

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

**Daily Edition**

**Second Regular Session**

beginning January 6, 2016

beginning at page H-1188

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
23rd Legislative Day  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston assumed the Chair.  
The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.  
Prayer by Honorable Mark N. Dion, Portland.  
Colors presented by Franco American War Veterans' Color Guard, Post 31, Lewiston.  
National Anthem by Melanie Saucier, Fort Kent.  
Pledge of Allegiance by Honorable Michel A. Lajoie, Lewiston.  
Doctor of the day, David Rocker, M.D., Hampden.  
The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

---

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

**ORDERS**

On motion of Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1126) (Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin)

**RÉSOLUTION CONJOINTE HONORANT LES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS**

Considérant que, l'état du Maine est nommé après la province du Maine en France et que les villages de Paris et Calais portent les noms de la capitale de France et du port français de Calais, respectivement; et

Considérant que, plus d'un tiers de la population du Maine est de descendance française et canadienne, et les franco-américains du Maine ont contribué beaucoup à la beauté et la qualité de cet état; et

Considérant que, le français est la première langue de milliers de citoyens du Maine, et il y a eu une augmentation de l'utilisation de la langue française et une appréciation croissante de l'héritage franco-américain à travers l'état; et

Considérant que, des clubs et des associations pour promouvoir la culture et la langue française sont nés à travers l'état, y inclus le caucus francophone à la capitale; et

Considérant que, les gens qui parlent couramment le français et l'anglais sont une ressource économique et culturelle pour l'état du Maine; et

Considérant que, le tourisme culturel sera accru par les véritables centres franco-américains à travers l'état et la grande présence de franco-américains dans le Maine peut renforcer davantage nos relations avec le Canada, la France, et les autres pays francophones; et

Considérant que, le premier Jour Franco-Américain a été célébré mercredi, 6 mars, 2002, à la Capitale de l'État; maintenant, alors, qu'il soit

Résolu, que nous, les membres de la Cent-Vingt-septième Législature, assemblés dans la deuxième session régulière, au nom des gens que nous représentons, proclamons que mercredi, 16 mars, 2016 est le Jour Franco-Américain, soit célébré à la Capitale de l'État; et qu'il soit aussi

Résolu, que le Jour Franco-Américain soit célébré pour commémorer la riche histoire du peuple français dans l'état du Maine et aux États-Unis d'Amérique.

**JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE  
FRANCO-AMERICAN DAY**

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is named after the Province of Maine in France, and the towns of Paris and Calais owe their names to the capital city of France and the French port city of Calais, respectively; and

WHEREAS, more than 1/3 of the population of Maine is of French and Canadian descent and Franco-Americans in Maine have contributed much to the beauty and quality of this State; and

WHEREAS, French is the primary language of thousands of Maine citizens and there has been a resurgence in the use of the French language and a heightened appreciation of the Franco-American heritage throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, clubs and organizations to promote French culture and language have sprung up throughout the State, including the Francophone Caucus at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, fluent French-English bilingual people are a cultural and economic resource to the State; and

WHEREAS, cultural tourism can be greatly enhanced by the genuine Franco-American centers throughout the State, and the large Franco-American presence in Maine can further strengthen our relationships with Canada, France and the rest of the francophone world; and

WHEREAS, the first Franco-American Day was celebrated on Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at the State Capitol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, proclaim that Wednesday, March 16, 2016 is Franco-American Day, to be celebrated at the State Capitol; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Franco-American Day be celebrated to commemorate the rich history of the French people in the State of Maine and the United States of America.

**READ and ADOPTED.**

Sent for concurrence.

---

**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**Recognizing:**

Raymond John Lagueux, of Lewiston, on his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Lagueux grew up in Lewiston, the son of a Franco-American father and a Polish-American mother. He studied French at Lewiston High School, later earning degrees in French and German from Providence College and French language and literature from The Ohio State University. He taught the first French language program at Farmington State Teachers College. He also taught several classes at the University of Maine at Augusta's Lewiston-Auburn campus and for Lewiston Adult Education. Mr. Lagueux enjoyed teaching his Franco-American students and encouraged them to think positively, be confident and understand that their dialect or accent is valid and universally acceptable. In 1970, he worked with the Franco American Heritage Center, later the USM Lewiston-Auburn College Franco American Archives, for which he was the first chairman. From 1997 to 1999, he was a local coordinator for the Forum Francophone des Affaires. In 2004, he joined the board of the Franco American Heritage Center at St. Mary's, now the Gendron Franco Center, serving as secretary and vice-chair and ultimately as chair and interim executive director before retiring in 2015. We acknowledge Mr. Lagueux's service to his community and to the State, and we send him our

congratulations on his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame;

(HLS 1102)

Presented by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin, Senator MASON of Androscoggin, Senator PATRICK of Oxford, Representative BICKFORD of Auburn, Representative BROOKS of Lewiston, Representative CHACE of Durham, Representative CRAFTS of Lisbon, Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester, Representative GILBERT of Jay, Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative McCLELLAN of Raymond, Representative MELARAGNO of Auburn, Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston, Representative SAWICKI of Auburn, Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Representative WOOD of Greene.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

---

**Recognizing:**

Marcel R. Viger, of Kennebunk, on his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Viger was born in Salem, Massachusetts and resided in Biddeford for 52 years before recently moving to Kennebunk. A bilingual advocate for the French-speaking community, he practiced law in Biddeford for over 35 years, one of the few attorneys in the area who spoke French. He was invaluable to those who needed to speak with someone in French but be represented in English. He joined with Robert R. Gosselin and Albert Deshaies to start the St. Joseph's Federal Credit Union to assist Franco-Americans in obtaining loans. Mr. Viger was the first president of the credit union and also a board member. Mr. Viger served as city solicitor for Biddeford through the 1970s. He was also involved in the choir at St. Joseph's Church, the restoration project of St. Joseph's Church, the Tri-City Community Chorus and the St. Louis Alumni Association. He served in the United States Army, with 2 years in the Judge Advocate General's office at Fort Dix in New Jersey and 6 months at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He made tape recordings and handwritten copies of traditional French songs for children to help preserve French culture for the future. We acknowledge Mr. Viger's service to his community and to the State, and we send him our congratulations on the occasion of his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame;

(HLS 1103)

Presented by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk. Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator COLLINS of York, Senator HILL of York, Senator VALENTINO of York, Senator VOLK of Cumberland, Senator WOODSOME of York, Representative BEAVERS of South Berwick, Representative BLUME of York, Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield, Representative CHENETTE of Saco, Speaker EVES of North Berwick, Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford, Representative FOLEY of Wells, Representative GERRISH of Lebanon, Representative GROHMAN of Biddeford, Representative HARRINGTON of Sanford, Representative HOBBS of Saco, Representative HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, Representative HYMANSON of York, Representative KINNEY of Limington, Representative MAREAN of Hollis, Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative POWERS of Naples, Representative

PRESCOTT of Waterboro, Representative RYKERSON of Kittery, Representative SEAVEY of Kennebunkport.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

---

**Recognizing:**

Paul Vachon, of Augusta, on his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Vachon grew up on Mt. Vernon Avenue in the heart of Augusta's Sand Hill. A tough basketball player, he was the starting point guard for Cony High School's 1973 Class A State Championship team. Following college, he returned to his community as a teacher and a coach. In 25 years of coaching, 23 of which occurred at Cony, he built a 451-50 record. His teams won 7 Class A State Championship crowns and 11 Eastern Maine titles. He developed 3 Miss Maine Basketball winners and helped many of his players go on to successful college playing careers and coaching careers. He was one of the first coaches to understand the implications of the introduction of the 3-point shot to high school girls basketball. His teams were relentless on defense and ran every chance they could on offense, often kicking the ball back out for a trailer to score a 3-pointer. Mr. Vachon was a colorful figure on the sidelines. His frenetic, emotional demeanor often infuriated opposing fans just as it endeared him to the fans of his teams. His greatest gift, however, was his ability to motivate his students in the classroom and his players on the court. The skills he taught involving hard work, teamwork and enthusiasm served them well. We acknowledge Mr. Vachon's service to his community and to the State, and we send him our congratulations on the occasion of his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame;

(HLS 1104)

Presented by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec, Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln, Senator KATZ of Kennebec, Senator MASON of Androscoggin, Senator McCORMICK of Kennebec, Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin, Senator WHITTEMORE of Somerset, Representative BECK of Waterville, Representative DOORE of Augusta, Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro, Representative GRANT of Gardiner, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative HANLEY of Pittston, Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop, Representative HILLIARD of Belgrade, Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville, Representative NADEAU of Winslow, Representative NUTTING of Oakland, Representative SANDERSON of Chelsea, Representative SHORT of Pittsfield, Representative THERIAULT of China, Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative POULIOT of Augusta, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

---

**Recognizing:**

Rhea Cote Robbins, of Brewer, on her induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Ms. Robbins was brought up bilingually in a Franco-American neighborhood in Waterville known as "down the plains" and attended Waterville High School. Her family tree reaches back into Quebec and back further to France. From 1980 to 1982 she attended the University of Maine at Presque Isle, and from 1982 to 1985 she attended the University of Maine on a bilingual education scholarship. She

received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Maine in 1997 and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2004. She worked as an editor of *Le FORUM* at the Franco-American Center from 1986 to 1996. Ms. Robbins was the 1997 winner of the Maine Chapbook Award for her nonfiction book, *Wednesday's Child*, and she has written a sequel, *Down the Plains*. Currently, she teaches literature courses in Franco-American women's experiences, contact literature and creative nonfiction writing. She is a founder and the Executive Director of the Franco-American Women's Institute. We acknowledge Ms. Robbins's service to her community and to the State, and we send her our congratulations on the occasion of her induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame;

(HLS 1105)

Presented by Representative VEROW of Brewer.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator CUSHING of Penobscot, Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis, Senator DILL of Penobscot, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Senator ROSEN of Hancock, Senator WILLETTE of Aroostook, Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington, Representative DAVITT of Hampden, Representative DUCHESNE of Hudson, Representative DUNPHY of Old Town, Representative FREDETTE of Newport, Representative FREY of Bangor, Representative GOODE of Bangor, Representative GUERIN of Glenburn, Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln, Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor, Representative LOCKMAN of Amherst, Representative LONG of Sherman, Representative LYFORD of Eddington, Representative REED of Carmel, Representative SCHNECK of Bangor, Representative STANLEY of Medway, Representative TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, Representative TURNER of Burlington, Representative WALLACE of Dexter.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative VEROW of Brewer, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

---

**Recognizing:**

the late Raymond C. Gaudette, Sr., of Biddeford, on his posthumous induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Gaudette was born in Biddeford, attended Biddeford schools and was employed with West Point Stevens, Inc., formerly Pepperell Manufacturing Company, as a chemical and dye mixer for 43 years, retiring in 1999. He was a member of the Franco-American Genealogical Society of York County and the Biddeford Historical Society, for which he served as president for 2 terms. He was also a member and served as president of the York County Genealogical Society of Franco-Americans. While employed at West Point Stevens, he served as steward and as president of the local AFL-CIO. He served on the Biddeford City Council in 1968 and 1969, and he served on the board of Laconia Credit Union. He and his wife, Yvette, spent countless hours making significant findings for the genealogical research housed at McArthur Public Library in Biddeford. His contributions to Franco-American history and heritage are a gift that will be treasured for generations to come. We acknowledge Mr. Gaudette's service to his community and to the State, and we send his family our congratulations on the occasion of his induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame;

(HLS 1106)

Presented by Representative GROHMAN of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator COLLINS of York, Senator HILL of York, Senator VALENTINO of York, Senator VOLK of Cumberland, Senator WOODSOME of York, Representative

BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, Representative BEAVERS of South Berwick, Representative BLUME of York, Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield, Representative CHENETTE of Saco, Speaker EVES of North Berwick, Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford, Representative FOLEY of Wells, Representative GERRISH of Lebanon, Representative HARRINGTON of Sanford, Representative HOBBS of Saco, Representative HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, Representative HYMANSON of York, Representative KINNEY of Limington, Representative MAREAN of Hollis, Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative POWERS of Naples, Representative PRESCOTT of Waterboro, Representative RYKERSON of Kittery, Representative SEAVEY of Kennebunkport.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GROHMAN of Biddeford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

---

**Recognizing:**

the Franco-American Women's Institute, of Brewer, which is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. The institute is an organization for women to promote Franco-American and other ethnic women's voices and to make known the often untold and unrecorded but culturally important aspects of women's lives and contributions. The institute provides a recording place and an archive for the many forms of presentation of Franco-American women, including Quebecois, Acadian, Metis, mixed blood, French Canadian, Cajun, Creole and Huguenot women. The institute encourages their voices while collecting a record of their stories, and the stories of their daughters, mamans and memeres. The institute has had an online presence and has been a publisher of Franco-American women since its founding in 1996, and the institute's online offerings have become a classroom resource in colleges and universities around the world. We extend to everyone at the Franco-American Women's Institute our congratulations on its 20th anniversary;

(HLS 1107)

Presented by Representative VEROW of Brewer.

Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock, Representative LYFORD of Eddington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative VEROW of Brewer of Biddeford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

---

**Recognizing:**

L. James and Mona Lavertu, of Madawaska, on their induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lavertu have their roots in the St. John Valley: his in the south side in Madawaska, Maine and hers in the north side in Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada. They met as students, married in 1971 and settled in Madawaska in 1975. When Mr. Lavertu was a child in school, French was forbidden there, even on the playground. As an adult, Mr. Lavertu wanted to address this problem, and he became a member of the Madawaska School Board in 1985, serving for 12 years. He was recognized for his contribution to making the bilingual education program in the St. John Valley one of 5 designated national "Portraits of Success." In 1992, he was committed to the "Save Our French" movement, which became the seed for founding Le Club Francais, also known as L'Association Francaise de la Vallee du Haut-St-Jean, which preserves and promotes French Acadian history, language and culture. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lavertu have been instrumental in the continuing success of this endeavor.

Since 2009, he has served as president and she has served as secretary, and both are very active on several committees of the association. The efforts of Le Club Francais helped lead to the success of the 2014 World Acadian Congress in Maine. We acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Lavertu's service to their community and to the State, and we send them our congratulations on the occasion of their induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame;

(HLS 1108)

Presented by Representative MARTIN of Sinclair. Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator EDGECOMB of Aroostook, Senator WILLETTE of Aroostook, Representative EDGECOMB of Fort Fairfield, Representative LONG of Sherman, Representative McELWEE of Caribou, Representative SAUCIER of Presque Isle, Representative SHERMAN of Hodgdon, Representative WHITE of Washburn.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MARTIN of Sinclair, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ** and **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

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

The Speaker resumed the Chair.  
The House was called to order by the Speaker.

**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 675)  
**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SUNSHINE WEEK,  
MARCH 13 TO 19, 2016**

WHEREAS, President James Madison, generally regarded as the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that "a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives"; and

WHEREAS, every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right of access to government meetings and public records; and

WHEREAS, an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their government and in the government's ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the federal Freedom of Information Act this year and we recognize the Act's importance in shaping how people who believe in democracy think about the role of transparency in government and its influence in the adoption of our own Freedom of Access Act; and

WHEREAS, the protection of every person's right of access to public records and government meetings is a high priority for the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week was established to spark a discussion about the importance of open government and public access to government documents and meetings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize Sunshine Week during the week of March 13 to 19, 2016 and confirm the basic principles of an open and accessible government in a free society and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cape Elizabeth, Representative Monaghan.

Representative **MONAGHAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as the co-chair of the Maine's Right to Know Advisory Committee, which I am happy to serve with Senator Dave Burns, I'd just like to make a few remarks honoring and recognizing Sunshine Week. The work that we do on the Right to Know Advisory Committee has everything to do with Sunshine Week and in providing open and accessible government and establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in our government and our ability to serve its citizens. We work four times a year reviewing a lot of our public Right to Know laws, making sure that the public does have access to these laws and information and we will continue to do that work coming again this summer. I would also like to celebrate, along with Senator Burns, the 50th anniversary of the Federal Freedom of Information Act. And we, again, as Maine legislators, recognize the Act's importance in shaping how people believe in democracy think about the role of transparency. So, again, thank you for allowing me to make these remarks and let's hear it for another 50 years for the Sunshine Week. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

Bill "An Act To Update References to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Contained in the Maine Revised Statutes" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 616) (L.D. 1564)

Minority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **TAXATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (S-352) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-516)** thereto in the House on February 9, 2016.

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 474)

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

March 16, 2016

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. 1033

Resolve, To Assist the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System To Reduce the Need for Remedial Education

Energy, Utilities and Technology  
L.D. 1513 An Act To Clarify Laws Relating to Affiliate  
Ownership of Electric Generation  
State and Local Government  
L.D. 1633 An Act Authorizing the Deorganization of Cary  
Plantation

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 843)

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

March 15, 2016  
Honorable Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous  
action whereby it Indefinitely Postponed Bill "An Act To Allow  
York County To Better Provide Rescue and Ambulance Services"  
(H.P. 124) (L.D. 166) and all accompanying papers, in non-  
concurrence.

Best Regards,  
S/Heather J.R. Priest  
Secretary of the Senate

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING  
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act To Strengthen Protection from Abuse Laws"  
(H.P. 1127) (L.D. 1654)

Sponsored by Representative HEAD of Bethel. (GOVERNOR'S  
BILL)

Cosponsored by Representatives: FOLEY of Wells, HILLIARD of  
Belgrade, HOBART of Bowdoinham, LYFORD of Eddington,  
MAKER of Calais, SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, TUELL of East  
Machias, WALLACE of Dexter.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered  
printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE  
Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting  
**Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Create the Office of the  
Public Defender and Amend the Duties of the Commission on  
Indigent Legal Services"

(S.P. 540) (L.D. 1433)

Signed:  
Senators:  
JOHNSON of Lincoln  
VOLK of Cumberland

Representatives:  
HOBBINS of Saco  
EVANGELOS of Friendship  
GINZLER of Bridgton  
GUERIN of Glenburn  
HERRICK of Paris  
McCREIGHT of Harpswell  
MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth  
MOONEN of Portland  
SHERMAN of Hodgdon  
WARREN of Hallowell

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to  
Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-387)** on  
same Bill.

Signed:  
Senator:  
BURNS of Washington

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

On motion of Representative GIDEON of Freeport, the  
Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in  
concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INSURANCE AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An  
Act To Promote Individual Private Savings Accounts through a  
Public-private Partnership"

(H.P. 896) (L.D. 1318)

Signed:  
Senators:  
WHITTEMORE of Somerset  
BAKER of Sagadahoc

Representatives:  
FOLEY of Wells  
MORRISON of South Portland  
PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield  
PRESCOTT of Waterboro  
WALLACE of Dexter

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to  
Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-555)** on  
same Bill.

Signed:  
Senator:  
GRATWICK of Penobscot

Representatives:  
BECK of Waterville  
BROOKS of Lewiston  
COOPER of Yarmouth  
MELARAGNO of Auburn  
TUCKER of Brunswick

**READ.**

On motion of Representative BECK of Waterville, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 446) (L.D. 1241) Bill "An Act To Increase Government Efficiency" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 565) (L.D. 1467) Bill "An Act Regarding Maine Spirits" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-394)**

(S.P. 605) (L.D. 1545) Bill "An Act To Repeal the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act" Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-393)**

(S.P. 656) (L.D. 1618) Bill "An Act To Provide Additional Resources for Nurse Education Consultants in the Department of Health and Human Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-391)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** or **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence.

(S.P. 571) (L.D. 1473) Resolve, To Increase Access to Opiate Addiction Treatment in Maine Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-392)**

On motion of Representative FREDETTE of Newport, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended 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 Freeport, Representative Gideon.

Representative **GIDEON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no one living in Maine today can ignore the addiction epidemic that is upon us. It affects our families, it affects our work force, it affects our safety, it affects our budgets here on the state level, and it most certainly affects our hearts. Two years ago, many of the same people still in this body, expanded access to Naloxone—the life-saving anti-opioid overdose drug. Since then, Mainer's lives have been saved because overdose victims received this drug. But, despite that, there's a worsening trend as more of our family members and friends fall victim to this devastating disease.

To illustrate, back in 2013, 123 lives were claimed by overdose. Just two years later, this past year, in 2015, we lost 235 Mainers to drug overdose. So, despite that good work we've done, our neighbors and loved ones continue to die at an alarming rate. But, we have an opportunity to mitigate this once again by allowing pharmacists to dispense Naloxone over the counter. We can increase the availability of this life-saving drug

by allowing pharmaceutical dispensation without a prescription. If we can save even one more life this way, Mr. Speaker...

The SPEAKER: Will the Representative defer? The Chair would inquire as why the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Sanderson, rises.

Representative **SANDERSON**: I think that, perhaps, the Representative is speaking on the wrong bill. This one is for reimbursement for Methadone clinics.

The SPEAKER: The Representative may proceed.

Representative **GIDEON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 498**

YEA - Alley, Babbidge, Battle, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Corey, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Dillingham, Dion, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy M, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fecteau, Foley, Fowle, Frey, Gattine, Gideon, Gilbert, Golden, Goode, Grant, Grohman, Hamann, Harlow, Harrington, Hawke, Head, Herbig, Hickman, Higgins, Hobart, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kornfield, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Longstaff, Luchini, Maker, Malaby, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McClellan, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, Peterson, Pierce T, Pouliot, Prescott, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Sanderson, Saucier, Schneck, Seavey, Sherman, Short, Stanley, Stearns, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Tepler, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Tuell, Vachon, Verow, Warren, Welsh, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Austin, Black, Chace, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Espling, Farrin, Fredette, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanington, Hanley, Herrick, Hilliard, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Long, Lyford, McElwee, Nutting, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Reed, Skolfield, Stetkis, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Turner, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Bates, Buckland, Campbell R, Crafts, Devin, Powers, Sawicki, Sirocki.

Yes, 100; No, 43; Absent, 8; Excused, 0.

100 having voted in the affirmative and 43 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-392)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Resolve was assigned for **SECOND READING** Thursday, March 17, 2016.

(S.P. 579) (L.D. 1481) Bill "An Act To Protect Maine's Natural Resources Jobs by Exempting from Sales Tax Petroleum Products Used in Commercial Farming, Fishing and Forestry" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-385)**

On motion of Representative GIDEON of Freeport, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report**.

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



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

**ROLL CALL NO. 499**

YEA - Alley, Austin, Babbidge, Battle, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Black, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Corey, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Dillingham, Dion, Doore, Duchesne, 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, Harrington, Hawke, Head, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobart, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kinney J, Kinney M, Kornfield, 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, Nutting, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Peterson, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Prescott, Reed, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Sanderson, Saucier, Schneck, Seavey, Sherman, Short, 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 - Dunphy L.

ABSENT - Bates, Buckland, Campbell R, Crafts, Devin, Powers, Sawicki, Sirocki.

Yes, 142; No, 1; Absent, 8; Excused, 0.

142 having voted in the affirmative and 1 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-385)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Thursday, March 17, 2016.

**BILLS IN THE SECOND READING**

**Senate as Amended**

Resolve, To Provide Wage Parity for Supervisors of Law Enforcement Personnel (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 585) (L.D. 1523)  
(C. "A" S-383)

**House as Amended**

Bill "An Act To Delay Any New Statewide Assessment Test" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1000) (L.D. 1459)  
(C. "A" H-553)

Bill "An Act To Clarify Expenditures Regarding Androscoggin County" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1012) (L.D. 1489)  
"A" H-551)

Reported by the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**, read the second time, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence and the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Exempt from the Sales and Use Tax Sales to Certain Veterans' Organizations Funding Direct Supportive Services to Veterans and Their Families" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1081) (L.D. 1590)  
(C. "A" H-552)

Was reported by the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** and **READ** the second time.

On motion of Representative McCABE of Skowhegan, was **SET ASIDE**.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and later today assigned.

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

**ENACTORS**  
**Emergency Measure**

An Act To Enable an Alternative Organizational Structure To Purchase Group Health Insurance for Its Employees

(H.P. 1042) (L.D. 1517)  
(C. "A" H-549)

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. 117 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 Regarding the Application Fees and Inspection Fees Associated with the Provision of Amusement Rides

(S.P. 591) (L.D. 1529)  
(C. "A" S-382)

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. 132 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.

**Acts**

An Act To Allow a Nonresident Landowner Who Owns 25 or More Acres of Land To Hunt on Residents-only Deer Hunting Day

(H.P. 422) (L.D. 609)  
(C. "A" H-550)

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)  
(C. "A" H-548)

An Act To Exempt MaineCare Appendix C Private Nonmedical Institutions from the Service Provider Tax

(S.P. 592) (L.D. 1530)  
(C. "A" S-375)

An Act To Provide an Annual Cost-of-living Adjustment to Nursing Facilities To Further Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Facilities

(S.P. 595) (L.D. 1533)  
(C. "A" S-381)

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.

---

**Resolves**

Resolve, Directing Certain State Agencies To Consider the Effects of Marine Debris

(H.P. 294) (L.D. 427)  
(C. "A" H-531)

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

---

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Divided Report**

Majority Report of the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Support Expanded Capacity for Breeding Wild Atlantic Salmon in Downeast Rivers"

(H.P. 271) (L.D. 405)

Signed:

Senators:

BAKER of Sagadahoc  
LANGLEY of Hancock

Representatives:

KUMIEGA of Deer Isle  
DEVIN of Newcastle  
HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor  
PIERCE of Dresden  
SAWICKI of Auburn  
TUELL of East Machias

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-561)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MIRAMANT of Knox

Representatives:

ALLEY of Beals  
BATTLE of South Portland  
BLUME of York  
McCREIGHT of Harpswell

**READ.**

On motion of Representative KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

---

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

---

**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.

An Act To Promote Maine's Economic Development and Critical Communications for Rural Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investments in High-speed Internet

(H.P. 560) (L.D. 826)

(H. "B" H-542 to C. "A" H-523)

TABLED - March 15, 2016 (Till Later Today) by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

PENDING - **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.** (Roll Call Ordered)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Saucier.

Representative SAUCIER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, more than two dozen rural farmers and residents and business owners who struggle to maintain their businesses and ship their goods because of slow, spotty, or at times nonexistent internet service, spoke in support of LD 826. Public high-speed broadband internet investment is essential for the economic growth of the state, increased jobs in urban as well as rural regions of our state. LD 826 would add an additional \$1 million to the ConnectME Authority fund and direct the Authority to award grants to those rural areas of the state that are unserved and have no access to high-speed internet.

This additional funding would increase the Authority's rate of strategic broadband investment and leverage additional federal funding to build more infrastructure in unserved areas. It is interesting to know that one of the first questions businesses and individuals looking to locate here in the State of Maine is what the availability of high-speed internet is. This was also confirmed by Sylvia Getman, the CEO of the Aroostook Medical Center in Presque Isle, at our last meeting. She said, when trying to attract physicians to Aroostook County, that high-speed internet was one of their biggest concerns of locating there.

The internet is where Maine's economic engine is, and where it will continue to grow now and into the future. People are checking where there is good, reliable internet service before they even buy or rent a home. Many professional home-based businesses shy away from rural areas because of the lack of high-speed internet service. High-speed internet access is, without a doubt, one of the biggest concerns that our constituents have and was demonstrated by over 35 bills being submitted by the 127th Legislature. This issue is not going away and we'll be continuing to ignore the problem will only get worse over time.

In January, the ConnectME Authority decided that any areas with broadband connections slower than 10 megabits per second for downloads and uploads would be considered underserved, which is now over 90 percent of the State of Maine. Over six percent of the state is unserved, or approximately 75,000 Mainers without any internet service at all. John Olson, former Executive Director of the Maine Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, said, "Maine continues to dominate New England with 8,174 farms across the state, with the value of Maine crops and livestock growing 24 percent over the past five years." Many of these farms now require high-speed internet access to do their business and it is critical to continue to operate in this highly technical digital environment. Enactment of LD 826 is essential to the farming community and would be a tremendous help to those unserved Mainers. It's also a question of fairness.

LD 826 is supported by the Aroostook County Farm Bureau, the Maine Farm Bureau, the Maine Broadband Coalition, the Chamber of Commerce, and many large small businesses across the state. The coalition felt it was essential to invest in rural broadband, increasing funding and strengthening the ConnectME Authority. Some in the Legislature will ignore its constituents when they demand action that costs money, and eventually when the Legislature fails to do their job, they will take the matter into their own hands with a citizen referendum initiative and they will make the decision for us. I believe this issue is going to be one of those. We need to do the right thing by our constituents and

bring the entire state, urban and rural, into the high-speed internet world that most of us enjoy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Embden, Representative Dunphy.

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, how much longer can we ask taxpayers and ratepayers to fund what a free enterprise should be doing? I think that it's nice to have broadband. We need broadband. There's absolutely no doubt in my mind. But, I also understand that FairPoint got an \$80 million grant, a Connect America grant—\$13 million a year. And they're doing surveys now at areas they need to focus on.

So, until we get a report back on those areas, does it make sense to pluck a million dollars from taxpayer money and double the budget of an existing agency? It doesn't make sense to me. It seems to me like, "Ready, fire aim," and I think too many of our policies react that way. Thank you.

Representative **ESPLING** of New Gloucester **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Gideon.

Representative **GIDEON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just wanted to clarify a couple of things about this bill for the body. The first is that last year, this body did pass a bill into law re-purposing the authority of ConnectME, and specifically, what we did was gave them the ability to give planning grants to municipalities, to regions, even to groups—for example, the Farm Bureau—so that they can figure out where their deficiencies are in broadband and that they can really plan for the future. And part of the purpose of doing that was so that we could really, as a state, understand where the gaps were that we needed to close, especially for rural Maine.

We've had great success in painting a lot of the state with fast broadband and internet capacity, but the rural parts of our state are really hurting and we cannot expect economic development if we do not enable some help there. The funding for this particular bill comes from the General Fund, so it is not something that is on people's bills as current ConnectME Authority fees exist. And further, it will help those municipalities plan so that we, as a state, have a better understanding of where we need to go, how to close the gap, and how to make sure that we are not just people who consume in this state from the internet, but who actually produce and export goods and services.

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, I want to thank Representative Saucier for bringing this bill forward. I understand that this is with all good intention. But, unfortunately, this bill does propose to increase the budget of ConnectME by 100 percent. I would've liked to have gotten a 100 percent raise this year.

All Maine taxpayers will be required to cover these costs. As I speak, as Representative Dunphy inferred, FairPoint has been given first refusal for about \$78 million to deploy broadband over a six year period of time to the underserved areas, not unserved. Furthermore, by limiting investments by ConnectME to the unserved areas, as this bill now does, it could hurt all of the underserved areas, which many of you reside in.

In all honesty, as long as we have one person that is disabled, or one road or bridge that is in disrepair, I cannot believe that this is prudent spending and I urge you to vote "no" on this. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Higgins.

Representative **HIGGINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'd just like to clarify what this bill is and what it isn't. And I'm not going to go into a 20 minute discussion about the need for broadband; I think you heard that once. So, this is a concept draft bill that was held over. And the language in the concept draft was totally struck. So, what we have is a title and no language to start with.

And it says, "Provide ongoing funding in the fiscal year 2017 for planning grants and to increase the deployment of broadband service." Which gets to the point that good Representative Gideon was talking about. Last year we talked about municipal planning grants. We voted 143-0 on a different bill here, and when it got to the other body, it came out with \$0. So, we have a hollow bill sitting there without any money. This is another vehicle that would address the same issue, providing opportunities for all of our municipalities to apply for grants to look at how we can address broadband services and needs in our communities. That's Part One.

Part Two of this says, "And to increase deployment of broadband service." But if you look at the following amendment, because of the concern about well, where would that broadband service be? We really have two kinds of areas in Maine. One is underserved, which is where most of us live, which is darn near 90 percent of the State of Maine. Unserved is category two. Those would be the back areas of where I live and, specifically, the back areas of some of you on the coast and many of you in Aroostook farm country. It means unserved. Doesn't mean a little bit served. It means unserved. That is about six percent of the State of Maine. And it says, "deployment." The initial bill said, "deployment of broadband service." Didn't specify—could've been either Category A, underserved, or served.

Because of the good input of a number of legislators from the unserved areas, an amendment was added. And the amendment now says, it says, "to unserved." So, any deployment money would go into unserved. So, these funds aren't going to be spent in, excuse me, Representative Grohman, but it's probably not going to be served in downtown Biddeford. I think he's okay with that, actually.

What it does mean, any funds that would be used in addition to the CAP II funds that came from the federal government specifically for deployment in unserved areas. The majority of this money will be used for planning grants through municipalities across the State of Maine. Pure and simple. Second point I'd want to make: there are no additional assessments on your wireless bill or your wired service. This is a direct request to the Appropriations Table for \$1 million. I would encourage you to support this bill. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Babbidge.

Representative **BABBIDGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'm from the municipality of Kennebunk and this bill will not benefit my constituents one iota and yet I stand here because this is a good bill. Originally, the bill had, we spoke of five times as much money to address the need that we're talking about. But I merely rise to tell you that this is just a good and just bill. It's a coy smile to rural Maine when they deserve a big hug, in my opinion.

As a former resident of a small town of 1,900 in Piscataquis County for eight years, I have empathy for the needs of rural Maine and I think this bill addresses it. So, not out of self-interest, I just say this is good legislation and I appreciate the sponsor from Aroostook for bringing it forward. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Russell.

Representative **RUSSELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, late in the '90's Portland was a pilot city. So across the country, Portland was very lucky in that we had the whistles before anybody else had the train. Where I grew up, in Bryant Pond, we had the last crank phone in the country. I remember the crank phone—and for anybody that's picturing a rotary dial, nope, that's modern technology—I was there the day we decided to upgrade to the dial tone, and we literally yanked the crank in October of 1983. I never could've dreamed that I could hold a cell phone in my hand all these years later and access the world.

Right now, we have communities all across this state, the most rural communities, the most geographically difficult communities, who are still on dial-up. How many times do we get frustrated when we're trying to do our legislative business right here and the wireless is slow? As the good Representative said, this is not about underserved communities, it is about unserved communities. It is not fair that communities in rural Maine do not have access to similar technology that we do in more urban regions.

If we truly care about economic development, it is essential that we do not leave parts of our state behind. The reason it is important that these planning grants be put into place is because every community is different. Every community's needs are vastly different and we should empower local communities with local control to self-determine how best to bring broadband to their region.

Some of these places are geographically challenging. The mountains have a direct impact on how difficult it is to deploy broadband. Maybe wireless broadband, satellite broadband, is an option for those communities, but we don't know and I don't feel comfortable enough in Portland with several options for internet to tell someone in another part of the state that they should not have access to those options, or that we should tell them how to create those options.

The bill before us really is an economic development bill. When we brought in the internet, we rolled out a marketplace that, otherwise, we would not have access to. I think this is a smart bill. Unlike most bills, which are genuinely "feel good," this actually empowers local communities to have concrete outcomes. And every time we invest in rural Maine, we actually invest in the infrastructure of the state and we list all votes, so I will be supporting this. There are farmers that need it all across this state. There are individuals who are trying to upload massive amounts of data and are unable to do that, and it is unconscionable in this day and age that anybody in this state should not have access to broadband because the only marketplace that exists anymore is the global marketplace and that's how we're going to compete, that's how we're going to bring our products, our services, and our work ethic to the world the way we used to do through ships and all the traditional infrastructure. So, I will be voting to support this and investing in rural economic development, because when we invest in rural economic development, we invest in what's best and brightest in Maine.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Grohman.

Representative **GROHMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Men and Women of the House, the good Representative from Dover-Foxcroft is correct. However, although I represent Biddeford, I grew up in Carthage, which is in rural western Maine, where my family still lives. We only have DSL service there.

We've only had that for a couple of years. Prior to that, we had dial-up.

We need jobs and businesses in Carthage, Maine. No business will come to Carthage, Maine without broadband. No business will come to Carthage, Maine with DSL. They just won't. That speed is not there. You can't even run a VoIP phone. And no broadband will come to Carthage without a plan. It is true that for-profit entities will handle broadband expansion, but they will only go where they are welcomed. Business goes where it's welcomed. For as little as \$20,000 the municipality of Carthage could develop a broadband expansion plan and welcome that expansion in town. I urge you to join me in supporting this measure. Thank you.

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

Representative **HYMANSON**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, on Health and Human Services, we have been talking a lot about direct care workers. We do not have enough direct care workers who visit people in their houses to take care of them when they are aging in place, elderly, disabled, and sick. We are depending now on developing broadband and telehealth and telemedicine to take care of people in rural areas. Without broadband in rural areas, we will not be able to develop a system that takes care of people who want to age in place because we do not have the workforce. So, I ask you to support this so that places, rural places, will have the broadband to take care of our vulnerable. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUMIEGA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, it's been suggested that this should be, the government should take its hands off and let the free market provide the service and fix this problem. I'd like to point out that if we waited for the free market to provide electricity, parts of the state still wouldn't be connected to the grid. This is a place where the government needs to facilitate. Broadband internet is as important as electricity in today's society for commerce and something that the government should be facilitating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to belabor the point that so many others have made so articulately here today. I will say I testified for this bill originally last year. I know it's gone through several iterations and I thank both sides of the aisle for working it through to get it to a place where I can support it today.

I think it's incredibly important, coming from one of the rural regions that folks speak of so eloquently, that we stand up for this bill. There are parts of the state—even parts more rural than Hadley Lake Road in East Machias, a lot more rural—that just don't have any hope of ever getting internet service without this. As an anecdote, I will add that, on my very street in East Machias, you cannot get cable television because there are not enough houses per square mile. So, the reality is, you either get a satellite or you go without or you go with antennae. I say this is similar, in regards to broadband, because there are areas of this state, the unorganized territories in particular, and one business from one of those territories in our area came up and testified rather eloquently about the need for these services in rural Edmunds Township, in Trescott Township, and some of the areas that just don't have any capacity whatsoever beyond the very rudimentary basics.

So, I am standing in support of this bill. I think it's at a place where we all should be comfortable supporting it for any number

of reasons. Mine is because it does benefit rural Maine. I respect those that see other values in it and I would encourage you to vote green on this measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call having been previously 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. 500**

YEA - Alley, Babbidge, Battle, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Campbell J, Campbell R, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Corey, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Dillingham, Dion, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy M, Edgecomb, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fecteau, Foley, Fowle, Fredette, Frey, Gattine, Gerrish, Gideon, Gilbert, Gillway, Ginzler, Golden, Goode, Grant, Grohman, Hamann, Hanington, Harlow, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hobart, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kornfield, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Long, Longstaff, Luchini, Maker, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McCreight, McElwee, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, Parry, Peterson, Pierce T, Pouliot, Prescott, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Saucier, Schneck, Sherman, Short, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Tepler, Timmons, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Tuell, Turner, Verow, Ward, Warren, Welsh, White, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Austin, Black, Dunphy L, Espling, Farrin, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanley, Harrington, Hawke, Head, Hilliard, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Lyford, Malaby, McClellan, Nutting, O'Connor, Ordway, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Reed, Sanderson, Seavey, Stetkis, Theriault, Timberlake, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Bates, Buckland, Crafts, Devin, Powers, Sawicki, Sirocki.

Yes, 109; No, 35; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

109 having voted in the affirmative and 35 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.

---

Pursuant to House Rule 201.1.H, the Speaker appointed Representative KRUGER of Thomaston to serve as Speaker Pro Tem when the House convenes on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

---

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

---

On motion of Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston, the House adjourned at 11:29 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 17, 2016.