

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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municipal employees all have to be paid for out of property taxes; it comes out of our pockets because of the excessively high health insurance premiums. We need to fix the problem; this is a good commonsense fix to this problem. It brings us, again, back into the same sphere where most other states operate, and I would ask you to vote against the pending motion and let this bill go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Durham, Representative Vaughan.

Representative **VAUGHAN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. New Hampshire is not trying to repeal its risk pool; they are making some changes to their small group market law. That is simply not factual. We are talking about the State of Maine's current status quo of premiums being the second highest in the United States. We are not the second richest state in the country, folks. Nobody pays more for health insurance except people in New Jersey. When you talk about the older paying more, nobody in the United States pays more than our older folks do currently. If there is going to be a relatively higher cost that they may encounter later, that will still be lower than what it is right now. If you want proof that these market reforms work, you merely need to look around the United States. Only five states have the same public policy laws as the State of Maine does, and they all have the highest in health insurance costs, the top five in the country. The rest of the states, including New Hampshire, where health insurance in half as much, have their heads screwed on straight and have these reforms already in place. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Savage.

Representative **SAVAGE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am going to, I guess, repeat a little bit of what Representative Vaughan just said, but if our current system is working so well, then why do we have the second highest rates in the country? And the other question I would ask is every single state except five have repealed guaranteed issue and community rating. In the five that have not repealed, they have the five costliest insurance in the country. That says a lot.

In addition to that, someone touched on Dirigo. That is a subsidized program, we are subsidizing current rates. If those rates can be brought down, what we subsidize can come down substantially and cut the costs substantially, so I can't see why anybody would not want to get more competition and reduce the rates here in Maine and get us on par with other states. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Brautigam.

Representative **BRAUTIGAM**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Just a couple of quick comments, I appreciate the good debate. At least 18 states do have some kind of rating restrictions in the health insurance market, so I would like to point out that Maine is not standing all alone as someone had you believe.

Secondly, it is quite possible to pay \$20,000 to \$25,000 for a policy in the non-group market, or to have a family policy cost that much in the self-insured market in Maine. The cost of health insurance is driven by the cost of health care, as the good Representative from Brunswick explained previously. We have an older, expensive market in Maine; we have a far-flung health care delivery system that is expensive; we have a lot of health care infrastructure in Maine that is expensive. That is why when you go to BIW or Unum, or other places that are absolutely not affected by any of this legislation we are talking about, why their

health insurance is very expensive as well, so I think there has to be another side of the story.

Finally, I did a little looking at Mississippi and what kind of a model Mississippi would offer for us. Is Mississippi really able to provide affordable health insurance to their consumers? Mississippi has the fifth highest rate of uninsured in the country; 19 percent of their population in uninsured, and on the same table on which that figure appears Maine is 9.83 percent. Maybe there is some difference made up by the fact that we have a more robust Medicaid program, but it doesn't make up all that difference. Mississippi is no health care nirvana; this is not working in Mississippi. Thank you very much.

Representative TARDY of Newport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 397

YEA - Adams, Babbidge, Beaudette, Beaudoin, Berry, Blanchard, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Briggs, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Canavan, Carey, Carter, Casavant, Clark, Cleary, Connor, Conover, Craven, Crockett, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dunn, Eaton, Eberle, Faircloth, Farrington, Finch, Fischer, Fisher, Gerzofsky, Grose, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Jones, Kaenrath, Koffman, Makas, Marley, Mazurek, Miller, Mills, Miramant, Norton, Patrick, Pendleton, Peoples, Percy, Pieh, Pingree, Pratt, Priest, Rand, Rines, Schatz, Silsby, Simpson, Smith N, Sutherland, Theriault, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Wagner, Watson, Webster, Wheeler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Annis, Austin, Ayotte, Beaulieu, Berube, Browne W, Cebra, Chase, Cotta, Cray, Crosthwaite, Curtis, Duprey, Edgecomb, Finley, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gifford, Giles, Gould, Hamper, Jackson, Jacobsen, Johnson, Joy, Knight, Lansley, Lewin, MacDonald, Marean, McDonough, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Millett, Nass, Pinkham, Plummer, Prescott, Rector, Richardson D, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Samson, Sarty, Savage, Saviello, Sirois, Strang Burgess, Sykes, Tardy, Thibodeau, Thomas, Tibbetts, Vaughan, Walker, Weaver, Woodbury.

ABSENT - Barstow, Blanchette, Emery, Greeley, Hanley S, Lundeen, Moore, Muse, Perry, Pilon, Pineau, Piotti, Weddell.

Yes, 78; No, 60; Absent, 13; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

ENACTORS Emergency Measure

An Act To Require That a Person Be a Maine Resident in Order To Be Issued a Maine Driver's License

(H.P. 1662) (L.D. 2304)

(H. "B" H-994)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative GROSE of Woolwich, the rules were **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERATION**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO**

BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendment "B" (H-994).

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "C" (H-1006)** which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Grose.

Representative **GROSE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. What this amendment does is it allows a person applying for a driver's license to have a nontraditional residence, as it is allowed for voter registration purposes, including a shelter, park, and underpass; this is for homeless people. It allows a person who cannot provide acceptable documentary evidence of residence to take an oath or affirmation before the Secretary of State, swearing to the person's residence. And I spoke this morning to the Secretary of State, Matt Dunlap, and he said it was a good idea to have this included because a lot of times the homeless people do not have a voice up here, and that this why I put the amendment in. Thank you.

Representative **CROSTHWAITE** of Ellsworth **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT** the **House Amendment "C" (H-1006)**.

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

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "C" (H-1006). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 398

YEA - Adams, Beaudoin, Berry, Blanchard, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Briggs, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Canavan, Carey, Carter, Casavant, Clark, Cleary, Craven, Crockett, Dill, Duchesne, Dunn, Eaton, Eberle, Faircloth, Farrington, Fischer, Fisher, Gerzofsky, Grose, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Jones, Kaenrath, Koffman, MacDonald, Makas, MacDonal, Makas, Marley, Mazurek, Miller, Mills, Miramant, Norton, Patrick, Percy, Pieh, Pilon, Pingree, Pratt, Priest, Rand, Rines, Samson, Schatz, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Sutherland, Theriault, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Watson, Webster, Wheeler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Annis, Austin, Ayotte, Babbidge, Beaudette, Beaulieu, Berube, Browne W, Campbell, Cebra, Chase, Connor, Cotta, Cray, Crosthwaite, Curtis, Driscoll, Duprey, Edgecomb, Finch, Finley, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gifford, Giles, Gould, Hamper, Hanley S, Jacobsen, Johnson, Joy, Knight, Lansley, Lewin, Marean, McDonough, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Millett, Nass, Pendleton, Peoples, Pinkham, Plummer, Prescott, Rector, Richardson D, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Sarty, Savage, Saviello, Silsby, Strang Burgess, Sykes, Tardy, Thibodeau, Thomas, Tibbetts, Vaughan, Walker, Weaver, Woodbury.

ABSENT - Barstow, Blanchette, Conover, Emery, Greeley, Jackson, Lundeen, Moore, Muse, Perry, Pineau, Piotti, Wagner, Weddell.

Yes, 71; No, 66; Absent, 14; Excused, 0.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "C" (H-1006)** was **ADOPTED**.

Representative **CROSTHWAITE** of Ellsworth **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-994) and "C" (H-1006)**.

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

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-994) and "C" (H-

1006). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 399

YEA - Adams, Babbidge, Beaudette, Beaudoin, Beaulieu, Berry, Blanchard, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Briggs, Browne W, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Canavan, Carey, Carter, Casavant, Chase, Clark, Cleary, Connor, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Curtis, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dunn, Duprey, Eberle, Faircloth, Farrington, Finch, Finley, Fischer, Fisher, Fletcher, Flood, Gerzofsky, Gifford, Giles, Grose, Hanley S, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Jones, Kaenrath, Knight, Koffman, MacDonald, Makas, Marean, Marley, Mazurek, McDonough, Miller, Millett, Mills, Miramant, Nass, Norton, Patrick, Pendleton, Peoples, Percy, Pieh, Pilon, Pingree, Pinkham, Plummer, Pratt, Priest, Rand, Rector, Rines, Samson, Savage, Saviello, Schatz, Silsby, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Strang Burgess, Sutherland, Sykes, Tardy, Theriault, Thibodeau, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Walker, Watson, Weaver, Webster, Wheeler, Woodbury, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Annis, Austin, Ayotte, Berube, Cebra, Cotta, Crosthwaite, Eaton, Edgecomb, Fitts, Gould, Hamper, Jacobsen, Johnson, Joy, Lansley, Lewin, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Prescott, Richardson D, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Sarty, Thomas, Tibbetts, Vaughan.

ABSENT - Barstow, Blanchette, Conover, Emery, Greeley, Jackson, Lundeen, Moore, Muse, Perry, Pineau, Piotti, Wagner, Weddell.

Yes, 108; No, 29; Absent, 14; Excused, 0.

108 having voted in the affirmative and 29 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-994) and "C" (H-1006)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

Acts

An Act To Encourage Energy Conservation by the Maine State Housing Authority Pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act Review

(H.P. 1627) (L.D. 2264)
(C. "A" H-1004)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker Pro Tem and sent to the Senate.

Resolves

Resolve, To Study Ways To Increase Access to After-school Programs

(H.P. 61) (L.D. 63)
(C. "A" H-1002)

Resolve, To Investigate the Possibility of Expanding Cellular Telephone Service in Certain Rural Areas

(H.P. 249) (L.D. 305)
(C. "A" H-1001)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker Pro Tem and sent to the Senate.

An Act To Protect Maine's Energy Sovereignty through the Designation of Energy Infrastructure Corridors and Energy Plan Development