

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session

beginning December 3, 2014

beginning at page H-1

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2nd Legislative Day
Wednesday, January 7, 2015

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Pastor Stephen Espling, North Deering Alliance Church, Portland.

National Anthem by Jim Hodgkin, Leeds.
Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point, pursuant to his authority under House Rule 401.1, the Chair assigned Representative SAWICKI of Auburn to Seat 19.

Doctors of the day, David Edsall, M.D., Ellsworth and Leigh Forbush, D.O., North Hampden.

The Journal of Wednesday, December 3, 2014 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following Communication: (H.C. 8)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

TO: Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
FROM: S/Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House

DATE: December 23, 2014

RE: Committee Appointments
127th Legislature

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1(l)(a), I have made the following appointments to the various Joint Standing Committees:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Craig V. Hickman, Chair (D-Winthrop)
William F. Noon (D-Sanford)
Robert J. Saucier (D-Presque Isle)
Ralph Chapman (D-Brooksville)
Michelle Ann Dunphy (D-Old Town)
Russell J. Black (R-Wilton)*
Donald G. Marean (R-Hollis)
Carol A. McElwee (R-Caribou)
Anthony J. Edgcomb (R-Fort Fairfield)
MaryAnne Kinney (R-Knox)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Margaret R. Rotundo, Chair (D-Lewiston)
John L. Martin (D-Eagle Lake)
Linda F. Sanborn (D-Gorham)
Aaron M. Frey (D-Bangor)
Erik C. Jorgensen (D-Portland)
Gay M. Grant (D-Gardiner)
Tom J. Winsor (R-Norway)*
Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland)
Heather W. Sirocki (R-Scarborough)
Jeffrey L. Timberlake (R-Turner)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Lori A. Fowle, Chair (D-Vassalboro)
Michel A. Lajoie (D-Lewiston)
Justin M. Chenette (D-Saco)
Catherine M. Nadeau (D-Winslow)
James E. Davitt (D-Hampden)
Charlotte Warren (D-Hallowell)
Ricky D. Long (R-Sherman)*
Karen A. Gerrish (R-Lebanon)
Timothy S. Theriault (R-China)
Michael J. Timmons (R-Cumberland)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Victoria P. Kornfield, Chair (D-Bangor)
Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry (D-Brunswick)
Brian L. Hubbell (D-Bar Harbor)
Richard R. Farnsworth (D-Portland)
Ryan D. Tipping-Spitz (D-Orono)
Teresa S. Pierce (D-Falmouth)
Joyce A. Maker (R-Calais)*
Michael D. McClellan (R-Raymond)
Matthew G. Pouliot (R-Augusta)
Paul A. Stearns (R-Guilford)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Mark N. Dion, Chair (D-Portland)
Roberta B. Beavers (D-South Berwick)
Christopher W. Babbidge (D-Kennebunk)
Deane Rykerson (D-Kittery)
Jennifer L. DeChant (D-Bath)
Martin J. Grohman (D-Biddeford)
Larry C. Dunphy (R-Emden)*
Beth A. O'Connor (R-Berwick)
Norman E. Higgins (R-Dover-Foxcroft)
Nathan J. Wadsworth (R-Hiram)

Environment and Natural Resources

Joan W. Welsh, Chair (D-Rockport)
Robert S. Duchesne (D-Hudson)
John L. Martin (D-Eagle Lake)
Denise Patricia Harlow (D-Portland)
Ralph L. Tucker (D-Brunswick)
Richard H. Campbell (R-Orrington)*
Andrew Russell Buckland (R-Farmington)
Jeffery P. Hanley (R-Pittston)
Dustin Michael White (R-Washburn)
Benjamin M. Chipman (I-Portland)

Health and Human Services

Drew Gattine, Chair (D-Westbrook)
Peter C. Stuckey (D-Portland)
Matthew J. Peterson (D-Rumford)
Scott M. Hamann (D-South Portland)
Christine S. Burstein (D-Lincolnville)
Patricia Hymanson (D-York)
Deborah J. Sanderson (R-Chelsea)*
Richard S. Malaby (R-Hancock)
Frances M. Head (R-Bethel)
Karen Vachon (R-Scarborough)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Michael A. Shaw, Chair (D-Standish)
Roland Danny Martin (D-Sinclair)
Stanley Byron Short, Jr. (D-Pittsfield)
Robert W. Alley, Sr. (D-Beals)
Dale J. Crafts (R-Lisbon)*
Stephen J. Wood (R-Sabattus)
Roger E. Reed (R-Carmel)
Patrick W. Corey (R-Windham)

Gary L. Hilliard (R-Belgrade)
Peter A. Lyford (R-Eddington)
Matthew Dana II (Passamaquoddy Tribe)

Insurance and Financial Services

Henry E. M. Beck, Chair (D-Waterville)
Terry K. Morrison (D-South Portland)
Janice E. Cooper (D-Yarmouth)
Heidi E. Brooks (D-Lewiston)
Gina M. Melaragno (D-Auburn)
Ralph L. Tucker (D-Brunswick)
Raymond A. Wallace (R-Dexter)*
John Joseph Picchiotti (R-Fairfield)
Robert A. Foley (R-Wells)
Dwayne W. Prescott (R-Waterboro)

Judiciary

Barry J. Hobbins, Chair (D-Saco)
Kimberly J. Monaghan (D-Cape Elizabeth)
Matthew W. Moonen (D-Portland)
Joyce McCreight (D-Harpswell)
Charlotte Warren (D-Hallowell)
Stacey K. Guerin (R-Glenburn)*
Roger L. Sherman (R-Hodgdon)
Phyllis A. Ginzler (R-Bridgton)
Lloyd C. Herrick (R-Paris)
Jeffrey Evangelos (U-Friendship)
Wayne T. Mitchell (Penobscot Nation)

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

Erin D. Herbig, Chair (D-Belfast)
Paul E. Gilbert (D-Jay)
Anne-Marie Mastraccio (D-Sanford)
Dillon Bates (D-Westbrook)
Ryan M. Fecteau (D-Biddeford)
Lawrence E. Lockman (R-Amherst)*
Susan M. W. Austin (R-Gray)
Joel R. Stetkis (R-Canaan)
Karleton S. Ward (R-Dedham)
James J. Campbell, Sr. (I-Newfield)

Marine Resources

Walter A. Kumiega III, Chair (D-Deer Isle)
Michael G. Devin (D-Newcastle)
Robert W. Alley, Sr. (D-Beals)
Lydia Blume (D-York)
Joyce McCreight (D-Harpswell)
Jeffrey K. Pierce (R-Dresden)*
Kevin J. Battle (R-South Portland)
Stephanie Hawke (R-Boothbay Harbor)
David P. Sawicki (R-Auburn)
William R. Tuell (R-East Machias)

State and Local Government

Roland Danny Martin, Chair (D-Sinclair)
Mark E. Bryant (D-Windham)
Christopher W. Babbidge (D-Kennebunk)
Elizabeth E. Dickerson (D-Rockland)
Donna R. Doore (D-Augusta)
Beth P. Turner (R-Burlington)*
Randall Adam Greenwood (R-Wales)
Richard A. Pickett (R-Dixfield)
William R. Tuell (R-East Machias)
Jeffrey Evangelos (U-Friendship)

Taxation

Adam A. Goode, Chair (D-Bangor)
Stephen S. Stanley (D-Medway)
Matthew W. Moonen (D-Portland)
Diane M. Russell (D-Portland)

Denise A. Tepler (D-Topsham)
H. Stedman Seavey (R-Kennebunkport)*
Bruce A. Bickford (R-Auburn)
Paul Chace (R-Durham)
Thomas H. Skolfield (R-Weld)
Gary E. Sukeforth (U-Appleton)

Transportation

Andrew J. McLean, Chair (D-Gorham)
George W. Hogan (D-Old Orchard Beach)
Christine B. Powers (D-Naples)
Arthur C. Verow (D-Brewer)
Mark E. Bryant (D-Windham)
Jared F. Golden (D-Lewiston)
Wayne R. Parry (R-Arundel)*
James S. Gillway (R-Searsport)
Bradlee Thomas Farrin (R-Norridgewock)
Brian D. Hobart (R-Bowdoinham)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Louis J. Luchini, Chair (D-Ellsworth)
Thomas R. W. Longstaff (D-Waterville)
Robert J. Saucier (D-Presque Isle)
John C. Schneck (D-Bangor)
Kimberly J. Monaghan (D-Cape Elizabeth)
Jared F. Golden (D-Lewiston)
Jonathan L. Kinney (R-Limington)*
Beth P. Turner (R-Burlington)
Kathleen R. J. Dillingham (R-Oxford)
Sheldon Mark Hanington (R-Lincoln)
Henry John Bear (Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians)

*Ranking Republican Member

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 9)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 23, 2014
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 371, I have appointed the following members to the Government Oversight Committee:

Chuck Kruger, Chair (D-Thomaston)
Robert S. Duchesne (D-Hudson))
Anne-Marie Mastraccio (D-Sanford))
Michael D. McClellan (R-Raymond)*)
Richard H. Campbell (R-Orrington))
Deborah J. Sanderson (R-Chelsea))

*Ranking Republican Member

Sincerely,
S/Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 10)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 23, 2014

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 354, I have appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules:

Sara Gideon, Chair (D-Freeport)

John L. Martin (D-Eagle Lake)

Matthew W. Moonen (D-Portland)

Roger L. Sherman (R-Hodgdon)*

Donald G. Marean (R-Hollis)

*Ranking Republican Member

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 20)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

January 6, 2015

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (J), I have made the following appointments to the Standing Committees of the House.

Bills in the Second Reading

Andrew J. McLean, Chair (D-Gorham)

Scott M. Hamann (D-South Portland)

Roberta B. Beavers (D-South Berwick)

Lydia Blume (D-York)

Beth P. Turner (R-Burlington)

Carol A. McElwee (R-Caribou)

Thomas H. Skolfield (R-Weld)

Nathan J. Wadsworth (R-Hiram)

Elections

Sara Gideon, Chair (D-Freeport)

John L. Martin (D-Eagle Lake)

Henry E. M. Beck (D-Waterville)

Matthew W. Moonen (D-Portland)

Roger E. Reed (R-Carmel)

Paul Chace (R-Durham)

Michael J. Timmons (R-Cumberland)

Ellie Espling (R-New Gloucester)

Engrossed Bills

Walter A. Kumiega III, Chair (D-Deer Isle)

Thomas R. W. Longstaff (D-Waterville)

Dillon Bates (D-Westbrook)

Patricia Hymanson (D-York)

Richard S. Malaby (R-Hancock)

Dustin Michael White (R-Washburn)

Joel R. Stetkis (R-Canaan)

Anthony J. Edgecomb (R-Fort Fairfield)

Ethics

Louis J. Luchini, Chair (D-Ellsworth)

Mark E. Bryant (D-Windham)

Kimberly J. Monaghan (D-Cape Elizabeth)

Jeffrey Evangelos (U-Friendship)

James S. Gillway (R-Searsport)

Kenneth Wade Fredette (R-Newport)

Frances M. Head (R-Bethel)

Robert A. Foley (R-Wells)

Leaves of Absence

Thomas R. W. Longstaff, Chair (D-Waterville)

Ryan M. Fecteau (D-Biddeford)

Teresa S. Pierce (D-Falmouth)

Christine S. Burstein (D-Lincolntonville)

Heather W. Sirocki (R-Scarborough)

Jeffrey L. Timberlake (R-Turner)

Sheldon Mark Hanington (R-Lincoln)

Phyllis A. Ginzler (R-Bridgton)

Rules and Business of the House

The Speaker, Ex Officio

Jeff M. McCabe (D-Skowhegan)

Kenneth Wade Fredette (R-Newport)

Ellie Espling (R-New Gloucester)

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 11)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 30, 2014

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 7, Chapter 5, §125 of the Maine Revised Statutes, I have appointed Representative Craig V. Hickman of Winthrop to serve as a legislative member of the Board of Agriculture.

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 12)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 10, 2014

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, Chapter 371-A §7030 of the Maine Revised Statutes, I am pleased to reappoint the following to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women: Andrea Irwin of Augusta

Elizabeth Ward Saxl of Belgrade

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 13)

**SENATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 23, 2014

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Senate Rule 201.3, I have made the following appointments to various Joint Standing Committees.

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Peter E. Edgecomb, Chair (R-Aroostook)

Thomas B. Saviello (R-Franklin)

James F. Dill (D-Penobscot)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

James M. Hamper, Chair (R-Oxford)

Roger J. Katz (R-Kennebec)

Linda M. Valentino (D-York)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Kimberley C. Rosen, Chair (R-Hancock)

David C. Burns (R-Washington)

Stan Gerzofsky (D-Cumberland)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Brian D. Langley, Chair (R-Hancock)

Peter E. Edgecomb (R-Aroostook)

Rebecca J. Millett (D-Cumberland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

David Woodsome, Chair (R-York)

Garrett P. Mason (R-Androscoggin)

Dawn Hill (D-York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Thomas B. Saviello, Chair (R-Franklin)

Eric L. Brakey (R-Androscoggin)

Catherine Breen (D-Cumberland)

Health and Human Services

Eric L. Brakey, Chair (R-Androscoggin)

Earle L. McCormick (R-Kennebec)

Anne M. Haskell (D-Cumberland)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Paul T. Davis, Sr., Chair (R-Piscataquis)

Scott W. Cyrway (R-Kennebec)

David E. Dutremble (D-York)

Insurance and Financial Services

Rodney L. Whittemore, Chair (R-Somerset)

Linda L. Baker (R-Sagadahoc)

Geoffrey M. Gratwick (D-Penobscot)

Judiciary

David C. Burns, Chair (R-Washington)

Amy F. Volk (R-Cumberland)

Christopher K. Johnson (D-Lincoln)

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

Amy F. Volk, Chair (R-Cumberland)

Andre E. Cushing III (R-Penobscot)

John L. Patrick (D-Oxford)

Marine Resources

Linda L. Baker, Chair (R-Sagadahoc)

Brian D. Langley (R-Hancock)

David R. Miramant (D-Knox)

State and Local Government

Michael J. Willette, Chair (R-Aroostook)

David Woodsome (R-York)

Nathan L. Libby (D-Androscoggin)

Taxation

Earle L. McCormick, Chair (R-Kennebec)

Paul T. Davis, Sr. (R-Piscataquis)

Nathan L. Libby (D-Androscoggin)

Transportation

Ronald F. Collins, Chair (R-York)

Kimberley C. Rosen (R-Hancock)

G. William Diamond (D-Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Scott W. Cyrway, Chair (R-Kennebec)

Ronald F. Collins (R-York)

John L. Patrick (D-Oxford)

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 14)

**SENATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 23, 2014

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 371, I have made the following appointments to the Government Oversight Committee:

Roger J. Katz, Chair (R-Kennebec)

David C. Burns (R-Washington))

Paul T. Davis, Sr. (R-Piscataquis))

Christopher K. Johnson (D-Lincoln))

Stan Gerzofsky (D-Cumberland))

G. William Diamond (D-Cumberland))

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 15)

**SENATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 23, 2014

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, January 7, 2015

2 State House Station
 Augusta, Maine 04333
 Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 354, I have made the following appointments to the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules:

Senator Garrett P. Mason of Androscoggin, Chair
 Senator Andre E. Cushing III of Penobscot
 Senator Paul T. Davis, Sr. of Piscataquis
 Senator Stan J. Gerzofsky of Cumberland
 Senator Dawn Hill of York

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
 S/Michael D. Thibodeau
 President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 16)

STATE OF MAINE
Office of the Secretary of State

January 7, 2015

To the Speaker of the House in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature:

I, MATTHEW DUNLAP, Secretary of State, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine, having tabulated the returns of the votes cast for Governor at the General Election held on the fourth day of November in the year two thousand and fourteen;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS; that Paul R. LePage, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected Governor of the State of Maine:

General Election – November 4, 2014

Governor

Eliot R. Cutler
 Cape Elizabeth
 Independent

Androscoggin	3,556
Aroostook	2,727
Cumberland	12,836
Franklin	1,241
Hancock	2,268
Kennebec	4,241
Knox	1,555
Lincoln	1,351
Oxford	2,226
Penobscot	4,712
Piscataquis	631
Sagadahoc	1,550
Somerset	1,586
Waldo	1,440
Washington	1,157
York	8,361
State UOCAVA	72
Emergency Utility Workers	5
Total	51,515

Paul R. LePage
 Augusta
 Republican

Androscoggin	25,987
Aroostook	13,725
Cumberland	55,932
Franklin	7,591
Hancock	12,016
Kennebec	28,336
Knox	8,425
Lincoln	9,157
Oxford	14,902
Penobscot	33,190
Piscataquis	4,736
Sagadahoc	8,760
Somerset	12,194
Waldo	8,862
Washington	7,390
York	43,055
State UOCAVA	196
Emergency Utility Workers	65
Total	294,519

Michael H. Michaud
 East Millinocket
 Democrat

Androscoggin	16,376
Aroostook	12,398
Cumberland	72,217
Franklin	5,426
Hancock	12,007
Kennebec	24,129
Knox	8,911
Lincoln	7,633
Oxford	9,269
Penobscot	26,210
Piscataquis	2,810
Sagadahoc	8,264
Somerset	8,422
Waldo	8,167
Washington	5,452
York	36,905
State UOCAVA	499
Emergency Utility Workers	19
Total	265,114

Others

Androscoggin	1
Aroostook	6
Cumberland	22
Franklin	7
Hancock	3
Kennebec	8
Knox	0
Lincoln	0
Oxford	3
Penobscot	0
Piscataquis	2
Sagadahoc	3

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, January 7, 2015

Somerset	1
Waldo	6
Washington	3
York	14
State UOCAVA	0
Emergency Utility Workers	0
Total	79

I, MATTHEW DUNLAP, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast for Governor at the General Election, as reported to me on the returns from the cities, towns and plantations of the State.

S/Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 17)

**CHILD WELFARE OMBUDSMAN
P.O. BOX 2057
HOPE, MAINE 04847**

December 28, 2014
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Eves:

I am pleased to present the twelfth annual report of the Maine Child Welfare Ombudsman. Our office reports to the Governor, the Department, and the Legislature each year pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §4087-A. This report reflects the Fiscal Year from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. I respectfully request that you distribute this report to the members of the Maine House of Representatives.

The Child Welfare Services Ombudsman provides information to callers about Child Welfare Services, and also provides information and referrals to callers. For approximately one fifth of callers, the Ombudsman will open a case for review. The Ombudsman is glad to report that the Office of Child and Family Services and the Ombudsman continue to have an excellent working relationship as we strive for the common goal of keeping Maine's most vulnerable children safe and helping reunite families involved with Child Welfare.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the report or our program and I would be happy to meet and discuss those or any other issues with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Alberi
Ombudsman

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 18)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

December 30, 2014
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §12009, I am submitting to you the report of Board and Commission appointments or reappointments for calendar year 2015. Additionally, I am providing a report that lists appointments or reappointments that have not been made from previous years through December 31, 2014, and where vacancies actually exist on a board or commission that need a new appointment. If you need a breakdown by your appointments only, we can provide this for you as well.

If you have any question concerning these reports or need additional information, please contact this office or Cathy Beaudoin in the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions at 624-7748.

Sincerely,
S/Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 19)

**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
5 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332-0949**

December 22, 2014
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Eves:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Finance Authority of Maine's FY 14 annual report as required by 10 M.R.S.A. §974.

Sincerely,
S/Bruce Wagner
Chief Executive Officer

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator MASON of Androscoggin of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 11:30 in the morning at the Augusta Civic Center for the purpose of administering to the Honorable PAUL R. LePAGE, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties and to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 11:30 in the morning at the Augusta Civic Center and the Speaker appointed Representative McCABE of Skowhegan to convey this message to the Senate.

Subsequently, Representative McCABE of Skowhegan reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

The following Bills and Resolves were received, and upon the recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills were **REFERRED** to the following Committees, ordered printed and sent for concurrence:

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Bill "An Act To Promote Industrial Hemp"

(H.P. 7) (L.D. 4)

Sponsored by Representative SANDERSON of Chelsea.
Cosponsored by Senator HAMPER of Oxford and Representatives: DUNPHY of Embden, GOODE of Bangor, O'CONNOR of Berwick, PARRY of Arundel, POULIOT of Augusta, SHAW of Standish, TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Purchase and Development of the Bar Harbor Ferry Terminal as a Multimodal Transportation Facility"

(H.P. 5) (L.D. 2)

Sponsored by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act To Ensure Consistent Certification of Graduation Standards in Publicly Funded Secondary Schools" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 6) (L.D. 3)

Sponsored by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bill "An Act To Remove the Limit on the Number of Patients a Primary Caregiver May Provide for under the Medical Marijuana Laws"

(H.P. 8) (L.D. 5)

Sponsored by Representative RUSSELL of Portland.

TRANSPORTATION

Resolve, To Name the Route 11 Bridge over the Saco River in Standish and Limington the Veterans Memorial Bridge

(H.P. 4) (L.D. 1)

Sponsored by Representative SHAW of Standish.
Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and Representatives: Speaker EVES of North Berwick, KINNEY of Limington, Senators: DILL of Penobscot, VALENTINO of York.

Pursuant to Statute

Department of Health and Human Services

Representative GATTINE for the **Department of Health and Human Services** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 21: Allowances for Home and Community Benefits for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 10) (L.D. 7)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services

Representative HOBBS for the **Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 301: Fee Schedule and Administrative Procedures for Payment of Commission Assigned Counsel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 11) (L.D. 8)

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

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

At this point, the Speaker recognized the Representative from Bangor, Representative KORNFIELD and she was added to the roll call of the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

Recognizing:

the Sacopee Valley High School Girls Soccer Team, of Hiram, which has won the 2014 Class C State Championship. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 1)

Presented by Representative POWERS of Naples.
Cosponsored by Senator HAMPER of Oxford, Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative POWERS of Naples, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Recognizing:

Gertrude Fraser, of Verona Island, for her service to the Nation. Mrs. Fraser served in the United States Army Nurse Corps during World War II. During her 3 years in the Army, she took care of wounded soldiers in Houlton, in Syracuse, New York and in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This past summer, she and other veterans of World War II living in Waldo County and the surrounding area were recognized at a ceremony held by the American Legion. We take this opportunity to extend to Mrs. Fraser our gratitude for her service;

(HLS 8)

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham. Cosponsored by President THIBODEAU of Waldo, Senator ROSEN of Hancock.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WARD of Dedham, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Recognizing:

the members of the Stockton Springs Community Church Steeple Committee, who are the recipients of a 2014 Spirit of America Award: Mary Jane Costigan, Marion Fisher, Peggy Mace, Pearl Seekins, Janice Shute and June Wentworth. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the award is presented to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We send our congratulations to the members of the Stockton Springs Community Church Steeple Committee on their receiving this award;

(HLS 9)

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham. Cosponsored by President THIBODEAU of Waldo.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WARD of Dedham, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Recognizing:

Alvion Kimball, of Orland, owner of the Orland House B&B, who was named the 2014 Innkeeper of the Year by the Maine Innkeepers Association. The annual award is presented to an active innkeeper who has significantly contributed to the development of the Maine Innkeepers Association. We extend our congratulations to Mr. Kimball on his receiving this award;

(HLS 19)

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham. Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WARD of Dedham, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Recognizing:

Healthy Kids! A Family Resource Network, of Lincoln County, on its 30th Anniversary. Healthy Kids began in 1984 as an informal network of concerned citizens and agency representatives concerned with child abuse prevention. Today,

Healthy Kids is a community-based family and professional network offering support and educational outreach to families throughout Lincoln County. We extend to the directors and staff of Healthy Kids our congratulations and best wishes on this anniversary;

(HLS 25)

Presented by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.

Cosponsored by Senator BAKER of Sagadahoc, Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln, Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship, Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro, Representative HANLEY of Pittston, Representative HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor, Representative PIERCE of Dresden, Representative SANDERSON of Chelsea.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DEVIN of Newcastle, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Recognizing:

Imelda Perley, of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, a Maliseet Tribal Elder and the Maliseet Tribal Linguist, for her lifetime achievement in teaching and preserving the Maliseet language for the Maliseet People and for teaching the language to the people of Maine through her renowned professorship at the University of Maine at Presque Isle and at the University College in Houlton. We extend to Ms. Perley our appreciation and our best wishes;

(HLS 27)

Presented by Representative BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Cosponsored by Representative SHERMAN of Hodgdon, Senator WILLETTE of Aroostook.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GIDEON of Freeport, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Refer to the Committee on State and Local Government Pursuant to Statute

Representative KRUGER for the **Government Oversight Committee** on Resolve, To Implement Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee To Strengthen the Ethics Practices and Procedures for Executive Branch Employees

(H.P. 9) (L.D. 6)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 997, subsection 2.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 9)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the returns of votes for the Governor, given in the several cities, towns and plantations of the State for the political years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, be referred to a Joint Select Committee of seven on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

At this point, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee on Gubernatorial Vote on the part of the House:

Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth
Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville
Representative SAUCIER of Presque Isle
Representative SCHNECK of Bangor
Representative MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth
Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston
Representative KINNEY of Limington
Representative TURNER of Burlington
Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford
Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln
Representative BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 21)

**SENATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

January 7, 2015

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

In compliance with Joint Order (S.P. 9), I am pleased to appoint the following members to the Gubernatorial Vote Committee:

Senator Amy F. Volk of Cumberland, Chair

Senator Ronald F. Collins of York

Senator Kimberley C. Rosen of Hancock

Senator Linda L. Baker of Sagadahoc

Senator John L. Patrick of Oxford

Senator Christopher K. Johnson of Lincoln

Senator James F. Dill of Penobscot

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 10)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a Committee of three on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Paul Richard LePage and

inform him that he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

At this point, the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to the Committee to wait upon the Honorable PAUL R. LePAGE, and inform him that he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018:

Representative MARTIN of Sinclair
Representative BRYANT of Windham
Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk
Representative DICKERSON of Rockland
Representative DOORE of Augusta
Representative TURNER of Burlington
Representative GREENWOOD of Wales
Representative PICKETT of Dixfield
Representative TUELL of East Machias
Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 22)

**SENATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

January 7, 2015

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

In compliance with Joint Order (S.P. 10), I am pleased to appoint the following members to inform the Honorable Paul R. LePage that he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Senator Peter E. Edgecomb of Aroostook, Chair

Senator Scott W. Cyrway of Kennebec

Senator Nathan L. Libby of Androscoggin

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

Subsequently, Representative MARTIN of Sinclair reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 11)

**STATE OF MAINE
127TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 7, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:
The Joint Select Committee of the One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature on returns of votes for Governor given in the several cities, towns, and plantations of this State for the political years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 has attended to its duty and asks leave to report that the tabulation of the return of votes cast for Governor at the General Election held on November 4, 2014 as reported by the Secretary of State Dunlap, is a true and accurate account.

Sincerely,
S/Senator Amy F. Volk
Senate Chair
S/Representative Louis J. Luchini
House Chair

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

The House recessed until 11:30 a.m.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

Augusta Civic Center

Downeast Brass performed.

The 195th Maine Army National Guard Band performed.

Joelle Morris performed.

The House was called to order by Speaker Eves.

At this point, the Senate entered the auditorium and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Michael Thibodeau in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On motion of Senator MASON of Androscoggin, it was **ORDERED**, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Chief Justice and Justices of the Maine Superior Court, and the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court; inviting them to attend the Convention which has been convened for the purpose of administering to the Honorable Paul Richard LePage, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The Chair appointed:

- The Senator from Washington, Senator BURNS
- The Senator from Cumberland, Senator VOLK
- The Senator from Lincoln, Senator JOHNSON
- The Representative from Saco, Representative HOBBS
- The Representative from Cape Elizabeth, Representative MONAGHAN
- The Representative from Portland, Representative MOONEN
- The Representative from Harpswell, Representative McCREIGHT
- The Representative from Hallowell, Representative WARREN
- The Representative from Glenburn, Representative GUERIN
- The Representative from Hodgdon, Representative SHERMAN
- The Representative from Bridgton, Representative GINZLER
- The Representative from Paris, Representative HERRICK
- The Representative from Friendship, Representative EVANGELOS
- The Representative from the Penobscot Nation, Representative MITCHELL

At this point, the Chair welcomed Maine tribal leaders; foreign dignitaries. The Chair also welcomed Attorney General Janet Mills; State Treasurer Neria Douglas; State Auditor Pola Buckley; and Treasurer-elect Terry Hayes.

The 195th Maine Army National Guard Band performed "God Bless America."

Subsequently, Senator BURNS of Washington, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and was pleased to report that the Honorable Members of the Judiciary would attend forthwith.

At this point, the Judiciary was escorted to their seats.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Members of the Judiciary.

The Chair also welcomed the family of Paul LePage, Governor-elect: Ann LePage, Lindsay McCluskey, Lisa LePage, Lauren LePage, Paul LePage II, and Rita Derosby.

The Chair also welcomed the Governor's Cabinet and members of the Senior Staff of the Governor.

On motion of Senator CUSHING of Penobscot, it was ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Paul Richard LePage, Governor-elect, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to administer to him the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties and receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chair appointed:
The Senator from York, Senator WOODSOME
The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator LIBBY
The Representative from Sinclair, Representative MARTIN
The Representative from Windham, Representative BRYANT
The Representative from Kennebunk, Representative BABBIDGE
The Representative from Rockland, Representative DICKERSON
The Representative from Augusta, Representative DOORE
The Representative from Burlington, Representative TURNER
The Representative from Wales, Representative GREENWOOD
The Representative from Dixfield, Representative PICKETT
The Representative from East Machias, Representative TUELL
The Representative from Friendship, Representative EVANGELOS

The Chair welcomed under unanimous consent the First Lady of the State of Maine, Ann LePage, for the purpose of addressing the Convention.

First Lady **LePAGE**: Good morning and welcome to the Inauguration of our Governor.

Many people have asked me why Paul would want to be Governor. Well, I can tell you it certainly wasn't for the politics!

Paul knows firsthand what it's like to need help. Many Mainers helped him to achieve his American Dream, and he believes very strongly in giving back to the state and the people that he loves so much.

Mainers are known for being generous, and they are always ready to help their neighbors in need. That's why Paul and I are so committed in volunteering and doing charity work, and we have instilled this tradition in our children, as well.

It is so much better to give than to receive. And, when you extend your goodwill, it has a way of encouraging others to do the same.

During our fourth annual Blaine House food drive this fall, we were pleased and humbled that Mainers traveled from all over our state to donate more than one ton of food for our neighbors in need.

It is this kind of commitment from Maine people and our community organizations that truly improve lives and strengthens our State. Mainers helping Mainers: that's what it's all about.

When I became First Lady, I knew I wanted to use my new position to assist Mainers who needed our help.

First Ladies across our Nation have supported a variety of efforts through the years, and all of them are worthy causes. When I made a decision about what to support, I knew it had to be something that I believed in strongly.

Four years later, I can honestly say that choosing our military and their families as my cause has been an honor.

I have met thousands of Mainers and fellow Americans who have defended our country honorably, sacrificing so much to defend and protect our freedoms.

One of those veterans is a larger-than-life guy who is a true inspiration to us all. Former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills is one of only five quadruple amputees to have survived the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His "can-do, never quit, never give up" attitude has become famous in Maine and around the country. Despite his devastating wounds, Travis has never missed a step. He keeps marching forward every single day, working to help fellow veterans all over our great nation.

I'm looking forward to continuing my work with Travis and the Travis Mills Foundation to create a National Veteran's Family Center right here in Maine—a place where combat wounded veterans and their families have an opportunity to share in all of what Maine has to offer, to participate in activities that will instill the confidence to keep moving forward and strengthen their relationship with their families and each other; to never give up, to never quit.

Our friendship became so close that he challenged me to skydive with him to raise money for a veterans' cause.

I am scared to death of heights. But with Travis setting the example with his never-ending dedication to veterans, how could I say no?

I must say, however, once is enough. I will do anything for veterans, but I will never jump from a perfectly good airplane again! Although, for the right cause, never say never.

In addition to Travis, I have been blessed to meet veterans from all wars dating back to World War I. Each of these men and women—and their families—deserve our appreciation for their service.

They sacrifice so much during their service. Not only do they put their lives on the line in foreign lands, they also spend a long time away from their family and their friends. They miss important family milestones; they miss weddings; they miss birthdays; they miss holidays.

Unfortunately, too many men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice. For this, we are forever indebted to them.

Maine leads the nation with the second-highest number of veterans based on our population, and we are a state that proudly supports our troops.

Our very own troop greeters and our Freeport Flag Ladies have shown our men and women in uniform that we will always give them the respect and the dignity that they deserve.

Maine is also blessed to be the home of Karen and Morrill Worcester—founders of Wreaths Across America.

Every year, they and many others take thousands of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery to adorn the graves of our fallen heroes. But what struck me most was when I heard their mission statement:

To remember the fallen; honor those that serve and their families; and teach our children the value of freedom.

Three very simple words: Remember, Honor, and Teach. Their mission statement really became my driving force to do what I do.

And, I knew that I was meant to use my position to do everything that I could to live up to that mission.

I pledged to join Karen and Morrill in their annual convoy to Arlington each year and bring as much awareness to their mission as possible.

For the past two years, I rode on the back of a motorcycle led by the Patriot Guard Riders, who escort the trucks down the East Coast. I'm not sure which Paul likes the least: me jumping out of an airplane or riding on a bike to D.C. in December! But, he got over it.

The week-long trek includes stops at schools, monuments, VFW's, American Legion posts, and veterans' homes all along the way to Arlington. It's become known as the largest "Veterans Honor Parade" in our country.

I am very proud to say that this past December, we placed over 220,000 wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery alone. Each and every section of Arlington on the graves had a Maine-made wreath. Each and every veteran there buried deserves this honor.

It's been said that a veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check "payable to the United States of America, for an amount up to and including their life."

And every check written has been cashed – up to the maximum amount – over and over again by our military service members, because Freedom is not Free.

Each and every veteran and current member of the military has paid a price so that all of us can enjoy the freedoms and liberties that we often take for granted.

To my right, you will see an empty row of chairs. These empty seats symbolize Mainers who are serving our country and can't be here today, as well as those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

It is critical that we always recognize and remember those who are serving and have served our state in uniform.

So let's do that right here, right now. To recognize each branch of our services, the 195th Army Band will now play the "Armed Forces Medley."

This is a medley of the Coast Guard, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines and Army songs.

I would ask that all of those who are veterans, or anyone who is currently serving, please stand and be recognized as your individual song is presented.

Let's honor our service men and women.

Thank you, God Bless you and God Bless America.

At this point, the 195th Maine Army National Guard Band performed the "Armed Forces Medley."

Subsequently, Senator WOODSOME of York, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and was pleased to report that the Honorable Paul Richard LePage, Governor-elect, would attend forthwith.

Herald Command Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Moore announced the procession.

The Chair welcomed to the Joint Convention Governor-elect Paul Richard LePage.

The Colors were presented by the Maine Army National Guard.

The National Anthem was sung by Jillaine McGough.

The Invocation was given in French and English by Father Lionel Chouinard, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls.

At this point, the Cony Madrigals performed.

Thereupon, the Governor-elect, Paul Richard LePage, before the presiding officer of the Joint Convention, the Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, in the presence of both branches of the Legislature and the Justices, took and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution (wife Ann held the Bible) to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

I, PAUL R. LePAGE, DO SWEAR, THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THIS STATE, SO LONG AS I SHALL CONTINUE A CITIZEN THEREOF. SO HELP ME GOD.

I, PAUL R. LePAGE, DO SWEAR, THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES, THE DUTIES INCUMBENT ON ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MAINE, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE. SO HELP ME GOD.

Governor **LePAGE**: Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Chief Justice, Members of the Judiciary, and Members of the 127th Legislature, and certainly honored guests, family, supporters, and the people of the State of Maine.

Often times, my staff has a pool on how quickly I will get off message. So let me start off by being off message. I spoke to Governor John McKernan last evening and he apologized because his flight was cancelled and he couldn't get here. I told him I'd love to send the state plane, but he sold it. So, he's not with us today.

As I begin, I must thank my wife and my children for their love, support, not only for the last four years as your Governor, but more during this campaign, which was probably the most negative campaign I've ever experienced. It got so bad I started hating myself.

I'm very, very proud of their strength and resilience through all the trying times, the campaign, and with Ann especially the last 30 years, I am so proud of her. Her dedication to being a First Lady and what she has done for the military of our country is just beyond words. I only ask one thing of her in the next four years: no more jumping out of perfectly good planes!

Je dois aussi remercier mon collègue Franco Américains pour leur soutien. Je suis un enfant des rues du petit Canada, je n'ai jamais imaginé er qu'un jour, je deviendrais votre gouverneur.

Mais à vous prendre en charge, nous l'avons fait.

J'ai jamais oublier où je venais, et je n'oublierai jamais votre soutien. Merci beaucoup mais aimée.

Well, folks, we're back. The national experts, our local media, with due respect, said we wouldn't be here today. But, they forgot to ask the people who count: thank you Maine people.

Pundits and pollsters do not determine who should be Governor. The people do. The people have, and we are moving forward.

For four years, we have been taking our message directly to the people of Maine. We let our actions speak for themselves.

That's what the people want: action. They are so tired of politicians preaching to the people, but not listening to the people. They promise one thing, and often do others.

That's not who we are.

We said we were going to pay the hospitals, and we did. We paid hospitals \$750 million.

We said we were going to lower taxes. We did. We passed the largest tax cut.

We said we were going to help private business create jobs, and we did. Not as many as we should've, but we are ongoing. It's a job in process. We are no longer the adversary to business, but a partner in business.

And most importantly, there's a new culture in the state employees in Augusta. The employees understand who the public servants are: they are, we are, we the elected officials and the people that work for the state are your servants.

Private-sector companies have created over 20,000 jobs. We didn't. We just assisted. There are almost 7,000 jobs that are currently listed at the Career Centers needing to be filled. We are working on getting those filled.

If you want a job, you can get a job. But our work is far from complete!

Most importantly, and what I said to the French people for those of you who do not speak French, is I have never forgotten my roots. And let me tell you, welfare reform is one thing that is very, very dear to my heart.

So far, we have cut the welfare rolls in half. We are stopping the growth in Medicaid, but we are getting people insurance.

We went after fraud and abuse. We put photos on EBT cards. We put money towards nursing homes.

We are using the savings that we're realizing in welfare reform to take care of the most vulnerable in our state: our elderly, our disabled and people with mental illness.

We are transitioning people from welfare into productive jobs. The Department of Education, Health Human Services, Labor and Veterans Services have teamed up to create and develop an innovative program simply called "Welfare to Work."

More than 1,200 Mainers, since October, have come off welfare and into productive jobs.

No more handouts, but I will ask the 127th Legislature to consider putting a tiered program so we can wean people off welfare, and not stop the benefits immediately.

It's about giving them the skills, the training so they can be productive in jobs. We want Mainers to know prosperity, not poverty.

We are making some progress in reforming welfare. But I can't do it alone, and I need the 127th Legislature to help. We are just getting started.

The people of Maine have told us they want to keep reforming government. They want better jobs.

They want welfare reform. They want lower energy costs. They want lower taxes.

They want good roads and good bridges, and they want smarter, smaller, more affordable, and a smarter government.

Mainers are hard working. They have lots of common sense. They know what it means to pay the bills. They want their piece of the American Dream.

We won't rest until every man, woman and child gets their chance to achieve the prosperity that they deserve, and get them out of poverty.

Mainers deserve higher paying jobs with good benefits. We want to attract new businesses to Maine and we want to help our existing companies and businesses to grow and to expand.

We don't have to reinvent the wheel. We just look at other states and see what works. The 50 states are laboratories. See what works and see what doesn't. So we've looked at the top 15 economies in the country. We can follow examples and make Maine very prosperous and very competitive.

We can argue about how to get there, but I will tell you this: states with the fastest growth have lower taxes and lower energy costs. And that's not a coincidence.

We need better-paying jobs to encourage our youth and young families to stay right here in Maine. To create jobs, Maine must be competitive with other states.

Companies want lower state taxes, and so do young families. Once they get here we, we are responsible keep them here. We want families, we want our retirees, we want wealthy residents all to stay in Maine.

We lose too many of our retirees to other states that have no taxes. When we lower the income tax burden—and we will—we put money back in people's pocket. You earned it, you should keep it.

My long-term vision is very, very simple: is Maine without an income tax. And on Friday, when the budget goes up on Friday, I will give you a hint: we're going after the income tax. I hate leaving anything to the imagination.

Small Maine companies cannot afford to transfer business assets to their family members because the estate taxes are so high. Small, family-owned businesses are the backbone of Maine's economy.

We must keep our small businesses alive and well. By keeping the businesses alive and well, we keep small business owners living in Maine.

We must keep our retirees in Maine. Too many of our retirees have moved to other states to avoid high taxes. I'm asking: let's work together. More importantly, let's work together, not only to keep the retirees here, but also keep their assets here in Maine.

Business owners not only across the State of Maine, across this country, but business owners in China, in Bogota, Columbia, in Iceland have told me they would love to come to Maine, but we are not competitive with our energy.

If you think a household's electric bill is high, just imagine how much energy it takes to build a destroyer, or operate Sappi paper mill in Hinckley.

Lower cost of energy is absolutely critical to attracting manufacturing, high-tech industries, and multi-national employers. It's a very tough work from our administration; we're off to, I'd say, a start, a modest start.

We have the infrastructure for natural gas into the ground. Now, we have to get gas to fill the pipe. And that's where we need your help.

We need the help of other New England states. And Massachusetts has a governor who wants to work with us. We've already been talking to his transition team about natural gas and expediting it to the northeast.

Folks, we need to have natural gas at the prices that the people in Louisiana are paying, Texas are paying, and if we can do that, we can become more competitive and more prosperous. And we will. We need it sooner than later.

We need a Public Utilities Commission that concentrates on affordable energy for all Mainers, not just for the rich, subsidized investors and environmentalists. Folks, we need to take care of Maine people.

I have said it many times and I'll say it again, I am open for all sources of energy. My criteria is, it has to be affordable for Maine people. We need to make it affordable for our businesses, for our homes. Affordable energy, we want it now, not 20 years from now.

I ask and plead with you, the 100 megawatt limitation on all energy sources has to be lifted. We should not be picking the winners and losers.

We need to lift the restrictions and allow the private sector to compete against each other. Competition is good.

In the last four years, despite the limitations on energy sources, we have nearly installed 10,000 heat pumps throughout Maine homes. Heat pumps have no carbon footprint. Zero carbon footprint. Most efficient. Cost effective. For a state that has not had adequate sources of natural gas, we've done a pretty good job.

I'm also going to ask, again, and I've done for four years, is please, we are facing in the next few years a budworm epidemic that's coming from Quebec. We need to be harvesting the annual growth of our forest, and allow us to take some of that additional revenue and help Maine families convert heating systems that are affordable.

Then, we can have our cake and eat it. We can have prosperity by lowering the cost of doing business and the cost of living in Maine.

We do have the four seasons. We have to contend with that. With your help, we can make a difference.

Businesses want and need lower energy, and homeowners and voters and the citizens of our state deserve affordable energy to heat their homes.

Very simply say, let's give the people what they need and let's give them what they want.

They've also asked that the people of Maine want an affordable, innovative and very flexible government. The size and cost of state government should support—not burden—the Maine hard-working families.

We have started to right-size government, but there is still a lot of work to do. It is time to eliminate obsolete regulations. And we've begun the challenge of providing Maine citizens better customer service. And believe me, that is a culture change that is far long overdue and we have started and we are not stopping until everyone in Maine compliments state workers, and we're on the road to doing that.

You know we need a cost-efficient, cost-effective and efficient government that is not only responsive to the needs of Mainers, but is open to attracting new jobs. Job creators, and you've all heard me say this many times, job creators or investment capital, goes where it's welcomed and stays where it's appreciated. Let's start to welcome them, and let's start to embrace job creators right here in Maine.

A government that is too big and too expensive takes too many resources away from our families.

We need to be bold. We need to think outside the box. We need to look at Maine's traditional model of running government and seeing where we can, together, make the necessary changes that all Mainers can appreciate and enjoy. It is all about prosperity over poverty.

Now Mainers are also tired of paying government that doesn't deliver the quality services and competitive schools.

You know, we have made progress at the state level. We really have, and despite the last two years where there's been a lot of gridlock, despite that, we have made a lot of progress on both sides of the aisle. But, there's always a "but," we can do more. We can prioritize the services and the needs of the Maine people, and we can deliver.

You know, infrastructure projects will speed economic development and help our businesses. We need to make sure that businesses can get their products to market quickly, effectively. Projects based on political compromises and political promises should take a back seat. The only projects that should be invested in are those that help Maine grow.

It's time we prioritize all levels of government. On Friday, I'm going to be sending you a package, a budget package. In addition, for the first time in many years, we will be telling you

what projects that we need to spend the authorized bonds on in the coming year. We are not going to wait and have a battle over bonds like we did until we paid the hospitals. The hospital bill is paid, now it's time to fix the infrastructure.

We need to make government smarter. You know, efforts to consolidate our jails have failed miserably. The attempt to consolidate our schools have failed us.

School budgets rise every year. On the rise, enrollment on the decline every year. We in Maine have twice the number of administrators per capita than any other state in the country. You know, State of Florida, 2.8 million students, 2.8 million students and they do with 56 superintendents and they're currently ranked seventh in the nation. Maine: 180 thousand students, 127 superintendents and we're ranked somewhere around 38. That is not appropriate.

School administrators in the State of Maine take home six-digit salaries, while teachers have to dig in their pockets to buy school supplies. That's inappropriate. It's not only inappropriate, it's morally wrong.

I have been saying this for four years, and I will continue to say it. We have an education system that's upside down. It has winners and it has losers. We have two winners and two losers. The winners are the administrators getting more money every year, and the union bosses who come in from Washington and tell us how to teach our children. The two biggest losers are our teachers and our students.

You know, I say we got to think outside the box. You want to reach the 55 percent of school costs? We should have one statewide teachers' contract and our state should pay for all the teachers and all the classroom activities, and that would be about 56 percent of the budget, and I'm all in.

I think the school boards and the districts should take care of the curriculum, we should make sure that the proper resources are in the classroom to make sure our children get a quality education.

Further, we have to get control of our local budgets. I was shocked to see a statistic that total spending on local government in the State of Maine in the last five years has increased by half a billion dollars, during the worst recession since the Great Depression. How can that be? How can that be? Where is the money going?

This kind of spending is not only unacceptable at the state level, it should be unacceptable and local elected officials should just be saying, "Enough is enough." Municipals, you know, municipalities constantly blame state government, and I will tell you, I'll be the first one to admit it, that when I was the Mayor of Waterville local control was important to me, and I wanted the state to pay for it just like every other local elected official in the State of Maine. Now I'm Governor. It's expensive! It's real expensive!

You know, there's a simple reason to fix this, a simple way to fix it: we look at other states and how they do it. We look at the Southeast, Midatlantic, Midwest, and we see that counties do a lot of the services that we are doing at the local level.

Towns, cities, and the counties have to work together to deliver services at a more affordable and effective cost structure. The model is not working. I will tell you local control, like I said, as a Mayor it's the greatest thing. As a Governor, it's a killer. It's a budget killer.

But there are things, and there counties in the state that are really working to make changes. Washington County, 18 municipalities have created an EMS system. This regional service is saving them hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Waldo County, several communities have gotten together, have gone to the City of Belfast, and they provide fire protection for these communities. I'm very serious in saying that if we want to compete at a national level with other states, if we want to compete on the international level around the globe, we need to deliver our services at a more regional basis. We need to work together. It's that simple.

And I would ask the 127th, like I asked the 125th and the 126th, to no much success but I'll try again, if you would give the Executive branch monies to work with communities and monies to work with the schools, and to, instead of consolidate from the top down, let them come up with the ideas of what they can consolidate, and allow us to help them, I think we can get our state under control.

Mainers, I say, if we want to improve services and lower the costs of living in the State of Maine, we need to have the courage to work together. Coming from a, the dark side, a governor who's been accused of being on the dark side, I really do want to work with you. Just promise me you won't sell the Blaine House.

You know, Mainers deserve to be kept safe. So, we will continue our battle with crime, and with domestic violence. The drug crimes, unlike the 126th Legislature, I will ask the 127th to please help us prevent our youth from being born addicted to drugs, and let us keep our youth alive, from avoiding them from premature overdoses under heinous heroin epidemic that we're faced with, and the meth labs that we're faced with. We predicted that we were going to have maybe 20 meth labs this year. With the meth labs and the dumps, I'm sad to say we hit 35.

I haven't got the number, I have not received the number yet of how many died, of overdose, but I did see the number yesterday of how many children under the age of 13 that died at the hands of domestic violence. Seven kids were killed by a loved one.

Ann and I campaigned very, very strongly against domestic violence. She has the military as her priority, mine is domestic violence. In everything I do, my heart and soul and every ounce of my body, wants to eradicate domestic violence.

Whether it's a national sports star, whether it's a local laborer in the factory, whether it's a son who beats on his mother, a father who beats on his kids—Folks, there is no excuse for domestic violence.

And I ask all the men in Maine to please help me stand up and speak out against this heinous crime. Not that everyone, and not only men create the heinous crime of domestic violence, but they're the primary perpetrator. We need to make sure that our children understand that bullying is wrong, all the way up to domestic violence kills people. It is wrong. We need to work together.

We are making progress, and while I said there were several children that were killed this year, we are still, for the first time, under two dozen this year. I'm not proud to say that, but it was 20. It's sobering. It's really sobering when you hear this horrific crime.

And, I'll tell you, the one thing in my life that I will tell you that I'm most proud of is my son in junior high. As you can see he's a pretty big boy, and he was even bigger in junior high. He's lost 100 pounds. But in junior high, there was a young boy who was being bullied. He stepped up, and I remember he got disciplined for it. Best discipline he ever received in his life because he did the right thing. He stepped up.

We not only have to be the safest state in the nation, we have to be the national leader in eliminating domestic violence.

And to the people of the State of Maine, I want to close by simply saying: we listened to you, we've heard your concerns, we hope the 127th Legislature is listening also. The election sent a clear message: Maine people want action, not small talk.

And most importantly, they want us to work together. My door is open for each and every one of you in this audience, and I'll work Monday thru Friday, and I'm open Saturday morning til noon time if you wish to come by. But please bring coffee if you come on Saturday.

I am not one who likes politics. Unfortunately, you have to get into politics in order to be Governor. But I am here to work for the people of Maine, like each and every one of you. And we all want the same thing. How we get there, we sometimes differ. But the hard working people of the State of Maine are asking for one thing: give us prosperity, not poverty. We need to start looking at prosperity, and forget about poverty.

Let's not argue about minimum wage, let's argue about living wages. Let's argue about good salaries. Let's get the air busses of the world here in Maine.

Ladies and Gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, and all Mainers actions speak louder than words, so let's go to work.

Thank you.

By the way, to a couple of Senators: I bought some razors. I haven't seen them since May, and all of a sudden, there's all these beards out there.

Thank you all.

The Chair then called upon the Secretary of State, Matthew Dunlap, to read the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

The votes given on the fourth day of November last, in the cities, towns and plantations of the State of Maine for Governor, the returns of which have been made to the Office of the Secretary of State, having been examined and counted by the Legislature which has declared that a plurality thereof was given to Paul R. LePage. That he is duly elected and that he, having in the presence of the two branches of the Legislature in Convention assembled, taken and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to discharge the duties of that office, I, therefore, declare and make known to all persons who are in the exercise of any public trust in this state, as well as all good citizens thereof, that Paul R. LePage is Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Maine, and that due obedience should be rendered to all his acts and commands as such.

GOD SAVE THE GREAT STATE OF MAINE

At the conclusion of the address, Benediction was given by Pastor Bob Emrich of the Emmanuel Bible Baptist Church in Plymouth.

The Governor then withdrew amid the applause from the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which this Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, January 7, 2015

The House then retired to its Chamber at the State House.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House recessed until 4:00 p.m.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

On motion of Representative FOLEY of Wells, the House adjourned at 4:08 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 8, 2015, in honor and lasting tribute to Marshall L. Rice, Sr., of Deer Isle, Billie Jane Barnes Slaton, of Sanford, and Peter Joseph, of Waterville.