

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State of Maine

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First Regular Session

May 28, 2009 – June 12, 2009

Second Regular Session

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Pages 609-1214

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

Representative **VALENTINO**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. If I had been present yesterday for Roll Call No. 213, on LD 285, I would have voted nay.

The House recessed until 12:00 p.m.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1048) (L.D. 1489)

Sponsored by Representative CAIN of Orono. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland.

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested.

Under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its **FIRST READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a committee.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Cain.

Representative **CAIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. As I think most of you know by now, yesterday we learned that revenues for the month of May were down by \$21.2 million or 9 percent, and year-to-date revenues are under budget by \$13.1 million or 6 percent. With only three weeks left in the fiscal year and only a few days left in this legislative session, I ask for your support of this bill as the vehicle to deal with this difficult situation.

The bill before you on Supplement No. 1 does three things: Number one, it increases the transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund in FY 2009, changing the transfer that was in 2010 into 2009. Number two, it includes additional deappropriations in savings from lapsed funds across state government into the Budget Stabilization Fund totaling \$1.64 million. There are no state services impacted and no programs that will have to be stopped or detrimentally impacted. Number three, at the end of LD 353, passed by this body and the other, we left a balance of \$2.6 million at the end of Fiscal Year 2011. This transfers \$2 million of that balance also into the Budget Stabilization Fund. I believe this is a responsible action that is necessary to deal with crossing the fiscal bridge from one fiscal year in 2009 to the next, and I ask for your support. I recognize

that there is a lot of work ahead for the Appropriations Committee and for this full Legislature to meet this incredible challenge at this time, but we are ready to take on that work, and passing this bill allows us the opportunity to meet that challenge and to do that very hard work over the next six months and in the second half of this legislation session. The Appropriations Committee discussed this bill and the revenue situation at length yesterday with Commissioner Ryan Low, with Dr. Mike Allen from Maine Revenue Services and amongst ourselves. We discussed this legislation at length and we voted unanimously to support it at that time. I ask you to join us in the support of this bill in order to help us again cross the bridge from Fiscal Year 2009 into Fiscal Year 2010. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Very briefly, I would concur with the words of the good Representative from Orono entirely. This is a chore that none of us looked forward to, even though some of us anticipated the problem, it's worse than we expected, it needs to be addressed and taken care of now. Our side of the aisle has talked about all of the alternatives, none of them are any better than the ones before you. We need to do this; we need to do it now. I urge your support.

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1024) (L.D. 1473) Bill "An Act To Reaffirm Maine's Commitment to Business by Amending the Pine Tree Development Zone Laws" Committee on **BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-570)**

(H.P. 1036) (L.D. 1483) Bill "An Act To Stimulate the Maine Economy by Making Funds Available to First-time Home Buyers To Allow Them To Take Advantage of the Federal First-time Home Buyer Tax Credit" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-569)**

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

There being no objection, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment yesterday, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Role of the Public Advocate"

(H.P. 657) (L.D. 954)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-165)** on May 12, 2009.

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-165) AS AMENDED BY**