

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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\$3 million that has been appropriated in the budget for them. This will leave them \$2 million with which I'm sure they can adequately do their research. We have, for too long neglected the municipalities of this State and I feel that the time has come, as our Governor, the Chief Executive of the State said to us a couple of three weeks ago when we met in Joint Convention that he was recommending that we would fully fund tree growth and I want to make sure that we all adhere to that. Last night in debate there were members in this Body that said the property tax was the most important thing to them and I'm sure that they will be supporting me on the amendment today and I would ask that I be rewarded for my briefness and all members of this Body vote for my amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Ruhlín.

Senator **RUHLIN:** Thank you Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. This is what I call the Jekyll and Hyde Amendment. You know, it starts out with an honorable premise, a premise that I strongly support, a premise that I really am going to try to see that we fully fund tree growth before we leave here, whether it be late May or late June. My goal is to see to it that \$7.3 million needed for the State to keep its word to the communities and to fully and truly fund tree growth the way that it's supposed to be done. So far I'm in complete agreement with the good Senator from Oxford, couldn't be more so. Now here is where we part company. To pay for this he would take and diminish our promises for a better tomorrow. He will take our opportunities for future economic growth and smash them against the rocks. He will take, through this, and limit our opportunities of our future generations. We have proposed legislature for the first time to recognize that we compete in a global economy. We have said that research and development at the post secondary level, research and development that by spending \$20 million on we can get \$100 million back directly to our economy that we can do this. Yet, this amendment would destroy that opportunity. Consequently, with some hesitation, because I have a good solid friendship from my seatmate, but I must move Indefinite Postponement of this amendment and Mr. President, when it is so done, I hope it will be done, and request that it be done with a Roll Call.

Senator **RUHLIN** of Penobscot moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15).

On further motion by same Senator, supported by a Division of at least one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

Senator **FERGUSON:** Thank you very much Mr. President. My good friend from Penobscot was probably close to the tree and didn't understand what I said the first time. There's \$3 million that's been appropriated for the University. We're still leaving them \$2 million which would be certainly adequate to do the work that they have to do. I would hope that the Senate would vote against the prevailing motion. Thank you Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** A Roll Call has been ordered. The pending question before the Senate is the motion of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Ruhlín to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE**

Senate Amendment "A" (S-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15). Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary called the Roll with the following result:

**ROLL CALL**

**YEAS:** Senators: CAREY, CATHCART, CLEVELAND, DAGGETT, KILKELLY, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LONGLEY, MICHAUD, MURRAY, NUTTING, O'GARA, PARADIS, PENDLETON, PINGREE, RAND, RUHLIN, TREAT, THE PRESIDENT - MARK W. LAWRENCE

**NAYS:** Senators: ABROMSON, AMERO, BENNETT, BENOIT, BUTLAND, CASSIDY, FERGUSON, GOLDTHWAIT, HARRIMAN, KIEFFER, MILLS, MITCHELL, SMALL

**ABSENT:** Senators: JENKINS, MACKINNON

**EXCUSED:** Senator: HALL

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being absent and 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **RUHLIN** of Penobscot to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15), **PREVAILED.**

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Off Record Remarks

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**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is **ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) as Amended. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Franklin, Senator Benoit.

Senator **BENOIT:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, I present Senate Amendment "S" (S-51) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) and move for its Adoption, and I'd like to speak to my motion.

On motion by Senator **BENOIT** of Franklin Senate Amendment "S" (S-51) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) **READ.**

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Franklin, Senator Benoit.

Senator **BENOIT:** Thank you Mr. President, may it please the Senate. You'll notice in this motion, that it seeks to deappropriate funds from the two Assistant Attorney positions in York County. Yesterday the good Senator from Penobscot, Senator Michaud, made some opening comments about the budget and he made a statement about the input of the policy committees, indicated the importance of their input. I was heartened by his words and hopefully, those words were not hollow. The Judiciary Committee is the policy committee for this particular budget item. The Judiciary Committee held no formal