

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Sixth
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume II

April 23, 1973 to June 5, 1973

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

ators voting in the negative, was Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

Emergency

Resolve, Appropriating Moneys for Spruce Budworm Control. (H. P. 735) (L. D. 938)

This being an emergency measure and having received the affirmative votes of 23 members of the Senate, with three Senators voting in the negative, was Finally Passed and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

Constitutional Amendment

Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for Regulation of Municipal Borrowing by the Legislature. (S. P. 586) (L. D. 1804)

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ: Mr. President, may I request an explanation of this proposed Constitutional Amendment, please?

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Cox.

Mr. COX: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This resolution states that the legislature shall pass laws regulating the borrowing power of municipal corporations. At this point in time the legislature cannot do that; the people can. This resolution, which happens to be my bill, was done after a complete study by the Maine Municipal Association as to the inequities in the debts of various municipalities in the State of Maine. There have been several attempts in the past few years to get something through this legislature to set a more reasonable control on debt limitation by the various municipalities.

The intent of the resolution is to develop a more effective method of regulating debt. In 1970, for example, \$238 million was owed by the various municipalities. 51 percent of that debt rested in the municipalities, and 49 percent in

special districts. So there are ways of getting around the current debt limits. Not only are they getting around it, they are getting around it in a more expensive way. The major debt limits in special districts has produced many inequities, and the sum and substance of it is that those communities that do not want to go into a special district are at a distinct disadvantage, and by letting the legislature control the debt limit you will have a more equitable way of controlling it in the State of Maine.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question?

Thereupon, this being a Constitutional Amendment and having received the affirmative votes of 28 members of the Senate, with one Senator voting in the negative, was Finally Passed and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Secretary of State for presentation to the people.

Orders of the Day

The President laid before the Senate the first tabled and specially assigned matter:

Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Legislature to a Single Chamber, Unicameral System, with Single Member Districts. (S. P. 273) (L. D. 798)

Tabled — May 1, 1973 by Senator Clifford of Androscoggin.

Pending — Consideration.

In the Senate — Passed to be Engrossed.

In the House — Indefinitely Postponed.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Clifford.

Mr. CLIFFORD: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This bill, of course, is the unicameral one-house bill. It is a bill which I really believe in. I think it is the real solution to the lack of legislative powers as opposed to executive power, and perhaps as the only real solution to unclog the long legislative process which we find ourselves in. But the resolve went further than it ever has; it received a favorable committee