

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Volume II

First Regular Session

May 27, 2003 – June 14, 2003

First Special Session

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Second Regular Session

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Second Special Session

February 3, 2004 - April 7, 2004

Pages 777-1562

65 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE FAILED**.

On motion of Representative RICHARDSON of Brunswick, **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative NORBERT of Portland to **RECEDE AND CONCUR** and later today assigned. (Roll Call Ordered)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-470)** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Penalty Provisions and Reporting Deadlines of the Campaign Reports and Finances Laws"

(S.P. 661) (L.D. 1728)

Signed:

Senators:

GAGNON of Kennebec
MAYO of Sagadahoc
LEMONT of York

Representatives:

CLARK of Millinocket
PATRICK of Rumford
BLANCHETTE of Bangor
CANAVAN of Waterville
JENNINGS of Leeds
HOTHAM of Dixfield
GLYNN of South Portland
BROWN of South Berwick
MOORE of Standish

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-471)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

LANDRY of Sanford

Came from the Senate 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" (S-470)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative CLARK of Millinocket, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-470)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Friday, April 2, 2004.

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

HOUSE REPORT - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-823) - Committee on TAXATION on Bill "An Act To Clarify Property Eligible for Reimbursement of Property Taxes under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program"

(H.P. 1326) (L.D. 1804)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report.

Subsequently, the Committee Report was **ACCEPTED**. The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-823)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-846) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-823)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Lemoine.

Representative **LEMOINE**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is a corrected fiscal note. Thank you.

House Amendment "A" (H-846) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-823) was **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-823) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-846) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Friday, April 2, 2004.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dunlap who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **DUNLAP**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Yesterday, March 31st, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife conducted a public hearing on an initiated bill regarding bear hunting practices. Prior to the public hearing, there was a press release that was sent out to the media regarding the activities of the Fish and Wildlife Committee to illustrate why these groups, the proponents of the initiated bill, were boycotting the public hearing.

In their press release they say that the Fish and Wildlife Committee has been bought and sold on this issue by cronyism and political payoffs from the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine. They further state that the purpose of their press conference is to underscore the political corruption that has allowed the unsportsmanlike like practice of baiting, hounding and trapping to tarnish the image of Maine hunters. Further, they say that the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee members and the opponents of the referendum are personally and ideologically connected on wildlife issues and that association means that their positions will not be seriously considered. A handful of legislators in opposition to this referendum, particularly the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine, walk in lock step on wildlife issues. We realize the good old boy network is alive and well in the connection between the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine, etc., etc., etc.

I have been privileged for six years to be a member of this Legislature and to be chair of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am privileged because I have served with some of the most capable and honorable members that the people of the State of Maine have elected to the Legislature. They are men and women of profound integrity. I take this as a personal affront to that integrity and my leadership of the committee. I would challenge the authors of these scurrilous allegations to innumerate them and bring them before the Attorney General and to the standing committees of the House and Senate on Ethics. I defy them to provide facts that support these allegations.

The author of these allegations is well known to members of this body. I don't think I speak out of school to say that they never hesitate to abandon the high road in these types of debates. It is not a credit to the media that they reported these allegations at all, let alone without any interview of members of the legislative committee having oversight of these jurisdictions respond to these allegations.

This is going to be a long and very, very ugly debate. I wish members of this Legislature would brace themselves for even worse yet to come. I know that we are equal to it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.