

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Fourth
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1969

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of study. I was in consultation with people who are authorities in this area and this language, which the good Senator refers to, has been well thought out and people who are expert in this area feel that it would accomplish what the hopes and desires are in regard to it.

(Off Record Remarks)

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure to accept the Ought to Pass Report of the Committee?

Thereupon, the Ought to Pass Report of the Committee was Accepted and the Bill Read Once. Committee Amendment "A", Filing No. S-121, was Read and Adopted and the Bill, as Amended, tomorrow assigned for Second Reading.

Second Readers

The Committee on Bills in the Second Reading reported the following:

House

Bill, "An Act Relating to Classifying Certain Waters of the St. John River Basin." (H. P. 639) (L. D. 827)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Municipal Park and Conservation Commissions." (H. P. 749) (L. D. 967)

Bill, "An Act to Tax Licensed Marine Worm Dealers." (H. P. 1158) (L. D. 1479)

Which were Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed in concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Refund for Malt Liquor Excise Taxes." (H. P. 785) (L. D. 1018)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, in non - concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

House - As Amended

Bill, "An Act Relating to Duties of School Committees Concerning Salaries of Persons Employed by Them Who Are Absent." (H. P. 270) (L. D. 346)

Bill, "An Act to Grant a Council - Manager Charter to the Town of Gray." (H. P. 470) (L. D. 209)

Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Grant Adult Rights to Persons Twenty Years of Age and to Reduce the Voting Age to Twenty Years. (H. P. 614) (L. D. 802)

(On motion by Mr. Beliveau of Oxford, temporarily set aside.)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Referendum Provisions Under Charter of City of Waterville." (H. P. 959) (L. D. 1240)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Bond Issues Under Waterville City Charter." (H. P. 960) (L. D. 1241)

Bill, "An Act to Eliminate Public Debt Amortization Fund Under Waterville City Charter." (H. P. 961) (L. D. 1242)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Powers and Duties of the Civil Service Commission of the Town of Old Orchard Beach." (H. P. 995) (L. D. 1279)

Which were Read a Second Time and, except for the matter set aside, Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended, in concurrence.

On the matter previously set aside at the request of Mr. Beliveau of Oxford, Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Grant Adult Rights to Persons Twenty Years of Age and to Reduce the Voting Age to Twenty Years (H. P. 614) (L. D. 802), the same Senator then presented Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau, moves that the Senate reconsider its action whereby it adopted House Amendment "A". Is this the pleasure of the Senate?

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ of Kennebec: Mr. President, the reason for reconsidering apparently will be to amend this proposed Constitutional Amendment to attempt 18-year old voting again. Mr. President, might I ask the Senator from Oxford through the Chair whether or not we have not already based the record with a roll call vote on this very question.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz, poses a question through the Chair which the Senator from Oxford may answer if he so desires.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau.

Mr. BELIVEAU of Oxford: Mr. President, as I recall, we discussed several bills regarding reducing the voting age, and the argument that was presented in every instance was that there will be an additional bill before us and we can debate this at length at that time. I don't believe that the Senate has ever been placed on record on a roll call vote either in support or against the 18-year old vote. I think that, again, the people in this State, the voters of this State, particularly those between 18 and 21, are entitled to know exactly how and where we stand on this position. In answer to the good Senator's question, I do not believe that a roll call vote was taken on this particular issue and his argument as to the reasons for reconsidering our action is correct.

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure of the Senate to reconsider its action whereby it adopted House Amendment "A" to Item 7-7, Legislative Document 802.

The motion prevailed.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair now understands that the Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau, offers Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" and moves its adoption. The Secretary will read the Amendment.

Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A", Filing No. S-123, was Read.

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure of the Senate to adopt Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A"?

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ of Kennebec: Mr. President, I oppose the motion and I will request a roll call, being in an extremely cooperative mood.

Mr. President, regardless of individual preferences as to whether or not we reduce the voting age to 18, 19, 20 or, as a couple have suggested, we compromise at 22, I think that the time is now upon

us for those of us who would like to reduce the voting age, and I number myself among these, to try to decide what is politically possible this session. I hope that those of us, and I speak only as a Senator from Kennebec, those of us who do favor some kind of an adjustment in the voting age, would pool our forces. I don't think they can be pooled successfully on this at 18, or at 19, and any indication that I have seen here indicates that if indeed we do adjust the voting age to 20, this is the best we can hope to accomplish.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Wyman.

Mr. WYMAN of Washington: May I inquire the number of the House Amendment?

The SECRETARY: House - 264.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau.

Mr. BELIVEAU of Oxford: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: Very briefly, I think it is important to point out to the members of the Senate that the provision reducing the voting age to 18 can be found in both platforms of both political parties. It has been in the Democratic Platform over a decade, and I understand that the Republicans recently agreed with the Democrats and adopted a similar plank.

I think that if both parties have considered this to the extent that it is contained and included in their platform, then the members of the Senate from both parties are under an obligation to enact this resolve. It is only for this reason, Mr. President and Members of the Senate, that I am pursuing this matter a little further, so that we will all know exactly where members of the various parties stand on this very crucial issue.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Reed.

Mr. REED of Sagadahoc: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This amendment that we have before us, although I am not the sponsor, is partially my responsibility in that I did feel, and I may be wrong in this, but, although we

had an 18-year old bill before us at that time, I was thinking it was amended to 19, and I am one Senator who more or less committed myself to the 18-year old vote. And I never consider myself one of the great flaming liberals, but through the years I have convinced myself that this is good legislation, that it is needed, and that we as individual Senators should make the record clear whether we are for it or against it.

I don't know that this is earth-shaking legislation. They said when women had the right to vote they were going to solve all the problems. I don't know if the 18-year olds have the right to vote whether all the problems will be solved or not. If you listen to some of them, they feel as though they will go a long way on this. But I do feel as my youngsters get older that I would like to have a chance to talk politics somewhat on an equal basis with them. I can remember talking, and telling one of my youngsters that I very seldom voted a straight ticket, and she asked me whether I voted a crooked one or not. I think that communication between parent and youngster in regards to politics and their outlook on what should be the course of government on this equal basis will be very helpful. And also, we talk too much about registration and justices of the peace and this type of thing, again, I feel that if we could get them while they, generally speaking, were in High School, or on shortly graduating thereafter, and most youngsters do today, that this would be an excellent way of getting our young people registered. I feel that once you go past that 21, when you get to be 24, 25 or 26, a lot of people do not register. I think the reason they do not do this is because they become embarrassed when they become old to admit the fact that they are not registered and they use the excuse, "Why? It doesn't make any difference anyway." And also I feel as if the colleges, which we have in many instances turned into political forums, and one of the things that seems upsetting to me, and I guess all candidates use it,

is the fact of the method in which they get crowds together, bringing them in with buses and so on and so forth, that seems to me to be awful phony as far as politics is concerned, and certainly we almost have a natural thing made for us, as far as our educational institutions are concerned, on the college level.

I know all these reasons have been talked about many times before. I also feel as if the general population is becoming much older now. In other words, people live to an older age, and I see nothing wrong with lowering the spectrum so that some youngsters have the right to vote. I think they are much more idealistic, I think they set a higher standard in goals than we do as older citizens. Again, I think that this voice on an equal basis should be heard.

As I said before, I originally, when I first started here, didn't support the concept of the 18-year old youngsters voting. I now do, and I have for the last couple of sessions. I feel that it is a step forward, and I think it would be a landmark in this Legislature if we could do this at this time and, therefore, I would support the amendment that has been offered.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Stuart.

Mr. STUART of Cumberland: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I would just like to say that I have a daughter that is 18 and one that is 19. There is no doubt in my mind that they are ready to vote. I am going to support this and I hope that many of you will too.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question? The pending question before the Senate is the motion of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau, that the Senate adopt Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" on Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Grant Adult Rights to Persons Twenty Years of Age and to Reduce the Voting Age to Twenty Years (H. P. 614) (L. D. 1240). A roll call has been requested. Under the Constitution, in order for the Chair to order a roll call, it requires the affirma-

tive vote of at least one - fifth of the Senators present and voting. All those in favor of a roll call will please rise and remain standing until counted.

Obviously more than one - fifth having arisen, a roll call is ordered. The Chair will state the question once more. The pending question before the Senate is the motion of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau, to adopt Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" on Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Grant Adult Rights to Persons Twenty Years of Age and to Reduce the Voting Age to Twenty Years.

The Secretary will call the roll.

Roll Call

YEAS: Senators Beliveau, Bernard, Berry, Boisvert, Cianchette, Conley, Duquette, Gordon, Kellam, Letourneau, Levine, Mills, Reed, Stuart, Tanous and Violette.

NAYS: Senators Anderson, Barnes, Dunn, Greeley, Hoffses, Katz, Logan, Martin, Minkowsky, Moore, Peabody, Quinn, Sewall, Wyman and President MacLeod.

ABSENT: Senator Hanson.

A roll call was had. Sixteen Senators having voted in the affirmative and fifteen Senators having voted in the negative, with one Senator absent, the motion prevailed.

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure of the Senate to adopt House Amendment "A" as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" thereto?

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz,

Mr. KATZ of Kennebec: Mr. President, the vote this morning is no great surprise. I think that the record indicates that the members freely voted their conscience rather than on party lines. But I would hope that all of us realize that a Constitutional Amendment requires a two - thirds vote, and that the proponents of this amendment stand ready and responsibly willing and eager, in the face of its ultimate inability to get a two - thirds vote, to move to reconsider and kill this amendment so that we can salvage something this ses-

sion in the form of reduction in the voting age.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Beliveau.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Beliveau of Oxford, tabled until later in today's session, pending Adoption of House Amendment "A" as amended by Senate Amendment "A" thereto.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Membership on the Board of School Directors." (H. P. 981) (L. D. 1265)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended, in non - concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate

Resolve, providing Funds for Dental Education. (S. P. 201) (L. D. 610)

Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of State and Providing for the Issuance of Bonds Not Exceeding, at Any one Time Issued and Outstanding, Twenty - five Million Dollars for Loans to Private Colleges for Construction and Expansion of Facilities. (S. P. 261) (L. D. 865)

Which were Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate - As Amended

Bill, "An Act Relating to Parole Eligibility Hearing in Life Imprisonment and Other Long Term Cases" (S. P. 167) (L. D. 541)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended.

Sent down for concurrence.

Enactors

The Committee on Engrossed Bills reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Public Laws Relative to Sea and Shore Fisheries. (S. P. 71) (L. D. 193)

(On motion by Mr. Moore of Cumberland, tabled and specially assigned for May 8, 1969, pending Enactment.)