MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

House of Representatives

One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session

Beginning January 3, 2024

Beginning with Page H-1190

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Change How Adult Use Cannabis Excise Tax Is Calculated"

(H.P. 901) (L.D. 1405)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-834) in the House on April 2, 2024.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-834) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-694)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers"

(S.P. 682) (L.D. 1695)

Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on April 10, 2024.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-664)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 1004)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all legislation not finally disposed of upon adjournment sine die of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature be carried over to any special session of the 131st Legislature.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the Joint Order was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-652)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine"

(S.P. 799) (L.D. 1963)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BOYLE of Gorham
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-653)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-652)**.

READ.

Representative ZEIGLER of Montville moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd like to take a moment to explain a little bit about this bill that's before us.

As you may recall, last session, a bill was passed for the northern Maine transmission line going up through. There were a lot of issues with that line. The PUC put out a bid and that bid ended up being closed and so, before the Committee, we had this bill brought to us from the President of the other Body and it was working with the PUC to make some changes that would give them a little bit more leeway on a bid that they will be putting out whether this bill passes or not.

This bill, when it came to us, the Committee worked on it, made a few changes to it to make it what we felt was better for the public and for the State of Maine. And, however, I must say, I am standing in opposition to the pending motion because the Majority Report, which is exactly like the Minority Report, has one exception; and that is that it has labor language in it that will cost the ratepayers, as you've heard me say before, more money for this project. And also, as I've said before, it will be

very difficult to find enough union labor agreement and nonunion contractors in the State of Maine, especially, to build this line. So, I would ask that you follow my light, vote down the pending motion, so that we may still get this language through without that part after this motion fails. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Embden, Representative Dunphy.

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I was here in the 125th, '6th and '7th, I was in the Energy Office and every bill that's come through dealing with energy is going to lower costs. And I just received, this morning, a text from a constituent that said he just saw on the news, that states the greatest increase in electric rates since 2021 is Maine. The rates are up 25%. It's the highest in the country. So, I'm concerned, Madam Speaker, that the more costs we add on, the more problematic this whole energy issue becomes. So, I would hope you would follow my light and vote no. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 519

YEA - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Hepler, Hobbs, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Andrews, Boyle, Costain, Crockett, Galletta, Golek, Hasenfus, Jauch, Pringle.

Yes, 75; No, 65; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-652)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-652)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 10: Rules for the Administration of the Adult Use Cannabis Program, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1401) (L.D. 2187)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-952) in the House on April 10, 2024.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-952) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-699)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 1431) (L.D. 2229) Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-971)**

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.
