

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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The SPEAKER: I have one more announcement from the Chair, and thanks for bearing with me. I was remiss in only giving directions to folks about what to expect; and I want to recognize that we are in a unique position right now, and that I know that all of us are here and have worked hard considering so many pieces of legislation over these past six months, and yet the most important and, in fact, the only piece of legislation that we have to pass in the first year of a biennium is the biennial budget, and it's very challenging, I think we all know; but I also want to say to all of you in the chamber today that I know that we can do this. A budget is a blueprint for the state and who we are and where we go; and just as all of us, and our constituents in this chamber, and the different parts of Maine are very, very different from each other, so will that budget be comprised of so many things that not all of us like or that some of us really do like. I think this process has been more challenging than usual, but as we go into these next two days, the one thing I just want to say to folks is, I believe that we can come together and do this in the timeframe that we have, and I thank you all so much for your dedication to this place and this institution; the institution of government and the people of Maine.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just one small correction: there is another piece of legislation that has to be passed, and that's the Highway Fund budget, which is sitting on Unfinished Business; so I would really appreciate that we don't forget all those DOT workers and DMV workers and everything that is done through the Highway Fund, that could be back working right away because we could pass that budget, since it was unanimous out of Committee. Thank you.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Grohman, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **GROHMAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to echo your words a little bit. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* today about the State of Illinois that has been operating without a budget for two years. People are moving out. A state university actually failed. Hospitals are closing. Everybody is sticking to their views. I think we're all going to go off the cliff together, and there's nobody that's going to come out of this looking good; nobody. So I hope that we can come together and find compromise.

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On motion of Representative SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, the House adjourned at 5:26 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 29, 2017, in honor and lasting tribute to Harvard M. Peabody, of Jonesport; Phyllis Edna Wilder, of Jonesport; Herbert W. Ramsdell, of Limington; and Nick Knowlton, of Lewiston.