all over the country, and we probably will lose it here again today. However, this does not deter me nor does it discourage me, because I cannot remain silent when it comes to

the life of the unborn child. It may appear that we are a voice crying in the wilderness, but that really doesn't matter to me. Some may say, don't you realize that you can't win on this issue. Well, this may be so, but I'm not convinced that the war has been lost. I will agree that the clouds may be ominous and things look pretty dark, but I'm not giving up. You know, when my back is to the wall, I look at history. I am reminded that things looked pretty uncertain after the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. They looked even worse after the French forces surrendered to the German Army in June of 1940. And who can forget how hopeless things appeared to be for the British at Dunkirk, just before the great evacuation took place? I am also reminded of the words of the great Winston Churchill, of this same period, as he admonished the British people to never, never quit. And I have no intentions of quitting on this issue. When I recall these moments in history, I am encouraged to keep pressing forth on these important issues of our time. I am convinced more than ever that it is better to lose some battles in a war that we will ultimately win, than to win some battles in a war that we will ultimately lose. I am persuaded that in God's good time we will prevail. I hope that here in this House today, that common sense will prevail and we will really consider the important impact of this bill, and will put this right back in the hands of parents where it belongs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cumberland, Representative Moriarty.

Representative **MORIARTY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. We have had for nearly three decades on the books a statute dealing with the consent of a minor to obtain an abortion. There was no showing before the committee or otherwise that that statute is not working as it was intended. There is no need for the amendment proposed in the pending bill. In fact, it makes things considerably more difficult for those involved. In an idyllic parent/child relationship, of course the parents would be involved and almost guarantee it would be, but not all situations fall under that category. It was mentioned a moment ago that a close relative could, in effect, stand in the shoes of a parent to provide consent, but in order to do that, as written, the pregnant minor must sign a written statement identifying her parents, or one of them, as having committed sexual abuse or physical abuse or neglect against her. Imagine how difficult it would be for a minor in challenging circumstances, under the best view of the world, to sign such a statement, in effect indicting her parents. It's unworkable and I don't think it was frankly intended to work. I think it was known that this could not work. The bill does contain an option to go to either the probate or the district court to obtain a waiver, but it imposes a unique burden of proof upon the minor who seeks majority status for the purpose of consenting to an abortion. It provides that that person must establish her awareness, her maturity, the state of her knowledge by what is termed "clear and convincing evidence." This is a much higher standard of proof than one customarily finds in civil actions in which the moving party ordinarily need only prove his or her case by a preponderance of the evidence. There is no reason why this much higher burden of proof must be imposed upon a minor, who after all is operating in unfamiliar territory, possibly without a lawyer, clearly without parental support and in very difficult personal circumstances. Finally, the bill contains a provision toward the end indicating that nothing in the statute is designed to either create or recognize a right to abortion. So the intent and the motive of the legislation, I think, clearly is evidenced in this particular subsection, refutes any sort of recognition of a right to an abortion, as has been recognized as the law of the land for

some 40 years now. There is no need for this legislation. I urge the body to support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is one of those issues for me that really bother me. I'm somebody that believes that if a woman finds out that she is pregnant and wants to have an abortion, that's her choice. But I also believe if a 12-year-old is pregnant, a parent should know. And I also believe that probably everybody in this chamber, if their child was pregnant, you'd want to know. I really think that there are enough safeguards in this bill to protect the minor in those instances where she can't go to her parents, but I think that this is something with the rules that we put into effect, even in this session, on minors, that this goes way further than any of those things that we stop minors from doing this year. A funny thing happened a while back, I think it was last year. My wife went in to get her ears pierced at the mall and they required her to show ID. I think that if it's that strict for a young girl to go get her ears pierced and you can't get it done if you are under 18, to get your ears pierced, I think an abortion is a little bit more of a procedure than getting your ears pierced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

#### ROLL CALL NO. 296

YEA - Beaulieu, Beavers, Beck, Boland, Bolduc, Brooks, Campbell J, Carey, Cassidy, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Daughtry, DeChant, Devin, Dickerson, Dill, Dion, Dorney, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gideon, Gilbert, Goode, Graham, Grant, Hamann, Harlow, Hayes, Hobbins, Hubbell, Jones, Jorgensen, Kaenrath, Kent, Kornfield, Kumiega, Kusiak, Lajoie, Libby N, Longstaff, Luchini, MacDonald W, Marks, Mason, Mastraccio, McCabe, McLean, Monaghan-Derrig, Moonen, Moriarty, Morrison, Nelson, Noon, Nutting, Peoples, Plante, Powers, Priest, Pringle, Rankin, Rochelo, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saxton, Schneck, Shaw, Stuckey, Tipping-Spitz, Treat, Tyler, Villa, Welsh, Werts, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Ayotte, Bennett, Black, Campbell R, Casavant, Chase, Clark, Cotta, Crafts, Cray, Davis, Doak, Dunphy, Duprey, Espling, Fitzpatrick, Fredette, Gifford, Gillway, Guerin, Harvell, Hickman, Jackson, Johnson D, Johnson P, Keschl, Kinney, Knight, Libby A, Lockman, Long, MacDonald S, Maker, Malaby, Marean, McClellan, McElwee, Nadeau A, Nadeau C, Newendyke, Parry, Pease, Peavey Haskell, Pouliot, Reed, Sanderson, Saucier, Short, Sirocki, Stanley, Timberlake, Turner, Verow, Volk, Wallace, Weaver, Willette, Wilson, Winchenbach, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Beaudoin, Berry, Briggs, Crockett, Herbig, Kruger, McGowan, Peterson, Theriault.

Yes, 81; No, 61; Absent, 9; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (5) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-443)** - Committee on **MARINE**

**RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act To Require Labeling of Genetically Engineered Marine Organisms"

(H.P. 621) (L.D. 898)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative KUMIEGA of Deer Isle pending his motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative FREDETTE of Newport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brooksville, Representative Chapman.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Friends and Colleagues of the House. A brief explanation of what this bill is about. The wild North Atlantic salmon is an endangered species. We do not eat it. All Maine salmon is farmed by the aquaculture industry and to protect the endangered wild salmon, the State of Maine does not allow farming of genetically engineered salmon in Maine waters; however, genetically engineered salmon may be about to enter the marketplace. It has not entered the marketplace yet. It is likely to be the first genetically engineered animal to be sold for human consumption. The purpose of the bill was to provide some preemption to the problem that would be caused, especially to our salmon industry, by consumer confusion in the marketplace if genetically engineered salmon were being sold. This might discourage consumers from purchasing any salmon. I repeat, all the salmon that is grown in Maine is non-genetically engineered and it has to be that way in order to get the license to farm it. So Alaska also has on its books now a genetically engineered salmon/fish labeling law that is to say genetically engineered fish that is sold in Alaska and is not labeled as such is considered mislabeled. Now, there is a difficulty with labeling laws. It has to do with the First Amendment of the Constitution and the protection against forced speech. This problem pertains to the bill before you, but what I am hoping to be able to do is I've been able to correct this problem, if we can get past this stage to the next stage where I would offer a House Amendment. In summary, in order to protect the Maine salmon industry, in particular, I am urging you to vote in support of the motion before us, pass this bill and then you will hear from me again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Weaver.

Representative **WEAVER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This bill is unnecessary at this time. It is a feel-good measure, just because now everything genetically engineered is a hot item right now so it gets into the fishing industry. Sebastian Belle of the Maine Aquaculture Association gave us a statement and said it is currently illegal to genetically modify finfish at this time. This bill is unnecessary and it's just a waste of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freedom, Representative Jones.

Representative **JONES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think there is any question among the members of this body where I stand on transparency of labeling and genetically modified foods. I would, however, point out that the struggle for the bill that we just passed the other day, and it just came through the other body, to label genetically engineered foods required a lot of legal caution and teambuilding among other states to prevent Maine from being not only an outlier, but also a target for the kind of challenges that the good Representative