

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
15th Legislative Day
Tuesday, March 3, 2015

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

Prayer by Reverend Doctor Sarah Foulger, Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor.

National Anthem by Abigail Fox, Lubec.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Honorable Geoffrey M. Gratwick, M.D., Bangor.

The Journal of Thursday, February 26, 2015 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act Regarding the Use of Remote-access Technology at Public Meetings of the Public Utilities Commission"

(S.P. 177) (L.D. 448)

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Establish the Maine Fourth Amendment Protection Act"

(S.P. 200) (L.D. 531)

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

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Redistribute the Agricultural Fair Support Fund" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 296) (L.D. 457)

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in the House on February 24, 2015.

Came from the Senate, with the Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Allow Condominium and Homeowners Associations To Establish Swim Areas"

(H.P. 319) (L.D. 480)

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in the House on February 24, 2015.

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative McCABE of Skowhegan, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 75)
**MAINE'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
16 CENTRAL STREET
BANGOR, MAINE 04401-5106**

February 19, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Thank you for your invitation to address a Joint Session of the 127th Maine Legislature on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the University of Maine System. I accept with great pleasure and look forward to the opportunity to share with you my thoughts on the role and future of the University of Maine System.

These are challenging times. I deeply appreciate the support provided by the Legislature as we work together to build a better future for the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

S/James H. Page, Ph.D.

Chancellor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 76)
**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
323 STATE STREET
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-7131**

February 20, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Thank you for your invitation to address the Joint Session of the 127th Maine Legislature on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, regarding the State of the Maine Community College System. We are deeply appreciative of this opportunity and I look forward to sharing our accomplishments and goals for the future with you.

Sincerely yours,

S/Derek Langhauser

Interim President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 77)
**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CASTINE, MAINE 04420**

February 26, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, March 3, 2015

President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Thank you for your kind invitation to address a Joint Session of the 127th Maine Legislature concerning the State of the Maine Maritime Academy. It is an honor to have been asked to address the Legislature and am very pleased to accept your invitation.

I look forward to giving my address to the Joint Convention on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. following the addresses of James Page, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and Derek Langhauser, the Interim President of the Maine Community College System.

Respectfully,
S/Dr. William J. Brennan
President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 78)

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

February 24, 2015
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, MRSA, Chapter 163, §2003, I am pleased to appoint Jon Giles of Gray to the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board as a member of the private sector representing geographic information vendors. 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. 79)

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

February 25, 2015
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, MRSA, Chapter 521, §20065, I am pleased to appoint the following members to the Substance Abuse Services Commission:

Representative Adam A. Goode of Bangor
Representative Richard S. Malaby of Hancock
Representative Patricia Hymanson of York

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding these appointments.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 80)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 3, 2015
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 56 An Act To Limit Increases in the State's Share of Funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Public Education

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 105 An Act To Enhance the Competitiveness of Maine's Biomass Facilities by Exempting from Waste Handling Fees Certain Construction and Demolition Debris

State and Local Government

L.D. 46 An Act To Allow Municipal Boards of Appeal To Grant Setback Variances for Certain Hardships Caused by Prior Owners of the Property

L.D. 67 An Act To Amend the Law Regarding the Annual Municipal Report Requirement

The sponsors and cosponsors have been notified of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 81)

**MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
8 VENTURE AVENUE
BRUNSWICK LANDING
BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011**

February 27, 2015
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Eves and President Thibodeau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) due by February 1, 2015.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Brian Whitney
Acting Director

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 in the Hall of the House at 10:45 in the morning for the purpose of extending to the Honorable James H. Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, Honorable Derek Langhauser, Interim President of the Maine Community College System and Honorable William J. Brennan, President of the Maine Maritime Academy, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases them.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 10:45 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative McCABE of Skowhegan to convey this message to the Senate.

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 Strengthen the Maine Agriculture Protection Act"

(H.P. 411) (L.D. 598)

Sponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, GREENWOOD of Wales, HICKMAN of Winthrop, McCABE of Skowhegan, O'CONNOR of Berwick, Senators: DILL of Penobscot, President THIBODEAU of Waldo.

Bill "An Act To Increase Consumption of Maine Foods in All State Institutions"

(H.P. 434) (L.D. 653)

Sponsored by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop.
Cosponsored by Senator WHITTEMORE of Somerset and Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, EVANGELOS of Friendship, GUERIN of Glenburn, JORGENSEN of Portland, MAREAN of Hollis, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: LIBBY of Androscoggin, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Detectives in the Office of the Attorney General"

(H.P. 435) (L.D. 654)

Sponsored by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: BECK of Waterville, DION of Portland, GOLDEN of Lewiston, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, McLEAN of Gorham, Senators: DUTREMBLE of York, PATRICK of Oxford.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Bill "An Act To Direct the Department of Public Safety To Establish a Public Safety Answering Point for the Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation at Indian Township"

(H.P. 412) (L.D. 599)

Sponsored by Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, MAKER of Calais, Senator: BURNS of Washington.

Bill "An Act To Conform Maine Law Regarding Persons Prohibited from Possessing Firearms with Federal Law"

(H.P. 413) (L.D. 600)

Sponsored by Representative PICKETT of Dixfield.
Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and Representatives: BATTLE of South Portland, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HANLEY of Pittston, HERRICK of Paris, McCABE of Skowhegan, PETERSON of Rumford, SKOLFIELD of Weld, STEARNS of Guilford.

Resolve, To Study the Feasibility of a State Firefighter Training Facility

(H.P. 436) (L.D. 655)

Sponsored by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York and Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, FOWLE of Vassalboro, GOLDEN of Lewiston, GREENWOOD of Wales, MAKER of Calais, NADEAU of Winslow, THERIAULT of China, Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act To Provide Enhanced Mental Health Services to the County Prison Population"

(H.P. 438) (L.D. 657)

Sponsored by Representative BEAVERS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York and Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, GERRISH of Lebanon, LAJOIE of Lewiston, MALABY of Hancock, Senator: ROSEN of Hancock.

Bill "An Act To Allow Text Messaging for Reporting Emergencies"

(H.P. 439) (L.D. 658)

Sponsored by Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford.
Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, BATES of Westbrook, BATTLE of South Portland, CHENETTE of Saco, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, NADEAU of Winslow, Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act To Prohibit the Unauthorized Distribution of Certain Private Images"

(H.P. 460) (L.D. 679)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.
Cosponsored by Senator HILL of York and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, BATTLE of South Portland, BEAVERS of South Berwick, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CHIPMAN of Portland, COOPER of Yarmouth, DAVITT of Hampden, DeCHANT of Bath, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, DOORE of Augusta, DUNPHY of Old Town, ESPLING of New Gloucester, FOLEY of Wells, GILBERT of Jay, GINZLER of Bridgton, GOODE of Bangor, GRANT of Gardiner, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HANLEY of Pittston, HILLIARD of Belgrade, HYMANSON of York, KRUGER of Thomaston, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, LYFORD of Eddington, MAKER of Calais, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCABE of Skowhegan, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, REED of Carmel, RUSSELL of Portland, SHAW of Standish, SIROCKI of Scarborough, SKOLFIELD of Weld, STUCKEY of Portland, THERIAULT of

China, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, TUELL of East Machias, TURNER of Burlington, VACHON of Scarborough, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WHITE of Washburn.

Bill "An Act To Enhance Forest Ranger Safety"
(H.P. 437) (L.D. 656)

Sponsored by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: DION of Portland, DUNPHY of Embden, Speaker EVES of North Berwick, LONG of Sherman, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCABE of Skowhegan, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SHORT of Pittsfield.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested.

On motion of Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Authority of Individualized Education Plans in Relation to Proficiency-based Diplomas"

(H.P. 414) (L.D. 601)

Sponsored by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, KORNFIELD of Bangor, MAKER of Calais, McCLELLAN of Raymond, Senator: MILLETT of Cumberland.

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

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Bill "An Act To Protect Homeowners from Damage in the Event of a Failure of Public Water Systems"

(H.P. 441) (L.D. 660)

Sponsored by Representative DeCHANT of Bath.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CHENETTE of Saco, DOORE of Augusta, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Prohibition on the Sale of Motor Fuel Containing Corn-based Ethanol"

(H.P. 415) (L.D. 602)

Sponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, AUSTIN of Gray, BATES of Westbrook, BATTLE of South Portland, BEAVERS of South Berwick, BLACK of Wilton, BUCKLAND of Farmington, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CHAPMAN of Brooksville, CHENETTE of Saco, COREY of Windham, CRAFTS of Lisbon, DAVITT of Hampden, DeCHANT of Bath, DEVIN of Newcastle, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, DUNPHY of Embden, EDGECOMB of Fort Fairfield, EVANGELOS of Friendship, FOLEY of Wells, GERRISH of Lebanon, GILBERT of Jay, GINZLER of Bridgton, GREENWOOD of Wales, GUERIN of Glenburn, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HANLEY of Pittston, HARLOW of Portland, HEAD of Bethel, HERRICK of Paris, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HILLIARD of Belgrade, HOBART of Bowdoinham, HOBBS of Saco, KINNEY of Limington, KINNEY of Knox, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, LONG of Sherman, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, LYFORD of Eddington,

MAKER of Calais, MALABY of Hancock, McELWEE of Caribou, NADEAU of Winslow, O'CONNOR of Berwick, PARRY of Arundel, PETERSON of Rumford, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, PICKETT of Dixfield, REED of Carmel, RUSSELL of Portland, SAWICKI of Auburn, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, SHORT of Pittsfield, SIROCKI of Scarborough, SKOLFIELD of Weld, STEARNS of Guilford, STETKIS of Canaan, THERIAULT of China, TIMMONS of Cumberland, TUELL of East Machias, TURNER of Burlington, VACHON of Scarborough, WALLACE of Dexter, WARD of Dedham, WHITE of Washburn, WOOD of Sabattus, Senators: BAKER of Sagadahoc, BRAKEY of Androscoggin, BREEN of Cumberland, COLLINS of York, CUSHING of Penobscot, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DIAMOND of Cumberland, EDGECOMB of Aroostook, GERZOFKY of Cumberland, GRATWICK of Penobscot, HAMPER of Oxford, HASKELL of Cumberland, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock, LIBBY of Androscoggin, McCORMICK of Kennebec, PATRICK of Oxford, ROSEN of Hancock, President THIBODEAU of Waldo.

Bill "An Act To Achieve Regional Uniformity in Sulfur Standards for Heating Oil"

(H.P. 416) (L.D. 603)

Sponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, GREENWOOD of Wales, HARLOW of Portland, O'CONNOR of Berwick, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, DILL of Penobscot, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Resolve, To Increase Recycling in Maine through Increased Composting and Energy Recovery from Organic Wastes (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 440) (L.D. 659)

Sponsored by Representative WELSH of Rockport.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHESNE of Hudson, HARLOW of Portland.

Bill "An Act To Reduce Waste from Disposable Bags"

(H.P. 461) (L.D. 680)

Sponsored by Representative RYKERSON of Kittery.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, BLUME of York, DEVIN of Newcastle, HARLOW of Portland, HYMANSON of York, McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bill "An Act To Encourage Communication Regarding Persons with Mental Illness"

(H.P. 417) (L.D. 604)

Sponsored by Representative MALABY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and Representatives: HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, MAKER of Calais, McCLELLAN of Raymond, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SIROCKI of Scarborough, VACHON of Scarborough, WARD of Dedham.

Resolve, To Provide Certain Dental Services to Pregnant Women Enrolled in the MaineCare Program

(H.P. 418) (L.D. 605)

Sponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, GATTINE of Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, HARLOW of Portland, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, Senators: BURNS of Washington, HASKELL of Cumberland, HILL of York.

Bill "An Act To Remove the Philosophical Exemption from the Immunization Requirements for School Students and Employees of Nursery Schools and Health Care Facilities"

(H.P. 419) (L.D. 606)

Sponsored by Representative TUCKER of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, KORNFIELD of Bangor.

Bill "An Act To Stop the Abuse of Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards"

(H.P. 420) (L.D. 607)

Sponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel.

Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York and Representatives: O'CONNOR of Berwick, REED of Carmel, SANDERSON of Chelsea, VACHON of Scarborough, WARD of Dedham.

Bill "An Act To Fund HIV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Viral Hepatitis Screening, Prevention, Diagnostic and Treatment Services"

(H.P. 442) (L.D. 661)

Sponsored by Representative BURSTEIN of Lincolnville.

Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, GATTINE of Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, MALABY of Hancock, SANBORN of Gorham, VACHON of Scarborough, WELSH of Rockport.

Bill "An Act To Increase Access to Health Care through Telemedicine"

(H.P. 443) (L.D. 662)

Sponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells.

Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: GERRISH of Lebanon, HYMANSON of York, PRESCOTT of Waterboro, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SIROCKI of Scarborough.

Resolve, To Require That the Department of Health and Human Services Determine Whether Testing for Krabbe Disease Should Be Required for Newborns

(H.P. 444) (L.D. 663)

Sponsored by Representative WARD of Dedham.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: BURSTEIN of Lincolnville, FECTEAU of Biddeford, MAKER of Calais, MALABY of Hancock, STETKIS of Canaan, VACHON of Scarborough, WHITE of Washburn.

Resolve, To Direct the Department of Health and Human Services To Submit a State Plan Amendment To Allow Community-based and Other Health Care Providers To Be Reimbursed by MaineCare

(H.P. 445) (L.D. 664)

Sponsored by Representative SANBORN of Gorham.

Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and Representatives: BURSTEIN of Lincolnville, GATTINE of Westbrook, JORGENSEN of Portland.

Bill "An Act To Establish a Block Grant Program for Homemaker Services"

(H.P. 446) (L.D. 665)

Sponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and Representatives: McCLELLAN of Raymond, SANDERSON of Chelsea, Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, KATZ of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act To Allow a Patient To Designate a Caregiver in the Patient's Medical Record"

(H.P. 447) (L.D. 666)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: MALABY of Hancock, STUCKEY of Portland.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Educate the Public and Department Clients about How To Protect One's Family from Bisphenol A

(H.P. 448) (L.D. 667)

Sponsored by Representative BURSTEIN of Lincolnville.

Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: DEVIN of Newcastle, DUNPHY of Old Town, GATTINE of Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SANBORN of Gorham, WARD of Dedham, WELSH of Rockport.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Bill "An Act To Allow Junior, Senior and Veteran Hunters To Shoot Antlerless Deer on the Opening Day of Hunting Season"

(H.P. 421) (L.D. 608)

Sponsored by Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Senator WILLETTE of Aroostook and Representatives: FARRIN of Norridgewock, HILLIARD of Belgrade, KINNEY of Limington, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, POULIOT of Augusta.

Bill "An Act To Provide an Incentive to Nonresident Landowners Who Own More than 250 Acres To Keep That Land Open for Hunting"

(H.P. 422) (L.D. 609)

Sponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, MARTIN of Sinclair, McCABE of Skowhegan, STANLEY of Medway, Senators: BURNS of Washington, EDGECOMB of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford.

Bill "An Act To Provide That Inland Waters Stocked with Fish by the State May Not Open for Ice Fishing until the Next January 1st"

(H.P. 423) (L.D. 610)

Sponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, CRAFTS of Lisbon, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCABE of Skowhegan, SHORT of Pittsfield, WOOD of Sabattus, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act To Market Maine's Hunting and Fishing Opportunities"

(H.P. 449) (L.D. 668)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHESNE of Hudson.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, DUNPHY of Old Town, HILLIARD of Belgrade, MARTIN of Sinclair, Senator: DUTREMBLE of York.

JUDICIARY

Bill "An Act To Improve the Transparency of Decision-making Bodies of Publicly Funded Hospitals"

(H.P. 424) (L.D. 611)

Sponsored by Representative STUCKEY of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, HAMANN of South Portland.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Unlawful Cutting of Trees"

(H.P. 451) (L.D. 670)

Sponsored by Representative WELSH of Rockport.

Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, GRANT of Gardiner, HOBBS of Saco, Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox.

Bill "An Act To Promote Privacy in Social Media"

(H.P. 467) (L.D. 686)

Sponsored by Representative PIERCE of Falmouth.

Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland and Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, WARREN of Hallowell.

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bill "An Act To Require a Large Employer To Provide a Paper Paystub upon Request from an Employee"

(H.P. 425) (L.D. 612)

Sponsored by Representative HARLOW of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, CHAPMAN of Brooksville, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, RYKERSON of Kittery, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SHORT of Pittsfield, STANLEY of Medway, VEROW of Brewer.

Bill "An Act To Allow Certain Businesses To Be Open on Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day"

(H.P. 426) (L.D. 613)

Sponsored by Representative LYFORD of Eddington.

Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, HILLIARD of Belgrade, STEARNS of Guilford, WARD of Dedham.

Bill "An Act To Allow Independent Practice Dental Hygienists To Take X-rays" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 452) (L.D. 671)

Sponsored by Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act To Improve Access to Capital"

(H.P. 453) (L.D. 672)

Sponsored by Representative HERBIG of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, CAMPBELL of Newfield, FECTEAU of Biddeford, GILBERT of Jay, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, WARD of Dedham, Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

Submitted by the Finance Authority of Maine pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act To Help Prevent Age Discrimination"

(H.P. 454) (L.D. 673)

Sponsored by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and Representatives: CHIPMAN of Portland, DOORE of Augusta, FOWLE of Vassalboro, GILBERT of Jay, GOLDEN of Lewiston, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, STANLEY of Medway, Senator: DUTREMBLE of York.

Bill "An Act To Support Maine's Working Families"

(H.P. 455) (L.D. 674)

Sponsored by Representative HERBIG of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, CAMPBELL of Newfield, FECTEAU of Biddeford, GILBERT of Jay, MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

Bill "An Act To Protect Earned Pay"

(H.P. 456) (L.D. 675)

Sponsored by Representative HERBIG of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, CAMPBELL of Newfield, FECTEAU of Biddeford, GILBERT of Jay, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCABE of Skowhegan.

MARINE RESOURCES

Bill "An Act To Create a Spat Collection License"

(H.P. 450) (L.D. 669)

Sponsored by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.

Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox.

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bill "An Act To Increase the Effectiveness of the Legislature"

(H.P. 462) (L.D. 681)

Sponsored by Speaker EVES of North Berwick.

Cosponsored by President THIBODEAU of Waldo and Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, FREDETTE of Newport, GIDEON of Freeport, McCABE of Skowhegan, Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, CUSHING of Penobscot, HILL of York, MASON of Androscoggin.

TAXATION

Bill "An Act Regarding the Excise Tax Levied on Used Motor Vehicles"

(H.P. 427) (L.D. 614)

Sponsored by Representative MAKER of Calais.

Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: HANINGTON of Lincoln, HOBART of Bowdoinham, KINNEY of Limington, KINNEY of Knox, PARRY of Arundel, TUELL of East Machias, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator: COLLINS of York.

TRANSPORTATION

Bill "An Act Regarding Transparency in the Transportation of Hazardous Materials"

(H.P. 428) (L.D. 615)

Sponsored by Representative TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono.

Cosponsored by Senator DILL of Penobscot and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHESNE of Hudson, GUERIN of Glenburn, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: GRATWICK of Penobscot.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Study the Use of Calcium Chloride on Roads and Its Effect on Vehicles

(H.P. 457) (L.D. 676)

Sponsored by Representative WARD of Dedham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FARRIN of Norridgewock, GILLWAY of Searsport, MALABY of Hancock, PARRY of Arundel, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, VEROW of Brewer, Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act To Ensure the Administration of Written Driving Tests" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 463) (L.D. 682)

Sponsored by Representative GILLWAY of Searsport.

Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and Representative: PARRY of Arundel, Senator: COLLINS of York.

Bill "An Act To Expand Classification Categories for Motor Vehicles in the State"

(H.P. 468) (L.D. 687)

Sponsored by Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act Regarding the Sale of Hard Cider"

(H.P. 429) (L.D. 616)

Sponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, KINNEY of Limington, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCABE of Skowhegan, TURNER of Burlington, Senators: DILL of Penobscot, PATRICK of Oxford.

Bill "An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits"

(H.P. 430) (L.D. 617)

Sponsored by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and Representatives: BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, GOLDEN of Lewiston, GOODE of Bangor, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, RYKERSON of Kittery, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

Bill "An Act To Facilitate the Production of Hard Cider in Maine"

(H.P. 431) (L.D. 618)

Sponsored by Representative BROOKS of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, GOODE of Bangor, PRESCOTT of Waterboro, TUCKER of Brunswick.

Bill "An Act To Limit the Participation of Candidates and Legislators in Political Action Committees and Nonprofit Entities Conducting Political Activities"

(H.P. 432) (L.D. 619)

Sponsored by Representative CHENETTE of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, HANINGTON of Lincoln, KINNEY of Limington, MAKER of Calais, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, TURNER of Burlington.

Bill "An Act To Allow Veterans' Organizations To Own and Operate Slot Machines"

(H.P. 433) (L.D. 620)

Sponsored by Representative PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, FARRIN of Norridgewock, FOLEY of Wells, HANINGTON of Lincoln, LONG of Sherman, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, THERIAULT of China, WINSOR of Norway.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Election Laws Concerning Candidates and Nominees"

(H.P. 458) (L.D. 677)

Sponsored by Representative CHENETTE of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and Representatives: HOBBS of Saco, NADEAU of Winslow.

Bill "An Act Concerning the Ability of On-premises Liquor Licensees To Dispense Liquor in Sealed Refillable Containers"

(H.P. 459) (L.D. 678)

Sponsored by Representative CHENETTE of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, FECTEAU of Biddeford, HOBBS of Saco, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Sold and Purchased"

(H.P. 465) (L.D. 684)

Sponsored by Representative KINNEY of Limington.

Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CHENETTE of Saco, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator: COLLINS of York.

Bill "An Act To Improve the Veterans' Services Laws"

(H.P. 470) (L.D. 694)

Sponsored by Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, HANINGTON of Lincoln, KINNEY of Limington, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, SCHNECK of Bangor.

Submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

**Pursuant to Statute
Department of Education**

Representative KORNFIELD for the **Department of Education** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of the Final Repeal of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule That Has Been Provisionally Repealed by the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 464) (L.D. 683)

Be REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was READ and ACCEPTED and the Resolve REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

**Pursuant to Statute
Department of Education**

Representative KORNFIELD for the **Department of Education** 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 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 466) (L.D. 685)

Be REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was READ and ACCEPTED and the Resolve REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Speaker EVES of North Berwick, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 469) (Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, KORNFIELD of Bangor, MAKER of Calais, PIERCE of Falmouth, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, Senator: MILLETT of Cumberland)

JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING DR. JOHN FITZSIMMONS

WHEREAS, Dr. John Fitzsimmons has resigned as President of the Maine Community College System, a post he has held

since 1990, and we take this opportunity to recognize his long and distinguished career with the Maine Community College System; and

WHEREAS, during the past 24 years, enrollment at the system's 7 colleges has increased from 3,300 students to 18,160, with an additional 13,000 individuals enrolled in customized training and non-credit and continuing education courses; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fitzsimmons earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island, his master's degree from the University of Southern Maine and his doctorate from Nova Southeastern University; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, including a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, and he chaired the veterans' group responsible for building the Maine Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Augusta; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Fitzsimmons' leadership, the community college system has played a significant role in enhancing educational opportunities for Maine adults and career-bound high school students, while 94% of employed system graduates are working in Maine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fitzsimmons has spent the last 36 years in the field of higher education and training, as prior to his current post he served as Maine's Commissioner of Labor under Governor John R. McKernan, Jr. and received numerous national recognitions including the prestigious National Alliance of Business "State of the Year" award honoring Maine for Dr. Fitzsimmons' innovative programs in human resource development; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, the Maine Community College System has received national recognition from the National Alliance of Business and the University of Florida Future's Assembly and is a recipient of the David Pierce Organizational Leadership Award from North Carolina State University's National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fitzsimmons has been honored with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce's Dirigo Award for his leadership efforts in economic development, and the Economic Development Council of Maine presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership and vision in the areas of higher education and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, MaineBiz, a leading business publication, honored Dr. Fitzsimmons as the Non-Profit Business Leader of the Year and, in 2012, he was inducted into the Junior Achievement of Maine Business Hall of Fame in recognition of his significant and enduring contributions to Maine's economy and its sense of community, and this past year Maine Magazine named him one of 50 people shaping our State; and

WHEREAS, as we acknowledge President Fitzsimmons' dedicated service to the field of higher education, to the State's economy and to the People of Maine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Dr. John Fitzsimmons for his commitment to the Maine Community College System and for his long and exemplary public service to the State and Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to Dr. John Fitzsimmons.

READ.

On motion of Representative McCABE of Skowhegan, **TABLED** pending **ADOPTION** and later today assigned.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

Midshipman Second Class Rolando A. Amador, of Harpswell, who died while at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Midshipman Second Class Amador was born in Brunswick, and he and his family moved to Harpswell not long afterward. He was a 2011 graduate of Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham and was accepted into the United States Naval Academy. He spent countless hours as a volunteer with the local community and led his battalion as Sports Boss. Midshipman Second Class Amador studied mechanical engineering and made the Commandant's and Superintendent's List every semester. He was a natural-born leader, and he was a confidant to all and a good friend to many. He will be sadly missed and long remembered by his loving family, his friends and those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 108)

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Representative TUCKER of Brunswick, Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, Representative DEVIN of Newcastle, Representative DeCHANT of Bath, Representative TEPLER of Topsham, Senator BAKER of Sagadahoc, Senator GERZOFKY of Cumberland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative McCreight.

Representative **McCREIGHT**: Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of the House, I take this opportunity to offer our condolences to the family of Midshipman Second Class Rolando A. Amador, son of Dr. Rolando and Mrs. Maria Amador of Harpswell.

At the time of his death, Rolando was studying Mechanical Engineering at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. He will be remembered for his many talents. Rolando was an excellent student, a generous community volunteer, a natural leader. He was a good friend who could be counted on for advice and companionship, and he will be greatly missed by all.

Subsequently, the Sentiment was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 33) (L.D. 85) Bill "An Act To Prohibit Synthetic Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products and Over-the-counter Drugs" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 34) (L.D. 97) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Amend the School Emergency Drill Rules Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 4) (L.D. 1) Resolve, To Name the Route 11 Bridge over the Saco River in Standish and Limington the Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 10) (L.D. 7) 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) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 49) (L.D. 55) Resolve, To Direct the Department of Transportation To Name the Interstate 95 Rest Area in Hampden the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Rest Area Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 145) (L.D. 202) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 22: Standards for Outdoor Application of Pesticides by Powered Equipment in Order To Minimize Off-target Deposition, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 146) (L.D. 203) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 60) (L.D. 66) Resolve, Naming the Bridges That Span the Machias River in Machias the Jeremiah O'Brien Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-3)**

There being no objections, the above items were ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar tomorrow under the listing of Second Day.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, February 26, 2015, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act To Improve Telecommunications in Maine"

(H.P. 72) (L.D. 89)

(Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested)

TABLED - January 20, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.

PENDING - **REFERENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Improve the Reporting of Child Abuse"

(S.P. 74) (L.D. 199)

- In Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

TABLED - February 10, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.

PENDING - **REFERENCE IN CONCURRENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**, and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Provide a Minor with a Defense to Prosecution in a Situation That Involves Risk of Alcohol Overdose"

(H.P. 181) (L.D. 263)

- In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on February 5, 2015.

- In Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

TABLED - February 24, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative GIDEON of Freeport.

PENDING - **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Bill "An Act To Implement a Motor Vehicle Violation Electronic Citation Program"

(H.P. 297) (L.D. 458)

(Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested)

TABLED - February 24, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro.

PENDING - **REFERENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Reporting Standards for Child Abuse"

(H.P. 322) (L.D. 483)

(Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested)

TABLED - February 24, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative HOBBS of Saco.

PENDING - **REFERENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services"

(S.P. 179) (L.D. 450)

- In Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

TABLED - February 24, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.

PENDING - **REFERENCE IN CONCURRENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**, and sent for concurrence.

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

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

In Convention

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

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On motion by Senator MASON of Androscoggin, it was ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable James Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the Honorable Derek Langhauser, Interim President of the Maine Community College System, the Honorable Dr. William Brennan, President of the Maine Maritime Academy, the Campus Presidents and their Boards of Trustees to inform them that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communication as pleases them.

The Order was READ and PASSED.

The Chair will appoint the following:

Senator LANGLEY from Hancock
Senator EDGECOMB from Aroostook
Senator MILLETT from Cumberland
Representative KORNFELD from Bangor
Representative DAUGHTRY from Brunswick
Representative HUBBELL from Bar Harbor
Representative FARNSWORTH from Portland
Representative TIPPING-SPITZ from Orono
Representative PIERCE from Falmouth
Representative MAKER from Calais
Representative McCLELLAN from Raymond
Representative POULIOT from Augusta
Representative STEARNS from Guilford

Subsequently, Senator LANGLEY of Hancock, for the Committee reported that the Honorable James Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the Honorable Derek Langhauser, Interim President of the Maine Community College System, and the Honorable Dr. William Brennan, President of the Maine Maritime Academy would attend forthwith.

The Chair welcomed to the Convention the Honorable James Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the Honorable Derek Langhauser, Interim President of the Maine Community College System, the Honorable Dr. William Brennan, President of the Maine Maritime Academy, the Campus Presidents, the Boards of Trustees and guests.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery representing the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees: Patricia Duran, Larry Grondin, Beth Lorigan, Shawn Moody, the Honorable Jane Knapp Sexton, Commissioner Thomas Desjardin, and Commissioner Jeanne Paquette.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery the Presidents of the Maine Community College System: Dr. Scott Knapp of Central Maine Community College; Dr. Barbara Finkelstein of York County Community College; Dr. Lawrence Barrett, of Eastern Maine Community College; Dr. Richard Hopper of Kennebec Valley Community College; Mr. Timothy Crowley of Northern Maine Community College; Dr. Ronald Cantor of Southern Maine Community College; and Mr. Joseph Cassidy of Washington County Community College.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery: Liane Judd, wife of Chancellor James Page.

The Chair also recognized in the House Gallery representing the University of Maine System Board of Trustees: Marge Medd, the Honorable Karl Turner, Paul Nelson, the Honorable Sam Collins, Jim Erwin, Norm Fournier, Shawn Moody, and Commissioner Tom Desjardin.

The Chair also recognized in the House Gallery Presidents of the University of Maine System: Sue Hunter, University of Maine; David Flanagan, University of Southern Maine; Kate Foster, University of Maine at Farmington; the Honorable Glenn

Cummings, University of Maine at Augusta; and Wilson Hess, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The Chair then recognized in the House Gallery the Boards of Visitor Representatives of the University of Maine System: Chris Emmons, Jerry Cayer, Tom Boutureira, Jan Mokros, Denise Taffee, Stephen Richard, and Kelly Martin.

The Chair requested the Honorable James Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, to please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

Chancellor **PAGE**: President Thibodeau, Speaker Eves, honorable members of the 127th Maine Legislature, President Brennan, President Langhauser, distinguished guests and visitors: On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Presidents, Boards of Visitors, Faculty, Students, and Staff of your public universities, I extend greetings and thank you for the opportunity to address you concerning the state of Maine's public universities.

Before I begin, if you indulge me, I'd like to also introduce a number of university students, not by name, but by as a group who came today to learn how this process works, and to advocate on behalf of themselves and their fellow students for the work that we need to do to advance public higher education in the State of Maine. So if I could introduce, there's a number of students in the Gallery, if they would rise. This is about them, and those who will follow them.

Maine's public university system has the responsibility defined in our tripartite mission of education, research, and public service to advance the opportunities for every Maine citizen, business, and community. Yet, as we all know, our universities face an unprecedented combination of economic, demographic, and competitive challenge. The most stark representation of these challenges is the approximately \$75 million dollar structural budget gap we will accrue between now and FY19 if we make no changes.

Put simply, *Maine cannot afford the system we now have, but we can afford a better system.*

Maine cannot afford:

- A system historically divided into silos within silos that results in inefficiency and inevitable turf protection while stifling innovation;
- A system weighed down by far too much administration and burdened with too many outdated facilities;
- A system that is not sufficiently responsive to Maine's 21st century economic needs and opportunities, and whose costs threaten to make a college education too expensive for average Maine families.

Maine can afford – and must have – a better System that is singularly focused on student success and institutional responsiveness to state needs:

- A university where structure and culture reward efficiency, collaboration, and innovation;
- A university where administration is dramatically reduced and reformed, with a smaller, modernized facilities footprint focused on instruction and research;
- And a university whose programs are affordable, whose research drives economic growth statewide, and, most importantly, which is unwaveringly focused on student success.

We are working hard to create that university.

To reduce the structural gap, we have taken the very difficult but necessary step of eliminating more than 900 positions, or 16.7% of our workforce, since 2007; 556 of those in the past two years. We are just now completing the first-ever comprehensive

study of our more than 550 buildings, too many of which require major rehabilitation if they are to remain functionally viable, with the goal of significantly reducing our facilities footprint. All told, in FYs 15 & 16 we have made more than \$50 million dollars in reductions and reallocations, resulting in more than \$30 million dollars in net ongoing savings, with more to follow in the years it will take to eliminate completely the current causes of the structural gap. But to be clear, we will not close this gap on the backs of students and taxpayers.

We understand that maintaining a quality, affordable education must be our top priority. Thanks to the Trustees' and Presidents' leadership, with critical support from the Governor and Legislature, we are in our third year of a tuition freeze for in-state undergraduate students. Maine leads the nation in controlling tuition increases for public 4-year institutions. Adjusted for inflation, the rate of increase for the past 5 years for the University of Maine System is 0%, while the national average for that same period is 17%.

Since I last addressed you, we have initiated many change efforts including administrative consolidations and new or enhanced programs to increase STEM graduates. There are a number of details I could cite, but two watershed initiatives warrant further detail.

First, no issue makes a stronger case for change than credit transfer. When I addressed you two years ago, I made a commitment to instituting comprehensive credit transfer, a matter decades overdue. We are now implementing that program on schedule. We have a robust transfer website and portal for our students and their advisors to navigate the transfer process, and we are instituting Block Transfer for most general education categories which, when complete this May, will result in a block of approximately 35 credits being uniformly accepted across all our campuses. Our institutions have adjusted their prior learning assessment requirements so they align and transfer system-wide, and two teams, one in computer science and the other in nursing, are taking the lead in determining how major-to-major pathways in disciplines critical to Maine's economic future are best organized, developing a pilot model for all our programs.

Second class of initiatives, we understand that educational advancement is a critical pathway for all Maine people.

Recognizing that too few of our young people are pursuing post-secondary education, we have initiated or expanded several early college programs including Bridge Year and University of Maine Fort Kent's Rural U program that now partners with 46 high schools and is on schedule to increase that number to more than half of all public Maine high schools by this fall. An outstanding innovation announced just this past Friday is the agreement between the University of Maine at Presque Isle and the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to launch a dual degree program that will be Maine's fastest and most affordable path to a college diploma. MSSM students will be able to earn a 63-credit Associates Degree from the University of Maine at Presque Isle at the same time as they receive their high school diploma. This degree will cost less than \$1,000 and give students a two-year head start towards earning their bachelor's degree.

You may recall that more than 200,000 Mainers have some college experience but no degree. This is a stranded cost both financially and in terms of human potential that Maine cannot afford. With funding provided by the Legislature, this past fall we initiated the ABCDE scholarship program to assist Maine people returning to university to complete their degrees. We work 1-on-1 with these individuals, creating a multi-year study plan crafted to their circumstances in order to optimize their chances for success. In just these first few months we have awarded 147

scholarships totaling over \$300,000, and this is just the beginning.

To see the impact of this initiative more directly, I would like to introduce two adult learners who are back in class at UMA with the support of ABCDE scholarships.

Tanya Look is a veteran of the Maine National Guard with a disability sustained during service. A transfer from Central Maine Community College where she earned an Associate Degree in Architectural Civil Engineering, she is in college for the first time since 2011. Ms. Look is pursuing a Bachelor of Applied Science with a Minor in Art and anticipates graduating in May of 2017. She is raising a family in Wilton and following graduation aspires to a career in the field of engineering – an area of known state needs – so that she can advance her career while staying in Maine.

Raymond "Scott" Berry is a 52-year old husband and father from Manchester who is pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration. He returned to class in the fall of 2014 after almost ten years away from college because of family and work obligations as well as financial constraints. Mr. Berry was inspired to return to class by his children's educational ambitions and accomplishments, as well as his understanding that a bachelor's degree is a key to advancement. He currently works as a facilities manager with a local non-profit and, after this semester and completion of a Prior Learning Assessment portfolio, Mr. Berry should be just one class away from completing his degree.

Ms. Look's and Mr. Berry's drive and initiative are two Maine success stories. Please join me in congratulating them, confirming our common commitment to advancing opportunities for all Maine people through education.

Yet even with all these causes for celebration, much more is required. We remain far from where we must be if we are to fulfill our mission in a financially responsible and sustainable way. It is time to heed the calls for transformative change coming from any number of internal analyses, editorials, and blue-ribbon commissions stretching back decades. We know what must be done – now it is time to act.

Last year, the Trustees endorsed the following vision statement to guide change.

The University of Maine System is an integrated system of distinct campuses, centers, and other facilities operating in concert to provide high-quality educational undergraduate and graduate opportunities that are accessible, affordable, and relevant to the needs of Maine students, businesses, and communities. It drives economic development by conducting world-class research, commercializing valuable ideas, and partnering successfully with businesses and industries throughout Maine and beyond. It is the state's most engaged and responsive institution working on behalf of all Maine citizens, communities, and institutions. It is Maine's most important public asset.

In July, the Board adopted a set of Strategic Outcomes to realize this vision. To achieve those outcomes, the Trustees set a goal of *one university for all of Maine: a fully integrated university with multiple mission-differentiated campuses.*

The One University Initiative has three major components:

1. Strategic unity through campus diversity
2. Administrative reduction and reform
3. Academic collaboration and integration

The Trustees remain fully committed to the multi-campus model. Our institutions are an integral part of the communities and regions they serve. Closing them, moreover, would unacceptably compromise our statewide mission.

Our campuses are unified in a common mission of service to our students and the state. This unified mission of service is best achieved through campus diversity, and each of our campuses is working to identify signature programs and services that build on that institution's strengths and mandate. These signature differentiators give each institution competitive advantage as well as a focus for planning, investment and growth. They reflect, to cite just three examples, the historical role the University of Maine at Farmington has played in teacher education, how the University of Maine at Machias will build on its location and environmental focus, and the ways the USM's Metropolitan University will position that institution as a key partner in the economic and demographic driver that is greater Portland and Lewiston-Auburn. By coordinating all seven sets of campus differentiators across the enterprise, we will ensure that critical educational, research and public service needs are met both locally and statewide.

Maintaining the multi-campus model requires that the system dramatically reduce and reform all administrative functions into a single, integrated administrative structure appropriate to our mission and our resources.

In addition to the Chancellor's office, UMS currently has seven universities spread over ten campuses, each with a full administrative staff, serving a student body of approximately 30,000 – the size of a single public university in some midwestern states. While remaining committed to the multi-campus model, our administration is too costly, and its complex, redundant structures stifle cooperation and innovation.

We will instead create a single, integrated administrative structure for the entire System by organizing and funding each administrative function as a single, albeit geographically distributed unit. For example, there will be one HR function with a single set of back-office resources and enough representations at each campus to serve staff and students.

Some of this work is already underway and paying dividends. Next year's budget reflects nearly \$5 million dollars in on-going savings due to administrative integration in IT, HR, and Procurement. Later this spring the Trustees will approve a new unified financial management structure to enhance this process, and later in the year we will close the System Central Office in Bangor, moving administrative employees to campuses where they will be closer to those they serve while reducing our facilities footprint.

Each of our institutions will continue to have a president who remains responsible for their institution's success as a member of the executive team. The role of the campus Board of Visitors will be expanded to ensure local needs are adequately represented in key decision processes.

The third component involves academic collaboration. Working with faculty and staff to coordinate and integrate our academic and research programs, we will ensure these programs are innovative, high-quality, and adequately resourced; that every Maine student has access to those programs for which he or she is qualified; and that university research continues to advance Maine economic growth and opportunity.

The University of Maine System benefits from hundreds of gifted faculty dedicated to their profession and their students, but whose efforts are also constrained by campus and bureaucratic silos. Teams of faculty and staff from across our campuses are breaking down those barriers, re-thinking how best to organize and deliver the best educational experience for all students wherever they may be. This January, more than 130-faculty met to begin work on nine programs, from foreign languages to engineering, taking the lead in developing this game-changing initiative that will eventually involve all our disciplines.

Here is an early and resoundingly successful example of what this process can accomplish. This past fall the University of Maine System was designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance / Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency / Department of Homeland Security. No individual Maine institution has the resources or expertise to achieve this designation by itself, but by working collaboratively, faculty from four of our campuses created a unified program which earned Maine the nation's first ever multi-campus, system designation in this field. And this designation is not just a matter of academic prestige. By our achieving this designation, Maine students are eligible for major scholarships and opportunities closed to all others, Maine researchers can compete for grants and contracts closed to all others, and Maine businesses will benefit from having national-class employees with certified expertise in this critical and growing part of our economy. It is my pleasure to introduce Professors Raymond Albert of the University of Maine at Fort Kent, Glenn Wilson of the University of Southern Maine, George Markowsky of UMaine, and Henry Felch of the University of Maine at Augusta whose collective vision, creativity, and expertise has secured this opportunity, and whose work is an outstanding example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

The opportunities that will emerge with the One University are what matters most. Every Maine student – traditional and non-traditional – has a place in this University: the student nurse committed to rural healthcare, the gifted high-school student who wants to study in one of the nation's premier chemical engineering programs, the young person struggling to see how education will better his or her life, and the mid-career professional looking to increase his or her chances for advancement.

A core part of our mission is and will remain research, an area of ever increasing importance in today's economy. We will continue cutting-edge research centered at our UMaine flagship (whose 150th anniversary we celebrate this year), with an increased emphasis in work supporting Maine businesses and industries, whether in expanding high-tech areas such as biotechnology or information systems, or in research that advances our natural resource-based industries in for example wood products, energy, agriculture and the marine economy. To catalyze these efforts, the Trustees have approved a new, 5 year, \$10 million dollar reallocation of funds saved from administrative consolidations to support statewide research in ways that tie directly to Maine businesses and economy.

To conclude, the actions I have outlined today speak to our commitment to ensure a quality, affordable education is available for all Maine citizens. But we need your help. The Governor's proposed budget contains the largest new investment in the university system in seven years, including a 1.7% and 1.93% increase in general appropriations over the next biennium (approval of which would restore state E&G funding to approximately 2008 levels), it would include \$2.5 million dollars per year in debt service coverage for critical infrastructure improvements, and an increase in MEIF funding to underwrite research tied to Maine's economy, as well as much needed student scholarships. This measure of support is critical and very much appreciated. I hope you will approve it.

We are building a greater partnership with Maine's families, businesses, and communities based on access, affordability, quality, relevance and responsiveness. Our commitment to that partnership is second to none. The changes I have outlined today will require hard choices and hard work. But we will be successful, where the measure of our success is the success of

Maine people. It is that important and that simple. Thank you very much.

The Chair then requested the Honorable Derek Langhauser, Interim President of the Maine Community College System, please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

Interim President **LANGHAUSER:** President Thibodeau, Speaker Eves, honorable members of the 127th Maine Legislature, Chancellor Page, President Brennan, distinguished guests: thank you and good morning. I am pleased to be here this morning to tell you about the 31,000 individuals, and the hundreds of Maine businesses, that the community colleges served this past year.

I appreciate the responsibility that our Board of Trustees has placed in me to help lead our organization in the coming months. As the in-house lawyer for the colleges for many years, I have been responsible for the System's legal compliance and legal defense. Today is my eleventh working day as President, and I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead.

As you know, I follow Dr. John Fitzsimmons who served as the System's President for 25 years. It was his vision and energy that transformed our seven technical colleges into comprehensive community colleges, growing from 3,300 to over 18,000 students in just over a decade. The 65,000 students who graduated during John's tenure -- who improved their lives, their careers, and the lives of their families -- are his legacy. Our Trustees, presidents, faculty, and employees remain committed to our important work, and to doing it with the same focus, efficiency and commitment to affordability that have become our hallmark.

Community colleges have a unique dual mission. First, we prepare students for direct employment in the Maine economy -- through trade, technical and occupational programming. And second, we provide affordable access to higher education, leading to transfer to four-year programs of study.

Maine was one of the last states in the nation to offer community college education. But when the change came, the people flocked to us. In just over ten years, enrollment has grown nearly 80%. That's 8,000 more college students for Maine, and 4,000 more students studying trade, technical, and occupational programs than just a decade ago.

Nearly 70% of our students and 85% of our instructional budget are focused on employment centered education. Every year we prepare hundreds of nurses, police officers, precision machinists, computer experts, and trades people to enter the Maine workforce and to fuel our economy. It's not a stretch to say that our graduates are the bedrock of the Maine economy.

At just \$3,400 per year, our community colleges offer the lowest tuition and fees in all of New England. And, for our students, price matters. Because they come to us with few advantages.

- Most of our students are low- to moderate-income. Even with our uniquely low tuition, 82% of our full-time students receive some form of financial aid.
- Nearly one-third of our students work more than 30 hours a week while they go to school, and nearly one-third have children to care for at home.
- For half of our students, college is new; neither of their parents has earned yet even a 2-year degree.
- And many of our students have been out of school for some time, and are trying hard to piece together a living. This is not an easy thing to do in Maine anymore if all you have is a high school education.

Although the average age of our students is 27 years old, we continue to see an increase in the number of students enrolling directly from high school and career and technical education centers. About 40% of our students now come to us right out of high school. Many of them are students who, in the absence of a community college, might not go to college at all. As one high school administrator recently said, our community colleges have created aspirations that previously did not exist. And more often than not, those aspirations are focused on getting a good job and starting a career. And our colleges deliver: 92% of our graduates land jobs or go on to continue their education.

The growth of our colleges has occurred during challenging economic times. State appropriations as a percent of our total budget have decreased from 46% to 32%. This economic reality has meant that we have had to find efficiencies, forge strong ties with key partners, and be as entrepreneurial as possible. A few highlights:

- First, I am proud to tell you our System is fiscally sound, we've had over two decades of balanced budgets.
- Second, our System Office has been decreased significantly. When our colleges served just 3,300 students, we had 27 employees. And now that we serve 18,000 students, we have 20 employees.
- Third, we have aggressively sought external funding. Over the past few years, we have won \$48 million in grants, including \$13 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to build new educational pathways in information technology.
- And finally, we have created The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges. Their leadership includes senior officials from over 20 of Maine's largest companies: L.L.Bean, Maine Medical Center, TD and Key Banks, Cianbro, Dead River and UNUM, just to name a few. Over the past five years, the Foundation has raised \$26 million for our colleges, and the commitment of these business and civic leaders to invest in our students underscores the importance of our work.

In addition to the Foundation, other partners have played critical roles for us.

The first key partner is the K-12 system. Over a decade ago, we established our Early College for ME program, which now works in 74 schools each year. All told, 2,200 Maine high school students will take 2,700 community college courses for credit this year through a partnership with the Maine Department of Education. 1,000 of those students are taking these dual enrollment courses through their career and technical education centers. These courses carry enormous value; they prepare students for college and help reduce the overall cost of a college education. We are by far the largest provider of dual enrollment in the state. By earning community college credit while they are still in high school, these students are saving an estimated \$750,000 per year in college costs.

Because we like to say that our students can start with us and then go anywhere, our second key partners are, of course, the other higher eds. Over 42% of our graduates go on to pursue further education. In one recent three-year period, our students transferred to as many as 223 different colleges and universities. But by far the greatest number of those students -- over 1,100 -- transferred to the University of Maine System. To date, the community colleges and public universities have forged more than 150 program-to-program transfer agreements, and as Chancellor Page mentioned we are close to completing a more universal block-transfer agreement that will further strengthen and streamline paths from a community college to a four year degree. I want to thank the academic officers of both our System

and of the University, as well as Chancellor Page personally, for their commitment to making a four-year degree more attainable for our students and for Maine people.

And we are also working with Maine Maritime Academy because some students need additional academic preparation in order to meet the Academy's rigorous requirements. Our colleges now offer courses specifically designed to help these students. Sixteen such students enrolled in MMA Prep last year, and eleven of them are now successfully enrolled back at the Academy this year. And I'd like to thank President Brennan for coming to us with this great idea.

Our third key partner is, of course, Maine businesses. 85% of our programs are the only post-secondary occupational programs of their kind in this state. Precision machinists, electrical lineworkers, and medical technologists, the list goes on and on. We need to make sure that our students are educated with the skills that our employers require, and that further, we provide through our training divisions the customized workforce training that helps those employers add jobs and remain competitive.

Last year, our colleges provided direct workforce training to 99 businesses and nearly 2,000 workers. Our training ranges from a small business in Arrostook County to large employers like as Jackson Labs, IDEXX, Backyard Farms, CMP, and Pratt & Whitney. When employers have expanded in recent years, they have turned to us to help them make sure that their new hires get the training that they need. And we have delivered.

Now, I would like to turn to the future. Researchers project that in the coming years, 63% of all job openings in the United States will require training and education beyond high school. This means that the surest path to prosperity will lead through higher education.

Accordingly, our focus going forward will be on stronger student retention and graduation. Later this month, our Trustees will begin a new 5-year strategic plan. The centerpiece of that plan contains three key strategies.

First, we will strengthen the general support services that our students receive. Because our colleges grew so quickly, without commensurate funding, we have been unable to date, to invest adequately in all the supports that many of our students need to achieve their academic goals. Through a number of successful pilot programs, however, we have come to see the value of student navigators -- specially trained staff who provide students with academic and personal supports in their journey to a degree.

Second, we will focus more intently than ever on remediation. Nearly 50% of students who matriculate with us enroll in a remedial course in their first semester. This fall we had over 2,700 students enrolled in these courses. This does not mean these students are incapable of succeeding in college. But it does mean that we, as a state, need to continue to focus on core competencies at the elementary and secondary levels, and that we must continue to test and develop strategies that reduce the time and cost spent on remediation at the post-secondary level.

We all want our students to graduate from our high schools with the academic skills they need to be successful. And our institutions have spent decades dealing with remediation, and we need to continue to test new approaches. For example, this past summer, we offered a number of intensive prep programs, fondly called academic boot camps, for incoming students who need remediation. The results were impressive, and we plan to continue to build on these and related lessons.

Our third major strategy will be to expand student on campus employment. Because so many of our students work while they go to school, and have to do so. Their class attendance and class work often has to compete with these jobs. We need to

expand work/study opportunities on campus so that our students can gain job skills right at, and thereby form stronger ties to their college.

To help make these three initiatives successful, we will need your help.

First, we will need you to fund our base budget. We have been underfunded over the last five or six years, and we are proposed to be flat-funded for the next two years. Without additional support from the state, we will have to implement program and service reductions.

Second, we will need you to support the two unanimous recommendations of the recent Commission on College Affordability and Completion. The first recommendation is to fund 27 student navigators for our colleges, and the second is to make more work/study opportunities available to our students. Together, these strategies will have a real and lasting impact on the number of Maine citizens earning a college degree.

And finally, if there is to be a bond issue for higher education, we would request up to \$24 million to address the highest priorities for renovations and for new equipment for our classrooms across our seven colleges.

Now up to this point, I have talked about the content of our work and so now I would like to close with some observations about the meaning of our work.

For the hundreds of Maine businesses, small and large, north and south, that rely on our colleges to provide timely and cost-efficient training, they need us to help them grow and to compete in an increasingly complex economy. And clearly, our economy needs more businesses thriving and more people working at higher wages.

And for the 18,000 hard-working students who seek a low-cost college degree, they need us to help them access immediate employment, and to reach for that higher degree that opens the door to a more prosperous future.

And for the thousands of additional Maine people who rely on us for an affordable chance to upgrade their job skills and access other valuable courses, they need us to help them build their own career path, at their own pace.

From these observations, I am reminded of the dignity in work; and of the dignity in having a meaningful opportunity to strive and achieve. All of the people who I have referenced here this morning -- all of the people who our community colleges serve -- these are the hard working people who we know as our neighbors and our friends. They want and need access to our low-cost, high quality education and training because it both promises, and delivers a direct return.

They ask for nothing more, and they deserve nothing less. I look forward to working with you on their behalf.

Thank you.

The Chair then requested the Honorable Dr. William Brennan, President of the Maine Maritime Academy, please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

President **BRENNAN:** President Thibodeau, Speaker Eves, legislative leaders, members of the 127th Maine Legislature, Chancellor Page, President Langhauser, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Bill Brennan, I'm the President of the Maine Maritime Academy.

I'm pleased to be here today to provide you with an update on the Academy, and an understanding of our current accomplishments and challenges. I'd like to begin that by introducing to you two of our students: Olivia Burke from China, Maine who is an International Logistics Major, and Rylee Knox, from Turner who is a Systems Engineer Major. Please stand,

would you two? Maine Maritime Academy is presently on winter break, so I'm sure you will all agree with me that these two students deserve extra credit for being here today.

Ladies and Gentleman, at present, Maine Maritime Academy is in a strong and vibrant position. Our applications are robust and many programs are already at capacity for the coming academic year; enrollment is extremely healthy.

On the outcome side, our job placement rate is exceptional. We are able to consistently place more than 90% of our students in jobs within their career fields within 90 days of graduation.

That is a major advantage that comes with a diploma from Maine Maritime Academy; and it adds substantial value for our students.

We were recently recognized for *multiple* ways that we add value for our students and their families who are investing in an MMA education. Maine Maritime Academy was ranked the Number 1 Best Public College in America by Money magazine, on their inaugural Best Colleges list. In addition, out of over 650 colleges put to the value test, Money magazine rated Maine Maritime Academy the *fourth best* college in the country for returning value on the higher education investment.

There has been much attention paid to the input side, the cost, of a college education. But what Money magazine did was to use metrics that matter, unique measures, taking into account educational quality, affordability and career outcomes to determine their ratings.

We are extremely proud to be ranked so highly in educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes, and we believe there are a number of factors that contribute to that success.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, our 5-year average persistence rate is just over 91%. Our retention rate, which is a measure of the percentage of first-time students who return for their second year, is 75% percent, which is about 10 percent higher than the national average. And, I am very pleased to report that our graduation rate is 74 percent, which is nearly 17 percent higher than the U.S. average.

We have much to be proud of when it comes to these statistics, and I think the numbers become more substantial when you look at the ways that make us such a unique member of the higher education partnership in the State of Maine. In this regard, we do, already, meet many of the strategies of the "Game Changers" Report.

Maine Maritime Academy is a small co-educational college located in Downeast Maine, established by act of the Maine Legislature in 1941.

A proposal for an institution devoted to nautical training was led by Senator Ralph Leavitt of Portland and educational and civic leaders in our state in the 1930s.

Our mission at the outset was to train mariners in support of the war effort and I am proud to tell you that my father and two of my uncles were members of the Academy's first classes.

With the state's support, Maine Maritime Academy has significantly diversified over the years. While adhering to our original purpose of graduating merchant mariners, we have, in true Maine spirit, worked to maximize what we have and what we do best.

We have matured to offer a contemporary college setting with a diverse student population and a special mix of midshipmen in uniform and students who follow a traditional college lifestyle.

Maine Maritime Academy continues to embrace the role of the ocean as the core of our curriculum, but with an updated mission that is far broader than it was at our founding.

Graduates of our core curriculum—which encompasses Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering Technology and Operations, and Marine Systems Engineering—continue to be

reputed as some of the best marine engineers and deck officers in their international industry.

But today we offer three degree programs and 18 majors, each providing truly hands-on learning opportunities for our students. We are a focused STEM institution offering a specialized program of study in engineering, management, science and transportation, prescribed by the U.S. Maritime Administration and the United States Coast Guard.

We are a unique part of the State's education partnership because we are one of only six such maritime academies in the country that offer this specialized program.

We have an enrollment of just under 1,000 students, approximately 65 percent of whom are in the regimental program of study and more than 70 percent are residents of the State of Maine.

Our students are focused and driven and, in many respects, that helps to define us and set us apart from many other colleges.

Another way in which we are unique is in how we select our students. Our admissions process is very keen to select those students who have the greatest likelihood of success in our very unique program of study. That is not to say that we accept only students with top high school academic scores, as we do not.

Instead, we select those students who have demonstrated the drive and focus necessary to be successful at this career-oriented institution. Many are the first members of their family to attend college.

But, we also recognize that some applicants to our program need just a little help and, when they get it, they offer great potential to succeed in our program. As President Langhauser pointed out, and I'm very pleased about the collaboration between Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System, referred to as the Maine Maritime Academy Prep program.

Modeled after programs used by several service academies such as Annapolis, we will hold a place for an applicant who needs a bit of remediation, if they successfully complete a program that we have jointly built with their local community college.

We also collaborate significantly with the University of Maine System faculty and students in order to more fully and professionally engage in a host of research projects.

Working with UMaine and with the University of Maine at Machias under a Maine Economic Improvement Fund grant, our faculty and students are conducting research to understand the species-specific roles of seaweed in the intertidal ecosystem.

Under a Department of Transportation Grant that is funding our Marine Engine Testing and Emissions Laboratory, our faculty and students are working with UMaine chemical engineering faculty to test the energy value of fuels that we are developing. We have also collaborated on projects in hydrodynamics and offshore wind, deploying in the waters off our campus in Castine a wind generator built at the University's Advanced Systems, Structures and Composites Center in Orono.

Our students are working on thermoelectric energy generation, biodiesel development, biofouling countermeasures for ships, and energy efficient lobster boat design. Maine Maritime Academy is also proud to be the host institution for the only in-stream tidal energy testing facility in the United States.

It's all about the students, and this kind of hands-on experience enhances their opportunity for career success. It also maximizes our strengths and serves workforce needs for the industries that employ our graduates. Quite simply, the unique nature of our program works, and it creates competency in our graduates that positions them confidently for their future employers.

You should be gratified to know, that employers of our graduates recognize the value of an MMA education and they demonstrate that through generous financial contributions to the Academy.

Now, at the outset I told you that we are a small college with a focused program of study and that we operate in a very conservative fiscal fashion in an effort to attempt to keep our tuition costs such that any qualified Maine student who wants a Maine Maritime Academy education can afford to attend.

We at Maine Maritime Academy are keenly aware of the fiscal challenges the state confronts and we recognize the new paradigm in higher education.

At its founding, the college's operational expenses were covered completely by the state and the federal government. Over time, that relationship changed such that the state's contribution to our operating expenses is about a quarter of our need.

There is no doubt that much work and commitment is necessary to address the fundamental challenges that you and I share in meeting the higher education needs of Maine students.

The Affordability Commission and others are doing good work to identify ways to manage costs and lessen the burden on students. We have seen proposals that include increased funding for scholarships and loans, all of which I support. But I'd like to share with you some comparative information to put our particular situation into perspective.

As I have pointed out previously, Maine Maritime Academy is one of six such state academies in the country. All of these schools have essentially the same program of study; we have approximately the same number of students, faculty and staff, and approximately the same operational costs. We thus represent a perfect basis for assessing the difference in regional costs of higher education. California Maritime Academy, for example, offers tuition at half of what I can offer because it receives 58 percent, or approximately \$22 million in annual state appropriations, whereas Maine Maritime Academy receives about 25 percent, or a little bit less than \$9 million in state support.

All of the other academies offer a lower tuition than I can for this same reason -- Massachusetts Maritime receives 42 percent of its budget from the state, New York Maritime receives 46 percent from the state, and Texas receives 43 percent of its operations budget in the form of state appropriations. That disparity makes it difficult for Maine Maritime Academy to compete.

Let me expand this comparison a bit further. I am proud to tell you that just last month, we opened for our students the first new classroom building to be built on our campus in over thirty years. Four and a half million dollars of the construction cost was covered by a State Bond Issue and I thank the people of the State of Maine for their support. It's important to recognize that three quarters, or another ten million dollars was raised from private sources, mostly the employers of our graduates, to construct a public building on public land to serve what is arguably a public responsibility. For comparison, two years ago, Massachusetts Maritime Academy opened a new 23 million dollar academic building paid for almost exclusively with state funds.

The three academic organizations represented here today are different institutions with different missions serving students with different ambitions. But we are all similar in that we serve the people of Maine and the higher education aspirations of Maine students striving to better themselves and their state. The higher education books should not be balanced on the backs of students. The cost of maintaining the public infrastructure that our institutions represent should not be paid for by students and it is for that reason that I am pleased that the Governor has

included, and the Legislature is considering, a modest increase in our appropriations to address critical infrastructure needs.

All of the institutions represented here work collaboratively as I mentioned previously, from the President's offices to the classrooms, through student and faculty exchanges. We seek each other's counsel and best practices in the fields of law and policies, business and administration, safety and security, facilities management, and even financial investment.

We at Maine Maritime Academy are governed by a Board with specialized backgrounds within the sectors that employ our graduates. Because of the uniqueness of our program, we depend upon a Board that knows the field into which our graduates are entering. Our specialized Board includes ship pilots and captains, and former heads of large shipping companies, globally involved certification companies such as the American Bureau of Shipping, and shipyards including the Bath Iron Works.

Next year, we'll be celebrating the Academy's 75th Anniversary. We are very proud of our history, and especially proud of our alumni who are working here in Maine, and all over the world. Our reputation is reinforced by every single student who graduates from the college.

We are increasingly recognized for our specialization and innovation in maritime education. Again this year, we have been listed by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top small undergraduate engineering schools in the country.

Our mission is to prepare young women and men for success. We are a game changer because we provide them with a wonderful education that prepares them for amazing careers. And the State of Maine derives value on both ends of the exchange -- we educate Maine students and they, in return, contribute to productive members of society and of our economy.

Thank you again President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves, for the opportunity to address this Joint Session. Due to the legislative support over the years, our students learn to embrace challenges, to develop hands-on experience, and upon graduation, are prepared to achieve their goals as leaders in their fields; leaders who carry with them around the World the reputation of the State of Maine as a skilled, and hardworking and dedicated people.

Thank you very much.

Chancellor Page, Interim President Langhauser, and President Brennan withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

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

The Senate then retired to its Chamber amid the applause of the House, the audience rising.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Transportation Infrastructure"

(S.P. 221) (L.D. 628)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Expand Maine's Carbon Monoxide Detectors Law"

(S.P. 216) (L.D. 623)

Bill "An Act To Make a Technical Correction to the Law Establishing the State Trauma Prevention and Control Advisory Committee within the Field of Public Safety"

(S.P. 217) (L.D. 624)

Bill "An Act Regarding Community Paramedicine Pilot Projects"

(S.P. 222) (L.D. 629)

Bill "An Act To Amend Maine's Sex Trafficking and Prostitution Law"

(S.P. 244) (L.D. 651)

Bill "An Act To Authorize the Carrying of Concealed Handguns without a Permit"

(S.P. 245) (L.D. 652)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Related to the Bolduc Correctional Facility"

(S.P. 246) (L.D. 688)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Make College More Affordable for Maine Residents"

(S.P. 220) (L.D. 627)

Bill "An Act Concerning the Calendars of Career and Technical Education Programs and Partnering Schools"

(S.P. 230) (L.D. 637)

Bill "An Act Regarding Educator Effectiveness" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 250) (L.D. 692)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Allow the Resale of Electricity by Electric Vehicle Charging Stations"

(S.P. 209) (L.D. 593)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Brunswick Sewer District Charter"

(S.P. 243) (L.D. 650)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Revise the Mining Laws"

(S.P. 204) (L.D. 588)

Bill "An Act To Reduce Carbon Emissions from Residential Heating"

(S.P. 212) (L.D. 595)

Bill "An Act To Allow for the Purchase and Use of Specialty Racing Fuel in Maine"

(S.P. 213) (L.D. 596)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Require Training of Mandated Reporters under the Child Abuse Laws"

(S.P. 215) (L.D. 622)

Bill "An Act To Require the State To Administer and Fund the General Assistance Program"

(S.P. 225) (L.D. 632)

Bill "An Act To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Annually Update Its Rules Governing Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations"

(S.P. 240) (L.D. 647)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Modify Coverage for Eyeglasses for Children under the Provisions of the MaineCare Program and Review Certain Reimbursement Rates

(S.P. 242) (L.D. 649)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Allow Certain Youths To Take a Deer of Either Sex"

(S.P. 232) (L.D. 639)

Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Review the Incidental Take Permitting Process under the Endangered Species Laws

(S.P. 233) (L.D. 640)

Bill "An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting for Coyotes in Northern Maine"

(S.P. 249) (L.D. 691)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Improve Access to Insurance Coverage for Persons for Whom English Is a Second Language"

(S.P. 214) (L.D. 621)

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Requirements for Notice of the Right To Cure a Mortgage Default"

(S.P. 223) (L.D. 630)

Bill "An Act To Provide Consumers of Health Care with Information Regarding Health Care Costs"

(S.P. 229) (L.D. 636)

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Bill "An Act To Protect Veterans Returning from Active Duty from Losing Their Homes"

(S.P. 236) (L.D. 643)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation To Conduct a Sunrise Review Regarding the Proposal To License Guardians Ad Litem

(S.P. 224) (L.D. 631)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Best Interest of the Child Standard"

(S.P. 235) (L.D. 642)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Maine Economic Development Venture Capital Revolving Investment Program"

(S.P. 202) (L.D. 586)

Bill "An Act Regarding Contract Indemnification"

(S.P. 203) (L.D. 587)

Bill "An Act To Ensure the Safety of Home Birth"

(S.P. 248) (L.D. 690)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Authorize the Transfer of State-owned Real Estate to the City of Belfast"

(S.P. 231) (L.D. 638)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Elect 2 Senators from Each County

(S.P. 234) (L.D. 641)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Exempt a Fee for a Paper or Plastic Single-use Carry-out Bag from Tax" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 206) (L.D. 590)

Bill "An Act To Extend to Certain Fruit and Vegetable Growers the Manufacturing Facility Fuel and Electricity Sales Tax Exemptions"

(S.P. 208) (L.D. 592)

Bill "An Act To Allow the Creation of a Local Option Sales Tax by Referendum"

(S.P. 211) (L.D. 594)

Bill "An Act To Increase the Tax Exemption for Pensions"

(S.P. 218) (L.D. 625)

Bill "An Act To Exempt Annuity Considerations from Tax"

(S.P. 237) (L.D. 644)

Bill "An Act To Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for Maine Residents"

(S.P. 241) (L.D. 648)

Bill "An Act To Support Maine's Tourism Marketing Promotion Program by Eliminating the Sales Tax Exemption for Casual Rentals for Fewer Than 15 Days a Year"

(S.P. 247) (L.D. 689)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Allow Municipal and Volunteer Firefighters To Operate Motor Vehicles as Authorized Emergency Vehicles"

(S.P. 207) (L.D. 591)

Bill "An Act To Allow Operation of Modified Utility Vehicles on a Public Way"

(S.P. 227) (L.D. 634)

Bill "An Act To Create a Transportation Planning Incentive for Communities Located on Peninsulas"

(S.P. 238) (L.D. 645)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Write-in Candidates in Municipal and City Elections"

(S.P. 219) (L.D. 626)

Bill "An Act To Allow B.Y.O.B. Function Permit Holders To Hold Tailgating Events"

(S.P. 228) (L.D. 635)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Military Bureau Laws"

(S.P. 251) (L.D. 693)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell, the House adjourned at 12:15 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 5, 2015, in honor and lasting tribute to Midshipman Second Class Rolando A. Amador, of Harpswell.