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Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature

State of Maine

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First Special Session

Beginning April 5, 2023

Beginning with Page S-387

SENATE REPORT - from the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Political Action Committees Relating to Union, Business and Nonprofit Organizations"

S.P. 284 L.D. 726

Report - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)**

Tabled - June 7, 2023 by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT**

(In Senate, June 7, 2023, Report **READ**.)

Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford requested a Roll Call.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair wants to clarify that it's a straight Ought to Pass Report, not amended.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, 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 Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee report is an Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A". It is not a straight Ought to Pass Report, just to clarify. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#258)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, CHIPMAN, GROHOSKI, RENY, TIPPING

EXCUSED: Senator: BRENNER

29 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 5 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec to **ACCEPT** the **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) **READ**.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, Senate Amendment "A" (S-227) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Thank you very much, Mr. President, and thank you, colleagues, for the opportunity to speak. I just wanted to say that while I didn't support the previous motion because I don't support repealing the efforts of the 130th Legislature to prohibit corporate contributions to candidates and leadership PACS, I do support the notion that we should continue to work on this problem. I respect that the committee was unable to find a statutory fix for some of the challenges that the previous work done by this Legislature put into place and so I am grateful that, with this amendment, we will continue the conversation. We will ask the Ethics Commission and the Attorney General's office to do the work to help us fix this problem in statute so that we can continue to remove the corrosive influence that money has in politics and make sure that our constituents understand that we work for them and not for corporations. And I feel that we know that but I want to make sure the public has the full confidence that the Legislature works for the people that it represents. So, I am pleased to support this amendment and continue this conversation with you all in the next session.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, Senate Amendment "A" (S-227) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-227), thereto, **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-186) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-227)**, thereto.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Require Net Energy Billing Credits to be Nonlapsing"

S.P. 226 L.D. 509

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-202)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (5 members)

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

Pending - motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report

(In Senate, June 7, 2023, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, 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 Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to read into the record that this is my bill. It was presented to me at the request of a constituent and as the committee is the prerogative is to take a vehicle and use it for what the committee deems appropriate if the committee doesn't necessarily agree with the original bill. So, that is the case here, but because I put this bill on behalf of my constituent, I will be voting against the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#259)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, GROHOSKI, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, BRAKEY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senator: BRENNER

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 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-202) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure

S.P. 395 L.D. 924

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-203)** (9 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (4 members)

Tabled - June 7, 2023 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report

(In Senate, June 7, 2023, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford, 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 Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition today to the pending motion. I'll be honest, there's a part of me that wishes there was more time to thoughtfully consider the full implications of this proposal for this Northern Maine transmission corridor, which would be - which would be connecting a lot of wind power to the grid. My concern is our growing reliance as a state on unreliable forms of energy. I understand the romantic notions associated with kind of wind and solar power. It's a nice idea, it's a romantic idea, even, the idea that we're pulling electricity out of these naturally occurring phenomenon, the wind blowing, the sun shining. And there's certainly a place in our energy portfolio for all those things, but I'm also a little concerned that we're caught in the grip of a bad romance with these forms of energy.

The problem with wind power, and being so reliant on wind power, is two factors; it's intermittent and it's non-dispatchable. And so, as an intermittent form of energy, simply, it can't run continuously, and is non-dispatchable, when it runs, it runs on its own timeframe, not ours. And so, when we're looking for different forms of energy that can serve both as the baseload needs for Maine people and as the variable loads for Maine people, it doesn't really fit into either of those categories. Great baseload forms of energy include things that can run continuously like hydro and nuclear. For our variable needs, things that can turn on and off like - like fossil fuels, which I know have certain effects we'd like to get rid of but that's partly why fossil fuels are so desirable is because they can be turned on and off on a dime,