

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 MAINE
LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
28th Legislative Day
Thursday, April 2, 2015

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

Prayer by Pastor Gayle Holden, Cox Memorial United Baptist Church, Hallowell.

National Anthem by Bonny Eagle High School Chorus, Standish.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Sydney Sewall, M.D., M.P.H, Hallowell.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Permit 25 Acres or Less To Be Withdrawn from Taxation as Timberland and Woodland without Penalty

(S.P. 416) (L.D. 1169)

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

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

The Resolution was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Allow Municipalities To Contract with and Dispose of Waste, including Residue, in State-owned Solid Waste Disposal Facilities, as Allowed under a Facility License, To Ensure Compliance with the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy"

(S.P. 421) (L.D. 1194)

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 Encourage Good Nutrition and Healthy Choices in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program"

(S.P. 420) (L.D. 1193)

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 Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code"

(S.P. 392) (L.D. 1120)

Bill "An Act To Remove the Municipal Mandate To Enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code"

(S.P. 418) (L.D. 1191)

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Workers' Compensation"

(S.P. 422) (L.D. 1195)

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 Amend the Androscoggin County Charter"

(S.P. 417) (L.D. 1190)

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 Regarding Campaign Finance Reform"

(S.P. 419) (L.D. 1192)

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.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Prevent Passage of Alewives through the Grand Falls Dam on the St. Croix River"

(H.P. 549) (L.D. 800)

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in the House on March 19, 2015.

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Representative **ESPLING** of New Gloucester moved that the House **ASK** for a **COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Deer Isle, Representative **KUMIEGA**.

Representative **KUMIEGA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had numerous conversations about the referencing of this bill, and in light of that, I don't think a committee of conference would be productive, so I would request a roll call.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ASK** for a **COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Burlington, Representative **Turner**.

Representative **TURNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, it is true that the good Representative and I have had some conversations, however all parties involved with my bill, which is also Inland Fisheries because we, my bill deals with fresh water. Also, it deals with alewives which spends most of its life in sea water.

So, therefore, I feel that it would be productive if all those involved, those chairs, got together along with me, and if we could have a conversation. Because that conversation has not happened, and that's all this bill is asking at this point, is to set down and to talk about fresh water and to talk about sea water, and to make sure that this bill is properly referenced. So, out of respect, I am asking this body to allow me to have that one conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Men and Women of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dresden, Representative Pierce.

Representative **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this bill should go to Marine Resources. Alewives are statutorily the Department of Marine Resources' purview only, and because they come in and out of fresh water does not mean the IF&W gets a say in it. It's not right, and they should go straightly to Marine Resources. I don't think a committee is necessary. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Mr. Speaker, may I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative **FREDETTE**: I just want to be clear that people understand what it is in fact that they're voting on, and what the impact of that is, and so my understanding is that the pending question before the body is that a committee of conference occur between the House and the Senate to allow a conversation as to where the bill would proceed, and that a vote against the motion would be not to have a committee of conference between the House and the Senate. Is that accurate?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative; that is correct.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Ask for a Committee of Conference. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 11

YEA - Austin, Battle, Beavers, Bickford, Black, Campbell R, Chace, Corey, Crafts, Devin, Dillingham, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Espling, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanington, Hanley, Harlow, Head, Herrick, Hobart, Kinney J, Kinney M, Maker, Malaby, Marean, McClellan, McElwee, Morrison, O'Connor, Parry, Picchiotti, Pickett, Prescott, Reed, Sanderson, Seavey, Sherman, Short, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Turner, Vachon, Verow, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

NAY - Alley, Babbidge, Bates, Beck, Beebe-Center, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy M, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fecteau, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gideon, Gilbert, Golden, Goode, Grant, Grohman, Hamann, Hawke, Herbig, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Lockman, Long, Longstaff, Luchini, Lyford, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Nadeau, Peterson, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Powers, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saucier, Sawicki, Schneck, Shaw, Stetkis, Tepler, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Welsh, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Buckland, Chapman, Dion, Kornfield, Noon, Nutting.

Yes, 63; No, 82; Absent, 6; Excused, 0.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 82 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **ASK** for a **COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE FAILED**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Preserve Agricultural Fairs" (EMERGENCY)
(H.P. 707) (L.D. 1024)

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

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative MAREAN of Hollis, the House voted to **ADHERE**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 105)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

March 31, 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 64 "An Act to Reduce the Time within Which a Challenge to a Tax Lien Foreclosure May Be Filed."

The right of an individual to appeal a government taking is a serious matter. During the 126th Legislature, this issue was addressed and the time period for appeal was reduced from 15 years to 5 years when LD 1389 became law, and has only applied to tax liens recorded after October 13, 2014. Now, less than a year after I signed LD 1389 into law and less than 7 months since the provision has applied to tax liens that have been filed, this proposal would further reduce the time for appeal to 3 years. I do not believe there has been sufficient evidence during this brief time period to suggest that further reduction in this appeal period is warranted at this time, which is why I return this bill to you today.

There are many pressing issues before you today that address the immediate problems facing the people of Maine. I am not convinced that this bill addresses one of them and I cannot support passing a law that limits the rights of individuals unnecessarily.

For these reasons, I return LD 64 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,
S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act To Reduce the Time within Which a Challenge to a Tax Lien Foreclosure May Be Filed

(H.P. 58) (L.D. 64)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative Verow.

Representative **VEROW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this particular bill I submitted and it was heard by the Taxation Committee and given a vote of unanimous support and Ought to Pass. The bill is to reduce the time limit within which a challenge to a tax lien may be filed.

We're all aware in our communities throughout the state that there are a number of dilapidated, run-down properties that sit vacant for long periods of time. Those become vandalized, they're subject to fires, and, perhaps even people squatting in

those houses. And the properties become deteriorated. The lawns aren't taken care of.

This bill allows municipalities to take action in a timely manner after foreclosure where they can move in and put these properties on the market so that other people may purchase those and fix them up. This was supported by the Maine Municipal Association; there was no opposition when it came to public hearing. And, with that Mr. Speaker, I have testified that this was a good bill to allow towns and cities to take action in a timely manner to protect health and safety of residents in their neighborhoods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative FREDETTE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I do see the wise comments in regards to this particular bill. However, in reading the veto letter from the Chief Executive, I do think that it makes sense.

If you actually look at the letter and read it, that this is a bill that actually, there was a bill passed less than a year ago, that only recently went into effect, reducing the period of time from 15 years down to five years, and it's been roughly seven months since that law has really had any chance to go into effect. And I think to the extent that we really don't have any real empirical evidence, over the past seven months to, you know, bring forward what, in fact, might be a good idea, it's an idea that might, in fact, not be right at this point in time for consideration by this Legislature.

And, so I think that the Chief Executive is correct on this one, and I would ask you to follow my light in sustaining the veto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 12V

YEA - Alley, Babbidge, Bates, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Crafts, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Devin, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy M, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fecteau, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gideon, Gilbert, Gillway, Golden, Goode, Grant, Grohman, Hamann, Harlow, Herbig, Hickman, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Longstaff, Luchini, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, Peterson, Picchiotti, Pierce T, Pouliot, Powers, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saucier, Schneck, Seavey, Shaw, Sherman, Short, Skolfield, Stanley, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Tepler, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Verow, Warren, Welsh, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Austin, Battle, Black, Campbell R, Corey, Dillingham, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Espling, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Gerrish, Ginzler, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanington, Hanley, Hawke, Head, Herrick, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobart, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Long, Lyford, Maker, Malaby, Marean, McClellan, McElwee, O'Connor, Parry, Pickett, Pierce J, Prescott, Reed, Sanderson, Sawicki, Sirocki, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Buckland, Dion, Kornfield, Noon, Nutting.
Yes, 89; No, 57; Absent, 5; Excused, 0.

89 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 106)
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

March 31, 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 48 "An Act to Reduce Registration Fees and Excise Taxes for For-hire Vehicles with Adaptive Equipment Enabling Access by Persons with Disabilities."

I am concerned when the Legislature decides bills that grant exemptions from paying taxes early in the session and outside of the context of the overall budget, especially when they impact commerce. As you know, the Legislature is currently considering a comprehensive budget proposal that addresses our overall tax system, and doesn't appear to have neared conclusion on those deliberations. Therefore, I do not believe it would be appropriate to support targeted exemptions on an isolated basis before the Legislature has acted comprehensively to address the future of all taxes in Maine, and to reduce the oppressive burden that the Income Tax has placed on families and businesses in Maine. That is why the Maine people elected us and why I have vetoed this bill today.

For these reasons, I return LD 48 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,
S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act To Reduce Registration Fees and Excise Taxes for For-hire Vehicles with Adaptive Equipment Enabling Access by Persons with Disabilities

(H.P. 42) (L.D. 48)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative Verow.

Representative VEROW: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, thank you again. This is another vetoed item that went before the Taxation Committee and received unanimous... This item appeared before the Taxation Committee and received a unanimous Ought to Pass report.

This is a matter of fairness in one sense, that excise tax is allowed on personal vehicles, and this would extend that to vehicles that are "for hire" to transport folks with disabilities and the elderly folks to places where they need to go for treatment. The reduction of the, it does provide for a reduction in the registration fee to the state from \$75 to \$35. That would be the impact on the state side.

The other part of that would be the excise tax forgiveness which would be a reduction with regard to revenues to towns and cities. Note that during the public hearing, there was support expressed by Maine Municipal Association, by the Maine Association of Social Workers, the MS Society of the State of Maine; and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles had no opposition to this as well.

So, again, it's an opportunity to have our "for hire" vehicles, our taxis, our limousines, that people often need to hire to get to their places of physical therapy or doctor's appointments. A lot of times people out in our rural areas have difficulty getting transported to those locations. This would encourage, this is a small measure to encourage "for hire" vehicles to adapt, get adapted their vehicles, so that they can accommodate many of those folks who live in our rural communities in particular. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Seavey.

Representative **SEAVEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I urge you to vote yea on the pending motion. To reiterate, this bill would do two things. It would reduce the registration fee from 70 dollars to 35 dollars for "for hire" vehicles. It would also reduce the excise tax by subtracting from the value of the vehicle, the value of the adaptive equipment.

According to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, there are about one thousand registered taxis in the state. However, the number with adaptive equipment for wheel chairs is quite small, very, very small. Despite public transportation provided throughout the state, this nowhere meets the needs of those with disabilities. Private vendors can help meet the needs to fill these gaps, but there are simply only several vehicles so far, a woefully small number. Financial incentives that can be provided to purchase new vehicles or to retrofit present ones can help alleviate the shortage. But even though, these financial incentives provided in the bill are also woefully inadequate.

This bill, according to the fiscal statement, is very minor. So minor, in fact, it was sent to the Chief Executive without even stopping at the Transportation table. The reason for the veto according to the Chief Executive is that we are working on a major tax proposal. And therefore, let's not add or subtract exemptions to the income or sales tax until we have concluded that policy.

The problem with that is that if the tax proposal is not presented to the Taxation Committee, but submitted within the budget, and eventually will go to Appropriations we're simply making a recommendation to the Appropriations Committee. As you know, along the way, things can be added, removed from the budget bill very easily. We thought this bill merited a standalone bill, which it is.

No one at the public hearing opposed this building. You have already heard those who have supported it. So, for these reasons I urge you again to vote yes on the pending motion. Thank you.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 13V

YEA - Alley, Austin, Babbidge, Bates, Battle, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Black, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Campbell R, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Corey, Crafts, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Devin, Dillingham, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy L, Dunphy M, Edgecomb, Espling, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Farrin, Fecteau, Foley, Fowle, Fredette, Frey, Gattine, Gerrish, Gideon, Gilbert, Gillway, Ginzler, Golden, Goode, Grant, Greenwood, Grohman, Guerin, Hamann, Hanington, Hanley, Harlow, Hawke, Head, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobart, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell,

Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kinney J, Kinney M, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Lockman, Long, Longstaff, Luchini, Lyford, Maker, Malaby, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McClellan, McCreight, McElwee, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, O'Connor, Parry, Peterson, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Powers, Prescott, Reed, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Sanderson, Saucier, Sawicki, Schneck, Seavey, Shaw, Sherman, Short, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Tepler, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Verow, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, Warren, Welsh, White, Winsor, Wood, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Buckland, Dion, Kornfield, Noon, Nutting.

Yes, 146; No, 0; Absent, 5; Excused, 0.

146 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED**. Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 107)

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

April 2, 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 Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Head of Bethel, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw":

L.D. 748

An Act To Provide for Tiered Qualifications for Volunteer Firefighters in Certain Municipalities

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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:

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors"

(H.P. 823) (L.D. 1205)

Sponsored by Speaker EVES of North Berwick.

Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and Representatives: **BABBIDGE** of Kennebunk, **BATES** of Westbrook, **BEAVERS** of South Berwick, **BROOKS** of Lewiston, **BRYANT** of Windham, **BUCKLAND** of Farmington, **BURSTEIN** of Lincolnville, **CAMPBELL** of Newfield, **CAMPBELL** of Orrington,

CHENETTE of Saco, CHIPMAN of Portland, COOPER of Yarmouth, DAVITT of Hampden, DEVIN of Newcastle, DOORE of Augusta, DUNPHY of Old Town, EVANGELOS of Friendship, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FARRIN of Norridgewock, FOLEY of Wells, FOWLE of Vassalboro, FREY of Bangor, GATTINE of Westbrook, GILBERT of Jay, GOLDEN of Lewiston, GRANT of Gardiner, GROHMAN of Biddeford, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HOBART of Bowdoinham, HOBBS of Saco, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, HYMANSON of York, JORGENSEN of Portland, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, McELWEE of Caribou, MELARAGNO of Auburn, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, NADEAU of Winslow, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, PICKETT of Dixfield, PIERCE of Falmouth, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, SANBORN of Gorham, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SCHNECK of Bangor, STUCKEY of Portland, TEPLER of Topsham, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, TUELL of East Machias, VEROW of Brewer, Senators: JOHNSON of Lincoln, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock, MILLETT of Cumberland, MIRAMANT of Knox, SAVIELLO of Franklin, VOLK of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act To Allow County Corrections Officers To Participate in the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program" (H.P. 824) (L.D. 1206)

Sponsored by Representative TUCKER of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, BRYANT of Windham, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CHENETTE of Saco, HOBBS of Saco, MARTIN of Sinclair, Senators: DUTREMBLE of York, VALENTINO of York.

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

On motion of Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Resolve, To Implement an Online Professional Development Platform for Teachers and Educators

(H.P. 825) (L.D. 1207)

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

Bill "An Act To Increase Funding for the Maine Community College System"

(H.P. 838) (L.D. 1220)

Sponsored by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and Representatives: BLUME of York, DAVITT of Hampden, GRANT of Gardiner, MAKER of Calais, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, HASKELL of Cumberland, ROSEN of Hancock.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Bill "An Act To Provide Lower Energy Costs to Maine Businesses and Residences by Carrying Out the Legislature's Intent Regarding Funding of the Efficiency Maine Trust"

(H.P. 833) (L.D. 1215)

Sponsored by Representative GIDEON of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and Representative: DUNPHY of Embden, Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act To Enhance Energy Cost Reduction and Facilitate Heating Alternatives in furtherance of the Omnibus Energy Act" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 839) (L.D. 1221)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.
Cosponsored by Representative: DUNPHY of Embden.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Bill "An Act Concerning Pavement Sealing Products"

(H.P. 826) (L.D. 1208)

Sponsored by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CHIPMAN of Portland, HARLOW of Portland, JORGENSEN of Portland, MAKER of Calais, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, TEPLER of Topsham, TUCKER of Brunswick, WHITE of Washburn.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bill "An Act To Increase the Effectiveness of Peer Supports in the State"

(H.P. 827) (L.D. 1209)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland and Representatives: HAMANN of South Portland, PETERSON of Rumford, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, KATZ of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act To Improve the Authority of Guardians of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism"

(H.P. 834) (L.D. 1216)

Sponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, PETERSON of Rumford, STEARNS of Guilford, STUCKEY of Portland, TUCKER of Brunswick.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

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

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resolve, To Convene a Work Group To Propose Changes to the Statutes Governing Dental Practice

(H.P. 828) (L.D. 1210)

Sponsored by Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Bill "An Act To Provide Rule-making Powers and Increased Authority over Dental Hygienists to the Subcommittee on Dental Hygienists"

(H.P. 829) (L.D. 1211)

Sponsored by Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act To Require at Least 2 Weeks' Advance Notice of the Work Schedule for Hourly Employees at Certain Businesses" (H.P. 835) (L.D. 1217)

Sponsored by Representative MELARAGNO of Auburn. Cosponsored by Representative GOODE of Bangor, Senator GERZOFKY of Cumberland and Representatives: CHIPMAN of Portland, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DUNPHY of Old Town, GOLDEN of Lewiston, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MOONEN of Portland, PIERCE of Falmouth, WARREN of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists"

(H.P. 836) (L.D. 1218)

Sponsored by Representative NUTTING of Oakland. Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CHACE of Durham, McCABE of Skowhegan.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bill "An Act To Support Transparency in Government through the Maine Capitol Connection Channel Program"

(H.P. 830) (L.D. 1212)

Sponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, JORGENSEN of Portland, MAKER of Calais, McCABE of Skowhegan, Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, HILL of York.

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Bill "An Act To Ensure Fair Competition by and between Maine's Commercial Tracks"

(H.P. 831) (L.D. 1213)

Sponsored by Representative VACHON of Scarborough. Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Representatives: McELWEE of Caribou, RUSSELL of Portland, SIROCKI of Scarborough, Senators: DIAMOND of Cumberland, DUTREMBLE of York, VALENTINO of York.

Bill "An Act To Allow Active Members and Veterans of the Armed Forces Who Are at Least 18 Years of Age and under 21 Years of Age To Consume Alcohol at Eligible Veterans' Organization Posts and American Legion Halls"

(H.P. 837) (L.D. 1219)

Sponsored by Representative NADEAU of Winslow. Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, CHENETTE of Saco, DOORE of Augusta, FARRIN of Norridgewock, GILBERT of Jay, GOLDEN of Lewiston, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, SHORT of Pittsfield.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville, the following House Order: (H.O. 17)

ORDERED, that Representative Kevin J. Battle of South Portland be excused March 17, 18 and 19 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Paul Chace of Durham be excused March 24, 25 and 26 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Kathleen R. J. Dillingham of Oxford be excused March 24 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Norman E. Higgins of Dover-Foxcroft be excused March 26 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sheldon Mark Hanington of Lincoln be excused March 26 for legislative business.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Gary E. Sukeforth of Appleton be excused March 18 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Karen Phair, of Dixfield, who teaches at Dirigo High School, who was chosen as the 2015 Maine Family and Consumer Science Education Teacher of the Year. Ms. Phair teaches all of the high school seniors to plan careers, eat healthy, reduce stress and balance their lives. We extend our congratulations to her on her receiving this well-deserved award;

(HLS 156)

Presented by Representative PICKETT of Dixfield.

Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative PICKETT of Dixfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative PICKETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand today to recognize an extraordinary educator, Mrs. Karen Phair. The Maine Association of Family and Consumer Sciences have selected Mrs. Phair as their Teacher of the Year. This award is presented to the teacher who has created and implemented the most exceptional educational program of this academic year in the Field of Family and Consumer Sciences. Mrs. Phair is described by her peers in education as being a perfect example of what this award stands for and more.

Karen has developed and teaches a unique course at Dirigo High School called "Future Perspective." This is a class that is required for every senior at Dirigo. The course provides students with a wealth of knowledge concerning what lies ahead after graduation including how to plan careers, eating healthy, reducing stress, and balancing all aspects of their lives in general. This class teaches major life skills to students getting ready to enter "the real world."

The Principal at Dirigo High School, Mr. Poulin, describes Mrs. Phair as, I quote: "a true faculty leader, an outstanding teacher, and a wonderful role model for students," end quote. I would add my personal observations to Mr. Poulin's very appropriate description. Karen is loved, respected, and appreciated by her students and her community.

Please join me in recognizing Mrs. Karen Phair, Maine's Newest Teacher of the Year for her amazing accomplishment.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Refer to the Committee on Judiciary
Pursuant to Resolve

Representative HOBBS for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Mental Health Working Group"

(H.P. 832) (L.D. 1214)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 106, section 3.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Reduce Youth Cancer Risk"

(S.P. 57) (L.D. 123)

Signed:

Senator:

HASKELL of Cumberland

Representatives:

GATTINE of Westbrook
 BURSTEIN of Lincolnville
 HAMANN of South Portland
 HEAD of Bethel
 HYMANSON of York
 STUCKEY of Portland
 VACHON of Scarborough

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin
 McCORMICK of Kennebec

Representatives:

MALABY of Hancock
 PETERSON of Rumford
 SANDERSON of Chelsea

Came from the Senate with the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
READ.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Sanborn.

Representative **SANBORN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, skin cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in the United States.

Among young people age 15-29, melanoma is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer. Melanoma is the most deadly form of skin cancer. I'm not sure if any of you have ever seen someone die from melanoma. I have. And I can still picture a patient that I had as a resident with a huge, black, swollen leg that was foul smelling, and he succumbed to this devastating disease. In this gentleman's case, quite honestly, it was just a horrible way to die.

This year, an estimated 320 Mainers will be diagnosed with melanoma. Maine has a higher incidence rate of melanoma than the national average, and that includes the counties of Knox,

Cumberland, York, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Hancock, Oxford, and Penobscot.

Exposure to UV radiation can cause changes in DNA and skin cells, which lead to melanoma in the future, and this effect is cumulative. Therefore, no tan is considered safe. For young people who tan, the risk of developing skin cancer is even higher with melanoma risk being increased by 59 percent if an indoor tanning device is used before the age of 35. Misinformation and deception, and deceptive practices from the indoor tanning industry and salons are partly to blame for such high tanning rates among high school girls as evidenced by a 2012 Congressional Committee report, and a 2010 Federal Trade Commission settlement with the Indoor Tanning Association.

According to the director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, at the time of this settlement, quote, "The messages promoted by the indoor tanning industry fly in the face of scientific evidence. The industry needs to do a better job of communicating the risks of tanning to consumers. Cultural pressure, parental support of tanning, tanning industry marketing, and geographic proximity to tanning facilities also contribute to adolescents' likelihood to tan indoors."

According to the 2011 study published by the *American Journal of Public Health*, adolescents age 14-17 were 80 percent more likely to tan indoors if they believed people with a tan looked more attractive or felt that their parents allowed them to use indoor tanning. This past year the Surgeon General released a call to action to prevent skin cancer, calling for an increased effort to reduce exposure to UV radiation especially through the use of indoor tanning devices.

In May of 2014, the United States Food and Drug Administration reclassified tanning devices from a less dangerous Class 1, to a more dangerous Class 2 device. As part of the additional restrictions, device manufacturers will have to include a visible black box warning stating that people younger than 18 years should not use the devices. Many U.S. and Maine organizations support laws that would prohibit the use of tanning devices by minors including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Dermatology, and the American Medical Association.

These laws have been shown to be effective. States that have age restrictions in place have lower teen tanning rates than states that do not have age restrictions. To date, nine states, including Texas and Louisiana, have passed similar comprehensive legislation prohibiting the use of tanning devices by minors, without exception, in order to protect their state's youth. Similar age restrictions on harmful substances and services have been placed on tobacco products and on alcohol. Restricting access to indoor tanning devices based on age is no different.

I know that many believe it is up to parents to decide how best to protect their children. The problem with this rational in regards to indoor tanning is that many parents are completely unaware of the risks. I share this story with you about testimony that was offered to the Health and Human Services Committee last session about a young man whose grandparents are members of the Gorham church that Representative McLean and I both attend. During the bill's public hearing, the parents of a law student, Andy, testified in favor of the bill.

Andy succumbed to melanoma at age 27. Andy's father shared, "Andy would ask you to pass this legislation in order to save lives. Andy would tell you that his melanoma did not have a warning sign. He went to the infirmary at his law school, and after several tests, tumors were found in his pancreas, liver, lungs, and spleen. We were in the room when his father gave

him his diagnosis. We do not wish that experience on any family." He explained that as well as enjoying the outdoors a lot, Andy, along with many kids his age, used a tanning booth primarily prior to prom. Quote, "Little did he, or we, know the damage being done to him," unquote.

I encourage you to read the fact sheet from the American Cancer Society debunking the false claims of the industry. Unfortunately, many parents believe the myths the industry has promoted. This Legislature has an opportunity to send a clear parents to protect their children from cancer by passing this bill. Please join me in voting to protect our children. Prom season is upon us, and no prom is worth the risk. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newcastle, Representative Devin.

Representative **DEVIN**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand today because I'm probably in a unique position of, I actually work with UV light.

First of all, I'd like to state that the propane gas that's used in your home in cooking stoves is scented. It's scented because it's highly dangerous to us, and without the scent, we wouldn't know if there were leaks. Likewise, UV light, we can't actually see that, and the federal government mandates that we color it with a blue, or bluish-purple, tint so that we know when a UV light is on.

I'm required with my work through the University of Maine to get annual safety training on UV light to protect not only my skin, but my eyes. And how I use it is to kill bacterial cells, protists, many species of ciliates, and destroy viruses. And I take UV light and I shine it into sea water, and that UV light is highly effective at killing these various organisms that I've just listed. The same thing that it is doing to those organisms, it's doing to our skin and eyes. It's a no brainer to me that we need to put these safeguards in place, and I hope that you'll follow my light. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Representative **FREDETTE** of Newport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Sanderson.

Representative **SANDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, there is no doubt that tanning does come with risks, however, at what point does the government become the parent of our children, and at what point do we let parents be the parents of our children?

We already have a very highly regulated system for our children under the age of 18 in this state; 13 and under cannot tan at any time; 14 and 15 year olds, they must have parental permission, the parent must stay on the premises at all times; 16 and 17 year olds, they need parental permission, the parents must sign a permission slip in the presence of the operator at the tanning facility. These kids are not just going in, and not just tanning without any parental oversight at all.

There's also the very real effect that when you're 16 and 17 years old, beauty is a very, it's a very important thing to a young girl at that age, and young gentlemen as well. If we remove an environment that is somewhat controlled, they are going to tan outside, they are going to tan in someone's basement or sunroom where they may have a private tanning booth. At least, in these salons, the tanning salons where they have the operators, they have the beds that have been inspected, they are the safest that there are, and also it is in a controlled environment. I urge you to reject this. Let our parents be the parents of our children. We don't need to be. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Vachon.

Representative **VACHON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand in support of LD 123, An Act to Reduce Youth Cancer Risk.

Anytime we can learn more about deadly cancer and change our ways, is a step toward better health.

Many of us come from an era of baby oil tanning; today, we all know better.

Make no mistake, I am pro-business, and I don't like government dictating what I can and can't do in my personal choices and business practice. However, with choice comes responsibility, and with the increased knowledge of skin cancer risks and causes comes a responsibility of the beauty industry and associated businesses to be responsible and change—perhaps redefine beauty that a tan is not all it is cracked up to be.

It's unfortunate that laws such as this need to be proposed to get businesses to pay attention and change. Like baby oil tanning, I hope tanning beds will become a thing of the past.

For the better health of all, I believe this proposed law is a step in the right direction, and I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Hymanson.

Representative **HYMANSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I rise in favor of this motion. The evidence is now very clear. For some vulnerable teenagers, even limited exposure to tanning bed UV light will prime the skin to later cause melanoma, the deadliest and most disfiguring of skin cancers.

What is different now than when this bill came before this body before, is a black box warning. When evidence of danger becomes so clear and so deadly, the FDA issues a black box warning. This goes above the potential serious side effects listed on a package insert for a medication, or what you hear in a medication ad. When a black box warning comes out, the pharmaceutical companies send out registered letters or personal visits to physicians. I know, as a physician I received these.

There is a black box warning now that for teenagers less than 18 years old, the risk of tanning beds outweighs the benefits because they prime the skin to produce deadly and disfiguring malignant melanoma.

Tanning beds have been banned entirely for this age group in France, Brazil, California, most of Canada, Hawaii, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, and Utah. Here in Maine, it is already banned under age 14.

Teenagers underestimate the risks. Parents do not always know the enormity of the risks when they give their consent for a year's worth of tanning to their teenager in Maine. Or, they don't know their teenager is tanning as much as they are. As a mother of three, I say, "Imagine that, not knowing what your teenager is doing."

At our public hearing in Health and Human Services, a teacher of high school Prom Preparation, Prom Prep, imagine that, said he asked a parent, "Why did you let your daughter tan in a tanning bed if you knew it was so dangerous?" The mother said, "If it's so dangerous, it should be illegal." We have a chance to do that by voting in favor of this motion as I will do today. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Representative Bear.

Representative **BEAR**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in favor of this motion. I rise

to speak for those who, like myself, have been, or may become foster children.

In the State of Maine, having lived in four good Maine foster homes, having benefitted from Maine's role in my life, I would urge that we consider those 2,500 children between the ages of 12 and 17 that are being talked about in the newspaper as needing foster homes in this motion, and that you support it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 14

YEA - Alley, Babbidge, Bates, Battle, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Devin, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy M, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fecteau, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gideon, Gilbert, Golden, Goode, Grant, Grohman, Hamann, Harlow, Head, Herbig, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Longstaff, Luchini, Maker, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, Picchiotti, Pierce T, Powers, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saucier, Schneck, Seavey, Shaw, Short, Stanley, Stuckey, Tepler, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Vachon, Verow, Warren, Welsh, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Austin, Bickford, Black, Campbell R, Corey, Crafts, Dillingham, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Espling, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanington, Hanley, Hawke, Herrick, Hobart, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Long, Lyford, Malaby, Marean, McClellan, McElwee, O'Connor, Parry, Peterson, Pickett, Pierce J, Pouliot, Prescott, Reed, Sanderson, Sawicki, Sherman, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Sukeforth, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Tuell, Turner, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Buckland, Dion, Kornfield, Noon, Nutting.
Yes, 87; No, 59; Absent, 5; Excused, 0.

87 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass Report was ACCEPTED.

The Bill was READ ONCE.

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

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** 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. 143) (L.D. 375) Bill "An Act To Create a Blue Alert Program in Maine" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 171) (L.D. 442) Bill "An Act To Clarify Municipal Capacity for Site Location of Development and Encourage Local Development" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 217) (L.D. 624) 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" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 354) (L.D. 515) Bill "An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Commercial Learner's Permits" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 35) (L.D. 37) Bill "An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-29)**

(H.P. 217) (L.D. 323) Bill "An Act To Provide Funding to the Department of Transportation To Complete the Assessment for the Completion of the State-owned St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Line" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-28)**

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act To Amend the Charter of the Hampden Water District
(S.P. 85) (L.D. 216)
(C. "A" S-9)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 131 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act To Temporarily Reduce the Annual High-stakes Beano Fee from \$50,000 to \$25,000
(H.P. 188) (L.D. 270)
(C. "A" H-23)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 124 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act To Limit the Liability of Landowners Who Allow Recreational Climbing on Their Land
(S.P. 13) (L.D. 12)

An Act To Specify That Theft by Deception Includes False Claims Regarding Military Service
(H.P. 37) (L.D. 43)
(C. "A" H-21)

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Service of Process in Eviction Actions
(H.P. 65) (L.D. 71)

An Act To Ensure Maine Companies Have Access to Skilled Labor

(H.P. 81) (L.D. 109)
(C. "A" H-20)

An Act To Extend the Statutory Sunset of the Green Power Offer

(H.P. 234) (L.D. 340)
(C. "A" H-22)

An Act Relating to the Sale of Hypodermic Apparatuses

(H.P. 255) (L.D. 389)

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

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

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

An Act To Restore the Right To Possess Certain Knives That Are Used by Many Citizens as Tools

(H.P. 182) (L.D. 264)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative **SHORT** of Pittsfield, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Short.

Representative **SHORT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise to speak in opposition of the enactment of LD 264, An Act To Restore the Right To Possess Knives That Are Used by Maine Citizens as Tools. There are a number of things that I find troubling about this bill, Mr. Speaker.

I find it especially troubling there is no mention of the fact that this bill, if enacted, the sale and the purchase and the right to carry switchblades will become legal. I also find it to be troubling that this bill is clearly an attempt to legalize switchblades by referring to them as a simple tool of the trades.

Mr. Speaker, my father was the head of a maintenance department at a huge TB Hospital, in the late 50s and into the early 1970s. He had around ten workers in his maintenance crew. I used to follow my dad around that hospital on a regular basis as he performed his duties in maintenance. Never once, Mr. Speaker, did I ever hear my father say, "My job would be so much easier if I had a switchblade in my tool box."

I also hung around the maintenance shop where those other ten workers were on a daily basis. And again, Mr. Speaker, I never once heard any of them say that, "My job would be so much easier if I had a switchblade in my toolbox."

Mr. Speaker, in the early 1970s I had the good fortune to attend four different trade schools and never once did I hear the teacher say that every plumber, electrician, welder, pipefitter, tin smith, and carpenter needs a good old switchblade in their tool box.

As someone that worked in the maintenance department at S.D. Warren Mill in Skowhegan for over 18 years, I never once found myself wishing I had a switchblade in my toolbox, and I never heard anyone else that worked in that mill wishing that they had a switchblade in their toolbox.

As someone that worked at Bath Iron Works for four years, which employs somewhere around 2,500 trade's people, I never

once heard anyone there say that their job would be much easier if they had a switchblade in their toolbox.

So, obviously, I'm not buying what this bill is selling. My many years of experience tells me that switchblade knives are not needed in the toolboxes of men and women in the State of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, switchblade laws were passed in the late 1950s on the state and federal level and the decision to outlaw them was based on bad experiences. Over the last week I have taken every opportunity to tell people that we are about to legalize switchblade knives. I did it just to watch their reaction, and I can tell you that not one was positive.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I have not been able to find any age limit that will restrict the purchasing and carrying of switchblades if this bill is enacted. Back in the 1950s, switchblades were given the nickname, "The Toy that Kills."

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I ask each of you to give careful thought before voting to enact LD 264, which will legalize "the toy that kills," the switchblade knife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Yarmouth, Representative Cooper.

Representative **COOPER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to this motion because I have held in my hand a switchblade.

For some perverse reason a boyfriend of mine gave me one. I don't know where he got it, but I've got to tell you, it was the most frightening device that I have ever seen. It is extremely sharp on both sides of the blade. With just a touch of a button, it flips open, straight out, and it is clearly meant to kill. It is not a tool. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Canaan, Representative Stetkis.

Representative **STETKIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I would like to share with this body the reasoning behind LD 264, "An Act To Restore the Right To Possess Certain Knives That Are Used by Many Citizens as Tools." This bill repeals an old 1959 law which made illegal certain cutting tools solely on the mechanics in which they are opened.

I think we can all agree that because of technology and innovation over the last 55 years, our world is much different. In 1959 Americans were watching the premiers of *Bonanza* and *Rawhide* on black and white T.V.'s and today we are streaming On Demand High Definition movies on our flatscreens.

The same type of advancement has occurred in almost every other aspect of our lives, including the innovations in modern day tools. Many of these advancements have made the use of certain tools easier and safer to use.

Some of our modern cutting tools that are specifically designed for saving lives by firefighters, EMT's, and law enforcement are illegal here in the State of Maine. A pocket knife carried by a hiker, fisherman, or hunter can be illegal if the mechanics in which they open resemble that of the 1959 statute.

Another issue is the fact that hundreds of modern, legal knives so closely resemble the mechanics described in statute, it causes enough confusion that law enforcement is put in a difficult situation and many times inadvertently charges someone with a crime and confiscates property only to find out in court, at the expense of a law abiding citizen, that in fact what they are carrying is legal here in Maine. But at that point the damage has already been done. Charges have been made and recorded, lawyer's fees paid, and time lost from work to be in court.

Not only was this bill passed unanimously out of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee "Ought to Pass," but it was

supported by the Sheriff's Association, The Sportsman Alliance of Maine, The American Knife and Tool Institute, companies like Cabela's, Buck and Gerber, but most importantly testimonies from local law enforcement, firefighters, EMT's, and law abiding citizens in favor of repealing this law and permitting us all the right to use more convenient and safer tools while protecting Maine people from being injured under this statute.

I would like to ask the members of the House to support the unanimous "Ought to Pass" recommendation on this commonsense bipartisan legislation, and with that, I would like to read an e-mail that was sent to me while we were in the middle of this process.

This is from a gentleman from Peru, Maine. He e-mails me, he says:

"I purchased a Smith & Wesson M&P3 spring assisted knife from Cabela's in Scarborough, Maine on December 20, 2014 as a Christmas gift. Soon after Christmas, my 23 year old son was involved in a routine traffic stop in the Rumford area. The state trooper asked him if he had any weapons in the vehicle. He said he had a folding knife. He was asked to see it.

He explained to my son that it was a spring assisted and it was illegal in the State of Maine and that he was going to confiscate it and also charge him with "possession of a dangerous weapon." He has retained a lawyer and has a court appearance in February. My son is a Dean's List college student, has a job, no priors. He's the outdoors type, hunter, fisherman, overall a good person.

I contacted Cabela's Elite Customer Care Division and they spoke with me via phone. They said that Cabela's and Smith & Wesson's legal staff do not deem spring assisted knives as being illegal in the State of Maine."

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative Chenette.

Representative CHENETTE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of the committee, I just wanted to give a different perspective to this. Currently, we are criminalizing people for simply having a tool and that is exactly what this is.

You can go down to Cabela's, the Agway, Walmart and yes, even our beloved Marden's to purchase this tool that individuals utilize. It is not fair that we are allowed to go down to the local store and buy this, and then we're turning around and having law enforcement enforce a law that doesn't exist on this particular policy. We are clarifying the existing statute to ensure we're not criminalizing people, we're not charging people unnecessarily and throwing them into jail that are already overcrowded and have a lack of funds.

So, I would implore people to recognize the difference between criminal activity and possession of a tool. If you commit a crime with a weapon, you can still be charged with that crime. We are not taking that away from you. A simple kitchen knife could be used in a crime. I would just like to reflect on that. And, also, we work really hard in the Criminal Justice Committee to get to you a unanimous, bipartisan report. We do not take that lightly, and so I would ask that this body respect that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Standish, Representative Shaw.

Representative SHAW: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just so the body knows I carry an Italian stiletto switchblade with me every single day.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 15

YEA - Austin, Bates, Battle, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Black, Brooks, Burstein, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Corey, Crafts, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Dillingham, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy L, Dunphy M, Edgecomb, Espling, Evangelos, Farrin, Foley, Fowle, Fredette, Gattine, Gerrish, Gideon, Gillway, Ginzler, Golden, Grant, Greenwood, Grohman, Guerin, Hamann, Hanington, Hawke, Head, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobart, Hobbins, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kinney J, Kinney M, Kumiega, Lajoie, Lockman, Long, Longstaff, Luchini, Lyford, Maker, Malaby, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McClellan, McCreight, McElwee, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, O'Connor, Parry, Peterson, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Powers, Prescott, Reed, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Sanderson, Saucier, Sawicki, Schneck, Seavey, Shaw, Sherman, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Sukeforth, Tepler, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Tipping-Spitz, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, Warren, Welsh, White, Winsor, Wood, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Alley, Babbidge, Beavers, Blume, Bryant, Campbell J, Chipman, Cooper, Devin, Farnsworth, Fecteau, Frey, Gilbert, Goode, Harlow, Hogan, Kruger, Nadeau, Rotundo, Short, Stanley, Stuckey, Tucker, Verow.

ABSENT - Buckland, Campbell R, Dion, Hanley, Kornfield, Noon, Nutting.

Yes, 120; No, 24; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

120 having voted in the affirmative and 24 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (12) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (1) **Ought to Pass** - Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act To Allow a Person To Request a Pardon from the Governor for the Purpose of Restoring Gun Rights"

(H.P. 162) (L.D. 230)

TABLED - April 1, 2015 (Till Later Today) by Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

Subsequently, Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Fowle.

Representative FOWLE: Mr. Speaker, this bill is about separation of government. It passed with a 12-1 vote. It talks about pardons, and whether or not we're going to request for the Governor, the Chief Executive, to allow, whether or not he's going to allow pardons.

In our committee, we have an advisee group. And, it's called the Criminal Law Advisee Commission. It's a commission that was put together to advise the criminal justice, and it comprises of three judges, three prosecutors, and three defense attorneys. They meet every week when we're in session to go review bills that we're going to have in front of us.

And I want to just say something about what they thought, just a few of their points. They said they, "Oppose LD 230 because it is unconstitutional as a violation to the separations of powers provisioned in the Maine Constitution." And they gave us a number of other reasons, but at the end of their paper they said, "The point is that the decision belongs to restoring one's right to possess a firearm to the point," I'm sorry, let me know start over. "To point is that this decision belongs to the Governor and the legislators cannot require the Governor grant a pardon or consider a request for a pardon to restore the rights to possess a firearm," or for any matter, we can't request it for any purpose.

It's up to the Chief Executive to make pardons and it's not up to us as legislators to request what he should consider in those arguments. So I argue that we support the motion on the floor that is a 12-1 report. And as you heard from the last bill, we worked very hard to get to a unanimous point in bills, and every once in a while you get one person that won't come along for whatever reason, and it opens a door. But I really ask you to support that this is something that should belong to the Chief Executive's Office, and only to him, that we don't start legislating what we're going to ask him to issue pardons over. Thank you.

Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative O'Connor.

Representative **O'CONNOR**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, when this issue was brought to my attention, I had no idea that an individual who was nonviolent, or a nonviolent criminal, could not seek to have a fundamental right, the right to bear arms, restored in Maine.

This legislation seeks to change one sentence; one sentence on the parole board website. That sentence is: "Petitioners seeking a pardon for the sole purpose of carrying a firearm to hunt or otherwise, will not be heard." If an individual has served his time, paid his debt to society, and is deemed fit to walk free in society again, it seems to me there ought to be at least a path to full restoration of rights.

Examples of this could be someone convicted of tax fraud, or perhaps taking too many fish commercially, or even if that individual only serves one day, they permanently lose their right to keep and bear arms. This seems not only unreasonable to me, but a direct assault on an individual's ability to protect themselves and their loved ones, or participate in the time-honored traditions of hunting to feed themselves and their loved ones.

This bill would bring Maine in line with federal law in restoring complete gun rights to felons, so long as they were not convicted of crimes against a person; NOT convicted of crimes against a person. Felons convicted of nonviolent offenses have their rights restored as soon as they receive an unconditional discharge.

This legislation does not wave the process an individuals must go to to restore this fundamental right. The present governor and all governors of the future will still have the jurisdiction to grant or deny a pardon for restoration of second amendment rights, or for any other reason. I ask you, the esteemed members of this body, can an individual be considered free if their ability to protect their life or provide for their family is impeded with no path for restoration of this fundamental right.

If you agree the answer to this question is "no," you would have to agree that previously convicted felons are not ever free, and it's incumbent upon you to pass this legislation. And I'm sure many of you that in this body right now have an individual that

you represent that have found themselves unable to get gainful employment because of the many difficulties in obtaining a pardon. I also think that some of the reason behind this objection to the pardon board is that they may be very busy and have a lot of work to do if this law is passed. I urge you to follow my light on this. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newfield, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, the way I read this is a bill, "An Act To Allow a Person To Request a Pardon from the Governor for the Purpose of Restoring Gun Rights."

I don't see where we have any right to take a right away from a person, that if he wants to request something from the Governor, who are we to tell him he can't go down and see the Governor and ask for it? Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative Chenette.

Representative **CHENETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the previous speaker. This is not about supporting or not supporting second amendment rights.

The Chief Executive can do this today. He has that power to do so through the typical pardoning process. So, if he chooses or not chooses to do something, that's on him. That's not on us. We don't need a bill to reaffirm an existing power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Timberlake.

Representative **TIMBERLAKE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I wasn't going to rise but I am because I had a constituent that wanted to apply for a pardon for something that happened about 20 years ago, and he's been a good, outstanding citizen, and it wasn't a crime against anybody or anything.

But his only reason for requesting the pardon was, he wanted to go hunting with his family again and he couldn't possess a gun. And, all we're doing in this bill is allowing him, for the only reason he wants to apply for a pardon, is to get a gun. Otherwise than that, you almost have to lie on your pardon request and tell them that you can't get an advancement in your job, or you can't do anything, or you can't get a job because of an act that you did 20 years ago, you can't tell the truth.

This allows people to tell the truth of why they want to apply for a pardon, and that's because they would like the right to bear an arm. It doesn't mean the Governor has to grant it, doesn't mean the parole board has to grant it, it just gives them a right to put that on the application and get a fair trial. That's all I ask you to please support this. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lisbon, Representative Crafts.

Representative **CRAFTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I have a friend who is a business man in the State of Maine who committed a nonviolent crime when he was 18 years old.

This gentleman now is in his 60's, he's run a big business, built many schools, Walmart's, Rite Aid's. And he's not been able to possess a firearm to hunt. He's raised a family, he's been a law abiding citizen his whole life, and I think that, you know, this needs to change. I think that there's a lot of people out there that made a mistake when they were young, or along the way, and I just ask that you support this please.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 16

YEA - Alley, Babbidge, Bates, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Devin, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy M, Espling, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gerrish, Gideon, Gilbert, Golden, Goode, Grant, Hamann, Harlow, Herbig, Hickman, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Longstaff, Luchini, Maker, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, Pickett, Pierce T, Powers, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saucier, Schneck, Shaw, Short, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Tepler, Theriault, Timmons, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Tuell, Verow, Warren, Welsh, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Austin, Battle, Black, Campbell J, Campbell R, Chace, Corey, Crafts, Dillingham, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Farrin, Fecteau, Foley, Gillway, Ginzler, Greenwood, Grohman, Guerin, Hanington, Hawke, Head, Herrick, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobart, Hobbins, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Long, Lyford, Malaby, Marean, Martin J, McClellan, McElwee, O'Connor, Parry, Peterson, Picchiotti, Pierce J, Pouliot, Prescott, Reed, Sanderson, Sawicki, Seavey, Sherman, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Timberlake, Turner, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Buckland, Dion, Fredette, Hanley, Kornfield, Noon, Nutting.

Yes, 81; No, 63; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 431)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 10:00 in the morning.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Improve Representation on the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System"

(S.P. 425) (L.D. 1198)

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 Increase Recycling and Composting by Creating the Maine Recycling Fund"

(S.P. 432) (L.D. 1204)

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 Correct and Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Laws"

(S.P. 423) (L.D. 1196)

Resolve, To Ensure the Stocking of Inland Waters in the State

(S.P. 429) (L.D. 1202)

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 Address the Detrimental Effects of Abandoned Property"

(S.P. 430) (L.D. 1203)

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 Create a Civil Cause of Action for Intentional Interference with Business Operations"

(S.P. 427) (L.D. 1200)

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

On motion of Representative **McCABE** of Skowhegan, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** in concurrence and later today assigned.

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services"

(S.P. 426) (L.D. 1199)

Bill "An Act To Standardize and Simplify the Process for Employers To Have a Drug-free Workplace Policy"

(S.P. 428) (L.D. 1201)

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 Allow Certificate of Approval Holders under the Liquor Licensing Laws To Donate Alcohol to Nonprofit Organizations"

(S.P. 424) (L.D. 1197)

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.

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 433)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAINE'S CREDIT UNIONS

WHEREAS, Maine's credit unions are member-owned and member-governed financial cooperatives dedicated and committed to serving the needs of their members and communities. The nonprofit structure of credit unions provides each member with an equal voice and representation in the operations of the credit union. Serving members in all 16 Maine counties and in every community, Maine's credit unions operate with the primary purpose of benefiting the more than 651,000 Maine consumers who use credit unions; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit that Maine's credit unions provide to Maine consumers is approximately \$48,000,000 annually, as a result of lower and fewer fees on products and services, lower interest rates on loans and higher interest rates on savings; and

WHEREAS, Maine is once again ranked as the nation's 5th strongest credit union state based on the percentage of the population that uses a credit union, a position Maine has held for 12 consecutive years. With more than 651,000 members, credit unions serve nearly one of every 2 Maine residents; and

WHEREAS, the 2,200 full-time and part-time employees of Maine's credit unions and the more than 1,000 unpaid volunteers who serve on credit union boards and committees demonstrate the core credit union values, philosophy and mission of people helping people by contributing to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, since 1990 Maine's credit unions and their members have raised \$5,300,000 to help end hunger in Maine, including a record-setting \$552,257 in 2014. One hundred percent of all money that is raised through the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger stays in Maine and goes directly to assist thousands of Maine families and individuals who otherwise would go hungry. In addition to contributing thousands of dollars to food pantries in communities across the State, Maine's credit unions also help to provide funds for statewide initiatives to help end hunger, such as being the primary source of funding for the State's only Food Mobile. In partnership with the Good Shepherd Food Bank, the Food Mobile has delivered over 4,000,000 pounds of food to food pantries in every Maine county since it began in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger has a commitment to the Good Shepherd Food Bank's efforts to end childhood hunger in Maine with its support of the Good Shepherd Food Bank's BackPack and School Pantry programs, as well as other childhood hunger initiatives serving more than 40 schools and over 1,000 students weekly; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Maine's credit unions contributed more than \$1,500,000 to a variety of causes and to a number of organizations, such as financial literacy programs, the American Red Cross and Special Olympics. In the past 12 years, members of Maine's credit unions contributed more than 350,000 hours, including more than 39,000 hours last year, volunteering for organizations and activities in communities throughout the State, making a significant and positive impact not only on the organizations that received this assistance but also on the people who were served by and benefited from the services and resources provided; and

WHEREAS, since 1921 Maine's credit unions have been enhancing the lives of thousands of Maine people, who have been helped to financial success and stability. Throughout Maine, credit unions continue to play a vital economic and socially responsible role in the lives of individuals and remain a

local, significant and stable presence in the communities they serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature, now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Credit Union League and Maine's credit unions for their positive contributions and the significant role they have played in the lives of Maine citizens and their communities for more than 90 years. Their service and dedication to this State are a tribute to those values and principles that we all hold dear; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Credit Union League and its 60 member credit unions.

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

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

On motion of Representative CHENETTE of Saco, the House adjourned at 12:13 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2015, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 431).