

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record  
One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Special Session  
beginning April 28, 2021

beginning at Page 385

Representatives:

WARREN of Hallowell  
COSTAIN of Plymouth  
LOOKNER of Portland  
MORALES of South Portland  
NEWMAN of Belgrade  
PICKETT of Dixfield  
PLUECKER of Warren  
RECKITT of South Portland  
SHARPE of Durham

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Representative:

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Reports **READ**.

Senator **DESCHAMBAULT** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Deschambault.

Senator **DESCHAMBAULT:** Ladies and gentlemen, we all know, we heard, and some may have experienced it, or know someone, domestic violence. I don't have to explain that and I am so proud that I sponsored this bill. It calls for funding, ongoing funding. I think it was a couple of years ago, they come every two years, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the Department of Corrections worked very well together. One is before they're incarcerated and the other, the Department of Corrections and Probation and Parole, there's no more parole so it's Probation, do use the funds so that people arrested for domestic violence can have treatment, can go to programs, and this is ongoing. So, this funding is for it to continue two more years. I must tell you that, as a former caseworker in a prison, I've seen close to miracles of these kinds of programs and I'd love for it to continue. It's truly a public safety issue. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **DESCHAMBAULT** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-318) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry"

S.P. 142 L.D. 336

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-317)**.

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York  
VITELLI of Sagadahoc

Representatives:

BERRY of Bowdoinham  
CARLOW of Buxton  
CUDDY of Winterport  
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth  
KESSLER of South Portland  
WADSWORTH of Hiram  
WOOD of Portland  
ZEIGLER of Montville

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:

STEWART of Aroostook

Representative:

FOSTER of Dexter

Reports **READ**.

Senator **LAWRENCE** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

On motion by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I just wanted to give a little context about the opposition to the bill before we vote on it. The Minority and, ultimately, the subsequent report that came out is in opposition for mostly two reasons. The first being the cost that this will, this project, this pilot project that will be going forward will cost substantially above market rates and that cost will be shifted to the ratepayers to pick up the tab for and, additionally, baked into the proposal and added at sort of the last second was a project labor agreement that would also increase costs and felt that that was an inappropriate move to make in committee which was why we opposed the bill and will continue to oppose it here on the floor. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Woodsome.

Senator **WOODSOME:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask Senator Lawrence if he could explain the bill in detail and what is involved in it, for my benefit anyways. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Senator from York, Senator Woodsome, has asked a question through the Chair to anyone could answer but I think directed in a certain area. It just so happens the good Senator from York, Senator Lawrence, is next in the queue, so the Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you very much, men and women of the Senate. I appreciate the question from the good Senator from York, who also served on the Energy and Utilities Committee when we passed the predecessor to this bill to create the Monhegan Process. To answer his question, I'll just tell you there was - in the state of Maine there was something developed called a peavy. I don't know if people remember what it is but I think the good President of the Senate remembers what it is. It was developed during the wood industry in Maine. It was a device for rolling logs. It was a unique invention by the people of Maine in the logging industry and the people of Maine really revolutionized the logging industry and created an economy here in Maine that didn't exist. What this bill does - this bill does the exact same thing. It puts us into a new economy, a new era in our state. Twenty-five years ago, the good Senator from Oxford and I worked on something called Jump Start 2000, the Maine Economic Improvement Fund. It was designed to put money into research and development at the university level that would improve the economy in Maine and create jobs. It all started with a conversation with a professor who came down who represented what was called the Gang of Five professors from the University of Maine and they commented how Maine was the worst in the country, the lowest in the country, in the amount of money we invested in research and development and all these federal dollars were going to other states and that we needed to put up some money in order to attract them here and we did that.

This project is the result of that. One of those professors was somebody named Habib Dagher who was working on a wood composite project, taking two pieces of wood and putting a polymer in the middle, combining it together, and proving that he could increase the strength tremendously of that wood beam. He has gone on to develop a floating offshore wind project and that's the one we've done through the first step of testing it, a small version at the Maine Maritime Academy. The second step of testing was a more full-sized version on Monhegan and this bill is the third step. This is research-ready. Twelve turbines that are five times the height of One City Center in Portland. We are the only state and the only university system doing this in North America. There are three other entities in Europe doing the exact same thing. The purpose of this research array is to prove our technology is better and that we can commercialize it better. The reason why we can is that the foundation of these floating offshore wind turbines is not made out of steel, it's made out of concrete, and that's what Dr. Dagher contributed to, and there are countless patents that come off this that belong to the University of Maine System and that the University of Maine System is going to reap the benefits.

What this bill does is allow the company that they licensed their patents to, and it's called New England Aqua Ventus, it's

associated with Mitsubishi and Diamond International, that allows them to reach a power purchase agreement through the PUC to sell the power generated by these twelve turbines into the main grid and, essentially to, I believe, CMP. They're going to get a higher rate and the Senator from Aroostook is absolutely right. We did this on the Monhegan Project. I believe there's about 26¢. This one is going to be lower, much lower. It's going to be more down towards the base rate, the regular rate, of 13¢ but it's necessary to fund the project. What the project is going to do, it's going to look at two things: can we ultimately commercialize this on a large scale and what is the impact on the environment and the coast of Maine? When we get those answers to those two questions - if we find out that we think commercializing this project, the potential for the state of Maine and for a clean economy is incredibly changed. Putting these off the coast of Maine, off New England, will essentially be like be creating many nuclear power plants off the coast that can produce clean, renewable energy. This project allows for the research array. It's not going to be located in Maine waters. It's going to be located in federal waters, several distance off the coast. It will be brought into the state of Maine through a cable connection and the project labor agreement allows us to use skilled Maine labor to construct this and develop that labor intelligence in the state of Maine and that labor resource in the state of Maine that, if this is commercialized, we can, again, capitalize on it and use that labor to bring funds into Maine. That's what this project does, very simply. It's very straight forward. It's going to put money into the hands of Mainers working on the project. We're going to help to use it to educate their kids, care for their kids, and if we ultimately do this and if we're ultimately successful, we're going create a cleaner environment for our children. I hope you will support the Majority Report.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. Is the Senate ready for the question?

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The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **GUERIN**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

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The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#398)

**YEAS:** Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LUCHINI, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY, ROSEN, SANBORN, VITELLI, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT JACKSON

**NAYS:** Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, FARRIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senator: GUERIN

24 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-317) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act To Clarify Funding for Civil Legal Services" (EMERGENCY)  
S.P. 189 L.D. 483

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-320)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner  
BABBIDGE of Kennebec  
CARDONE of Bangor  
EVANGELOS of Friendship  
McCREIGHT of Harpswell  
MORIARTY of Cumberland  
RECKITT of South Portland  
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:

KEIM of Oxford

Representative:

HAGGAN of Hampden

Reports **READ**.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

On motion by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

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The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **TIMBERLAKE**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

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The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#399)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LUCHINI, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY, SANBORN, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, ROSEN, STEWART, WOODSOME

EXCUSED: Senator: TIMBERLAKE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-320) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act To Increase the Penalty for Engaging in the Sex Trafficking of Children"

S.P. 162 L.D. 813

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-324)**.