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Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session

Beginning December 7, 2022

Beginning with Page S-1

Tabled - June 7, 2023 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence (Roll Call Ordered)

(In House, June 6, 2023, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-272)**.)

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#257)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senator: BRENNER

34 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-272) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (6/13/13) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Consider the Impact on Low-income Residential Ratepayers When Setting Rates"
H.P. 923 L.D. 1427

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-276)** (11 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (2 members)

Tabled - June 7, 2023 by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York

Pending - motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 6, 2023, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-276)**.)

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

Senator **LAWRENCE**: Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, the good Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, asked me - asked a series of questions regarding this bill, and I provided him that information, but I wanted to put it on the record for anybody at his - everybody for at his request. His question was this provision is in a provision of the statute dealing with the low-income energy assistant program, LIAP. And the question was: doesn't the PUC already have authority to do this? The answer is no. LIAP is a program where you apply for it if you're behind in your bill, you have to be behind in your bill, and then you apply for the program and you receive assistance. What this bill does is allow the PUC the discretion to do in its rate setting a one-time kind of assistance to low-income ratepayers when rates are going up. And the public advocate who asked for this bill requested that of the PUC during a rate proceeding and the PUC said it didn't have authority to consider that, so this makes it clear that the PUC has the authority to consider whether or not it wants to do that. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-276) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (6/7/23) matter: