STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

In Senate Chamber Wednesday March 5, 2003

Senate called to order by President Pro Tempore Kenneth T. Gagnon of Kennebec County.
Prayer by Rabbi Raymond Krinsky, Beth Israel Congregation in Waterville.
RABBI KRINSKY: Almighty God, we pray Your blessing upon our Senators as they continue to promulgate the laws for our state. May they remain steadfast in their resolve to achieve fairness and justice for our citizens, even while they are caught up in the give and take of political realities. May they vigorously pursue the intent of their principles while recognizing that compromise can also be heroic. May their earnest commitment to their constituencies enhance their concern for the compelling needs of the larger community. Give them the strength to sail beyond the lines of familiar ideologies and the courage to explore the unchartered waters of novel ideas. Give them the vision of a greater day for the State of Maine and the will to bring to it their considerable talents for its realization. Give them the wisdom to deal compassionately as well as pragmatically with that great challenge to government, its' responsibility to serve and to care for the governed. May we, whom they represent, also contribute substantially of our civic sensibilities by becoming informed, concerned, and involved constituents. Amen.
Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 4, 2003.
Off Record Remarks
PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE
House Papers
Bill "An Act To Abolish the State Planning Office" H.P. 785 L.D. 1067
Committee on BUSINESS , RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT suggested and ordered printed.
Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT .
Senator HALL of Lincoln moved to REFER to the Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, in concurrence.
On motion by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook, TABLED Unassigned, pending the motion by Senator HALL of Lincoln to REFER to the Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT , in concurrence.
Bill "An Act To Amend the Foreclosure Process"

H.P. 803 L.D. 1100

Committee on **BUSINESS**, **RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION**.

On motion by Senator **HALL** of Lincoln, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Noncompete Clauses in Broadcast Industry Contracts" H.P. 823 L.D. 1120

Committee on **BUSINESS**, **RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR**.

On motion by Senator **HALL** of Lincoln, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Require Fire-safe Cigarettes in the State"

H.P. 830 L.D. 1127

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

On motion by Senator **STRIMLING** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Establish an Appeal Process for Residential Care Facilities Denied Licensure Due to Fire Safety Issues"

H.P. 853 L.D. 1154

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

On motion by Senator **STRIMLING** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Establish and Enforce Abortion Facility Safety Requirements"

H.P. 804 L.D. 1101

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **BRENNAN** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Protect the Mental Health of Women and Girls"

H.P. 805 L.D. 1102

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **BRENNAN** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Abortion Reporting"

H.P. 832 L.D. 1129

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **BRENNAN** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Increase Parental Responsibility for Restitution"

H.P. 842 L.D. 1139

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

On motion by Senator **PENDLETON** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Allow the State To Claim a Setoff against a Convicted Person's Tax Refund for Purposes of Paying Restitution"

H.P. 778 L.D. 1060

Bill "An Act To Encourage the Use of Clean Fuel Vehicles"

H.P. 789 L.D. 1071

Bill "An Act To Impose a Municipal Services Fee on Tax-exempt Property"

H.P. 798 L.D. 1080

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow Property Tax Reductions for Seniors

H.P. 827 L.D. 1124

Bill "An Act To Provide a Tax Credit to Employers Who Contribute to Employee Health Care Benefits"

H.P. 838 L.D. 1135

Bill "An Act To Provide Property Tax Relief for Maine Residents and Businesses and Implement Comprehensive Tax Reform"

H.P. 844 L.D. 1141

Bill "An Act To Create the Maine Community Preservation Fund"

H.P. 848 L.D. 1145

Bill "An Act To Shift Tax Burdens from Wages to Nonrenewable Power Sources"

H.P. 850 L.D. 1147

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator STANLEY of Penobscot, REFERRED to the Committee on TAXATION and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Protect Lienholders of Titled Vehicles" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 780 L.D. 1062

Bill "An Act To Increase Traffic Fines and Apportion a Part of the Increase to the Issuing Jurisdiction"

H.P. 788 L.D. 1070

Bill "An Act To Allow the Use of Cameras for Enforcement of Traffic Light Violations" H.P. 799 L.D. 1081

Bill "An Act To Prohibit the Use of Imitation High-intensity Discharge Bulbs" H.P. 807 L.D. 1104

Bill "An Act To Repeal the Billboard Law"

H.P. 816 L.D. 1113

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator HATCH of Somerset, REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Resolve, To Establish the Maine Networked Services Task Force (EMERGENCY) H.P. 851 L.D. 1148

Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on UTILITIES AND ENERGY and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator HALL of Lincoln, REFERRED to the Committee on UTILITIES AND **ENERGY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Public Law Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The **Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources**, pursuant to Public Law 2001, chapter 620 asked leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Reduce Mercury Use in Measuring Devices and Switches"

H.P. 856 L.D. 1159

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill REFERRED to the Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook, REFERRED to the Committee on NATURAL **RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218, in concurrence.

> **Pursuant to Statutes Maine Fire Protection Services Commission**

The **Maine Fire Protection Services Commission**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3371, subsection 8, paragraph G asked leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Amend the Membership of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission"

H.P. 857 L.D. 1160

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **STRIMLING** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Statutes Maine Turnpike Authority

The **Maine Turnpike Authority**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 asked leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2004"

H.P. 852 L.D. 1153

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **HATCH** of Somerset, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218, in concurrence.

Joint Orders

The following Joint Order:

H.P. 772

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs shall undertake a study of the fiscal note process, especially the process by which a department provides information about the cost of a bill before the Legislature and the potential adverse effect on that department. The committee shall issue a report to the Legislature that details the method by which fiscal notes are determined. The committee also shall determine a method to avoid this potential conflict of interest. The committee shall submit its report and any necessary changes to the Maine Revised Statutes or Joint Rules to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature no later than December 1, 2003.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON JOINT RULES**.

READ.

On motion by Senator **MARTIN** of Aroostook, **REFERRED** to the **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON JOINT RULES**, in concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Sponsored by Senator KNEELAND of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Senators: CARPENTER of York, SHOREY of Washington, WESTON of Waldo,

S.P. 383 L.D. 1179

Bill "An Act To Encourage Youth Participation in Fishing"

YOUNGBLOOD of Penobscot.

On motion by Senator BRYANT of Oxford, REFERRED to the Committee on INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE and ordered printed.
Sent down for concurrence.
Bill "An Act To Provide Fair Hearings in Health Insurance Rate Proceedings" S.P. 385 L.D. 1181
Sponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Representative KANE of Saco and Senators: BROMLEY of Cumberland, DOUGLASS of Androscoggin, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, PIOTTI of Unity.
On motion by Senator DOUGLASS of Androscoggin, REFERRED to the Committee on INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES and ordered printed.
Sent down for concurrence.
RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Judicial Advisory Opinion Mechanism in Disputed Election Results for Members of the Maine Senate and House of Representatives S.P. 384 L.D. 1180
Sponsored by Senator BLAIS of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, GILMAN of Cumberland, MITCHELL of Penobscot, SAVAGE of Knox, WOODCOCK of Franklin.
On motion by Senator LEMONT of York, REFERRED to the Committee on LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS and ordered printed.
Sent down for concurrence.
Bill "An Act To Create a Local Property Tax Rebate Program for the Elderly" S.P. 382 L.D. 1178
Sponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Representative SUSLOVIC of Portland and Senators: President DAGGETT of Kennebec, EDMONDS of Cumberland, HATCH of Somerset, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, STANLEY of Penobscot, Representatives: CANAVAN of Waterville, CLOUGH of Scarborough LERMAN of Augusta.
On motion by Senator STANLEY of Penobscot, REFERRED to the Committee on TAXATIO and ordered printed.
Sent down for concurrence.
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All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Study Order

On motion by Senator **BLAIS** of Kennebec (Cosponsored by Representative BERUBE of Lisbon, and Senator SAVAGE of Knox, Representative VAUGHAN of Durham), the following Joint Study Order:

S.P. 381

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Blue Ribbon Commission on Cooperation, Communication and Tax Equity among State, County and Local Governments is established as follows.

- 1. Blue Ribbon Commission on Cooperation, Communication and Tax Equity among State, County and Local Governments established. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Cooperation, Communication and Tax Equity among State, County and Local Governments, referred to in this order as "the commission," is established.
 - 2. Membership. The commission consists of the following 5 members:
 - A. Two members of the Senate, one from each of the 2 political parties with the most members in the Legislature, appointed by the President of the Senate; and
 - B. Three members of the House of Representatives, at least one from each of the 2 political parties with the most members in the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 3. Commission chairs. The first-named Senator is the Senate chair of the commission and the first-named member of the House is the House chair of the commission.
- 4. Appointments; convening of commission. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following passage of this order. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been made. When the appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission, which must be no later than October 1, 2003.
- 5. Duties. The commission shall hold its meetings at various locations in the State, to be determined by the chairs. The commission shall:
 - A. Invite the participation of experts and interested parties to explore the current mechanisms available for dialogue among state, county and local governments;
 - B. Gather information on the financial relationship between state, county and local governments, specifically focusing on the apportionment of taxes among the 3 levels of government;
 - C. Identify and recommend appropriate actions the State may take to minimize the effects of revenue shifting on county and local governments; and
 - D. Identify and discuss other issues relevant to this study.
- 6. Staff assistance. Upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission.
- 7. Compensation. Members of the commission are entitled to the legislative per diem and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission.
- 8. Report. No later than January 5, 2004, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second

Regular Session of the 121st Legislature. The commission is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report at the time of submission of its report.

- Extension. If the commission requires a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant an extension. Upon submission of its required report, the commission terminates.
- 10. Budget. The chairs of the commission, with assistance from the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis staff, shall administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

READ	and REFE	RRED to the	Committee on	TAXATION

READ and REFERRED to the Committee on TAXATION .
Sent down for concurrence.
All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
House
Ought to Pass
The Committee on BUSINESS , RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT on Bill "Ar Act To Amend the Requirements for a Journeyman Oil Burner Technician License" H.P. 184 L.D. 225
Reported that the same Ought to Pass .
Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED .
Report READ and ACCEPTED , in concurrence.
READ ONCE.
ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.
The Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES on Bill "An Act to Change the Reporting Requirements for the Mercury Switch Removal Program" H.P. 305 L.D. 385
Reported that the same Ought to Pass .

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

READ ONCE.

ENGROSSED.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE**

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator STRIMLING for the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act Concerning Full-time Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers"

S.P. 74. I.D. 151

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by President Pro Tem KENNETH T. GAGNON of Kennebec County.

Off Record Remarks
Senate at Ease.
Senate called to order by President Pro Tem KENNETH T . GAGNON of Kennebec County.
Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:
PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE
House Papers
Bill "An Act To Preserve Public Access and Job Opportunities in the North Woods" H.P. 874 L.D. 1177
Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on AGRICULTURE , CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY and ordered printed.
On motion by Senator KNEELAND of Aroostook, REFERRED to the Committee on AGRICULTURE , CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY and ordered printed, in concurrence.
RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Restrict an Increase in the Growth of the State Budget to No Greater than 75% of the Rate of Growth of Per Capita Income H.P. 864 L.D. 1167
Bill "An Act To Continue the Maine Farms for the Future Program" H.P. 870 L.D. 1173
Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.
On motion by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot, REFERRED to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed, in concurrence.
Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:
PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE
House Papers
Bill "An Act To Allow a Victim of Domestic Violence To Carry a Firearm without a Concealed
Firearm Permit" H.P. 861 L.D. 1164
Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY and ordered printed.
On motion by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland, REFERRED to the Committee on CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Exempt Saltwater-only Boats from the Lake and River Protection Sticker Requirements"

H.P. 858 L.D. 1161

Resolve, To Allow Selected Northern Maine Deer Hunters To Take 2 Deer H.P. 863 L.D. 1166

Bill "An Act To Redefine 'Muzzle-loading Firearm' and Expand the Muzzleloader Hunting Season" H.P. 867 L.D. 1170

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CARPENTER** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act To Establish a Cap on Credit Card Rates and To Require Notice of a Change in Credit Card Rates"

H.P. 865 L.D. 1168

Bill "An Act Relating to Options for Health Insurance Coverage" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 871 L.D. 1174

Bill "An Act To Improve the Affordability of Individual and Small Group Health Insurance" H.P. 872 L.D. 1175

Bill "An Act To Provide Affordable Health Care Insurance to All of the State's Citizens" H.P. 873 L.D. 1176

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **DOUGLASS** of Androscoggin, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act To Provide That Employee Terminations by Any Company That Receives Monetary Benefits from the State Require Just Cause"

H.P. 860 L.D. 1163

Bill "An Act To Provide Qualified Interpretation and Translation Services in Workers' Compensation Proceedings"

H.P. 862 L.D. 1165

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **EDMONDS** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Prohibit the Use of Clean Election Funding for Candidates Who Lose in Primaries" H.P. 859 L.D. 1162 Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS and ordered printed. On motion by Senator LEMONT of York, REFERRED to the Committee on LEGAL AND **VETERANS AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence. Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following: PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE **House Papers** Bill "An Act To Phase Out the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement" H.P. 866 L.D. 1169 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow Municipalities To Assess 2nd Homes at up to Twice the Valuation H.P. 868 L.D. 1171 Bill "An Act To Assist American Mills with Tree Growth Management Plan Products" H.P. 869 L.D. 1172 Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed. On motion by Senator STANLEY of Penobscot, REFERRED to the Committee on TAXATION and ordered printed, in concurrence. Senator **WOODCOCK** of Franklin was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record. On motion by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot, ADJOURNED to Thursday, March 6, 2003, at 10:00 in the morning.