

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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
32nd Legislative Day
Friday, April 1, 2016

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

Prayer by Pastor Lynn Dionne, West Bethel Union Church, Bethel.

National Anthem by Sammie Angel, Dixfield.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, David Edsall, M.D., Ellsworth.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 695)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety shall report out, to the Senate, a bill to increase the tax assessment for correctional services for Oxford County to \$2,050,000.

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

READ.

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

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville, the following House Order: (H.O. 45)

ORDERED, that Representative Dillon Bates of Westbrook be excused March 23 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Bruce A. Bickford of Auburn be excused March 22 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Paul Chace of Durham be excused March 22 and 23 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Michael G. Devin of Newcastle be excused March 16 and 17 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Ryan M. Fecteau of Biddeford be excused March 28 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Paul E. Gilbert of Jay be excused March 23 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Frances M. Head of Bethel be excused March 28 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Gary L. Hilliard of Belgrade be excused March 22 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative MaryAnne Kinney of Knox be excused March 22 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Walter A. Kumiega III of Deer Isle be excused March 23 and 24 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Roger L. Sherman of Hodgdon be excused March 22 for legislative business.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Heather W. Sirocki of Scarborough be excused March 28 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Timothy S. Theriault of China be excused March 22, 23 and 24 for personal reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

The following item was 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.

Joint Order, Authorizing the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to Report Out a Bill To Establish a Moratorium on Rate Changes Related to Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Sections 13, 17, 28 and 65

(H.P. 1156)

TABLED - March 31, 2016 (Till Later Today) by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.

PENDING - PASSAGE.

Subsequently, the Joint Order was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Ought to Pass Pursuant to Resolve**

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs** on Bill "An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Task Force on School Leadership" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 691) (L.D. 1684)

Reporting **Ought to Pass** pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 46, section 7.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-450)**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**. The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Senate Amendment "A" (S-450)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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 as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-450)** in concurrence.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-624)** on Bill "An Act To Improve Workplace Safety by Simplifying and Improving Employers' Substance Abuse Policy Requirements"

(H.P. 937) (L.D. 1384)

Signed:

Senator:

PATRICK of Oxford

Representatives:

HERBIG of Belfast

BATES of Westbrook

CAMPBELL of Newfield

FECTEAU of Biddeford

GILBERT of Jay

MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-625)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

VOLK of Cumberland

CUSHING of Penobscot

Representatives:

AUSTIN of Gray

LOCKMAN of Amherst

STETKIS of Canaan

WARD of Dedham

READ.

Representative HERBIG of Belfast moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **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 Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 552

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

NAY - Austin, Battle, Bickford, Black, Buckland, Campbell R, Corey, Crafts, Dillingham, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Espling, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Hawke, Head, Herrick, Higgins, Hilliard, Hobart, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Long, Lyford, Maker, Malaby, Marean, McClellan, McElwee, O'Connor,

Ordway, Parry, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pouliot, Prescott, Reed, Sanderson, Seavey, Sherman, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Sukeforth, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Bates, Chace, Chenette, Hamann, McLean, Nutting, Sawicki.

Yes, 76; No, 68; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-624)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-624)** and sent for concurrence.

BILLS IN THE SECOND READING

House as Amended

Bill "An Act Regarding Consent to Land Transfers to the Federal Government"

(H.P. 1091) (L.D. 1600)

(C. "A" H-571)

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

Resolve, To Increase MaineCare Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder

(H.P. 314) (L.D. 475)

(C. "A" H-608)

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

Representative McCABE of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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

On motion of Representative GATTINE of Westbrook, **TABLED** pending **FINAL PASSAGE** and later today assigned. (Roll Call Ordered)

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 120: Release of Data to the Public, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization

(H.P. 1135) (L.D. 1665)

(C. "A" H-618)

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. 138 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act To Increase the Number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professionals in the State

(S.P. 676) (L.D. 1655)
(C. "A" S-446)

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, Authorizing Certain Individuals To Bring Suit against the Department of Health and Human Services

(H.P. 554) (L.D. 805)
(C. "A" H-524)

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

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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 Final Passage. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 553

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

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

ABSENT - Bates, Chace, Chenette, McLean, Nutting, Sawicki.

Yes, 79; No, 66; Absent, 6; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, 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 matters, 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.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Hampden Academy Unified Basketball Team

(HLS 1173)

TABLED - March 31, 2016 (Till Later Today) by Representative DAVITT of Hampden.

PENDING - PASSAGE.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Davitt.

Representative **DAVITT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, yesterday was kind of a grueling day and I was hoping that this matter would've come before the House to add a note of civility and an example of good sportsmanship. I am referring to March Madness and what is going on in the college hoops scene.

What we were honoring yesterday, and I honor today, is the Hampden Unified Basketball team; a group of players who get together and play basketball for the sole purpose of the enjoyment of the game and supporting each other. This is a team that excels, not only on the court, and the fact that they won the state championship for two years in a row, but also in the sportsmanship and the care they display, not for just each other, but for opponents. Shaking hands with them, helping them if they fall, helping them to make baskets if necessary. This is an example to sportsmanship and I am honored as the Representative from Hampden to support this motion and support this sentiment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HOUSE REPORT - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-623) - Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES on Bill "An Act To Increase Payments to MaineCare Providers That Are Subject to Maine's Service Provider Tax"

(H.P. 1115) (L.D. 1638)

TABLED - March 31, 2016 (Till Later Today) by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

PENDING - ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORT. (Roll Call Ordered)

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hancock, Representative Malaby.

Representative **MALABY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, the biennial budget that was passed last year raised and expanded the application of the service provider tax. That tax applies to basic cable, satellite service, and telecommunication service, as well as to medical services provided in our private non-medical institution. Unknown to many at the time, that rate was raised five percent, and effective January 1st, that became six percent.

And the purpose of this bill is to off-set those increase tax expense being born by the MaineCare providers, many of whom are in somewhat tenuous financial fiscal status. I should note that the PNMI's to which this applies have not received a matching rate increase in the budget as traditionally happened. And this rate increase being sought would apply to all the appendices except CNF and I ask you to support this. Thank you.

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 appreciate the good words from the good Representative from Hancock, Representative Malaby, and however, as we've seen other bills come through this body, particularly in the last month or so, where bills are well-intentioned, the question arises as to whether or not we have the fiscal capacity to continue to fund bill after bill after bill that gets sent down to Appropriations and then, you know, looked at in terms of, you know, how are we going to fund these measures? And, I'm not going to be supporting the pending motion and it's not because I don't believe that there's a need. The question is, is whether or not in the current atmosphere, where we have referendum questions on minimum wage increases and three percent surcharge taxes on people making over \$200,000 in, sort of, an uncertain presidential election, that I think fiscal responsibility means that we really have to look at these issues, maybe at the beginning of next session, and I will not be supporting the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FARNSWORTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this is really a very critical kind of bill, primarily because there's been a long history of provider taxes that have traditionally been accompanied by increases in the compensation to the providers in order to cover the cost of the tax. This was an accident that occurred in the Appropriations Committee as they were crafting this whole process. I certainly respect that fact that we're not perfect. However, I do believe it is our responsibility to, basically, correct that kind of an error and this is our opportunity. People may say, "Well, a one percent increase in the tax, that's no big deal." Essentially, what that means, is it's a one percent decrease along with the additional cost related to inflation and everything else that impacts the providers. And as my good friend Representative Malaby has said, many providers are teetering on the brink and this has a very, very significant impact on them. So, I would urge people to please vote for this particular bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Grant.

Representative **GRANT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I would just like to assure the Members of the body that though I appreciate the concern of the good Representative from Newport, I'm quite confident that we can do our work downstairs in the Appropriations Committee and I would encourage all Members of the body to vote on the merits of the bill and whether you think this is an important policy decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative McCabe.

Representative **McCABE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I was compelled to rise after hearing the comments of the good Representative of Newport, Representative Fredette's, comments in regards to this bill. This is a bill that comes before us after a lot of hard bipartisan committee work. It removes a tax, a burden, on private businesses—a tax that many of us would say that was an accident, that we hadn't intended to tax these businesses to put a further burden on them. And I really rise to thank the committee. But also, you know, this late time of the session, often we lose sight when bills are tabled, just how good the work of the committee was, and for that reason, I would ask the clerk to read the Committee Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call having been previously ordered, the pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Unanimous Committee Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 554

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

NAY - Austin, Black, Buckland, Campbell R, Crafts, Dillingham, Dunphy L, Edgecomb, Espling, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Greenwood, Guerin, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Herrick, Hilliard, Hobart, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Long, Lyford, Maker, McElwee, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pouliot, Prescott, Reed, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stetkis, Theriault, Timberlake, Timmons, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Bates, Chace, Chenette, McLean, Nutting, Sawicki.

Yes, 94; No, 51; Absent, 6; Excused, 0.

94 having voted in the affirmative and 51 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Unanimous Committee Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-623)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-623)** and sent for concurrence.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Amherst, Representative Lockman, who wishes to address the House on the record.

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

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative **LOCKMAN**: On March 15th, LD 1652 was Tabled Unassigned and Representative Gideon made a statement to the *Portland Press Herald* and said the bill is "racist" and that it would set up the police to pull over people of color. And I would like to pose a question through the Chair. Was she misquoted, or did she really say that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Amherst, Representative Lockman, has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond.

Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans Regarding Enhancements to the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services"

(H.P. 1100) (L.D. 1612)

TABLED - March 30, 2016 (Till Later Today) by Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester.

PENDING - **ADOPTION OF HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-617) to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-584)**. (Roll Call Ordered)

Subsequently, Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston **WITHDREW** his **REQUEST** for a roll call.

Subsequently, the same Representative **WITHDREW House Amendment "B" (H-617) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-584)**.

Representative KINNEY of Limington **PRESENTED House Amendment "C" (H-626) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-584)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Limington, Representative Kinney.

Representative **KINNEY**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we, the Representatives of the State of Maine discussed the merits of what we are trying to do in detail the other day and I would just like to add to the record that in 2014, I, and many Members of this body, visited American Legion Halls around the state and we discussed veterans' concerns and federal bills that were before Congress.

It was brought to my attention that Congress, in the year 2014, had heard over 900 bills and that only a couple had passed. With that said, I'd like to thank my friend from Ellsworth, Representative Luchini, for his leadership on the VLA Committee, my good friend from Lewiston, Representative Golden, for his chairmanship on his bill, the veterans' commission, and the work that was done on that commission last fall. I'd also like to thank the good Representative from Newcastle, Representative Devin for his work on veterans bills. I would also like to thank the good Representative from Newport, Representative Ken Fredette, for his guidance, along with the good Representative from Norridgewock, Representative Farrin, for pursuing educational and financial opportunities for our Maine National Guard members so that they may resume their education and further better the lives of themselves and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Golden.

Representative **GOLDEN**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, back in December of 2014, I attended a meeting between veterans, legislators, and state officials. Some of my colleagues in this chamber may remember that meeting. I know my good colleague, the Representative from Freeport, Representative Gideon, does. That day, a group of veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq stormed out of that meeting in anger and protest because they felt that the state wasn't listening and didn't understand their needs. And the American Legion State Adjutant followed them out into the parking lot and talked to them and to me. And he said, "Listen, I understand. I'm a Vietnam veteran and I know what you're going through and I've got your back and we've all got to look out for one another."

About a week later, I met with those other veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq and one of them said something to me that day that really hit me hard. He said he believed that the state

didn't want him to live here in Maine and that the state may just see him as a burden. And that's not okay, because I know that this state has a proud history of military service and I know that this body is proud of our veterans. But perceptions can sometimes be reality and that's why I think these bills are important.

That's what led me to put in the bill to create the commission to give veterans a seat at the table and a voice. I think the marketing and outreach funding in this bill is critical to reaching veterans in this state that are feeling isolated and believe that we value their service, that we see their potential, and that we're willing to make the investment to bring that potential to the forefront.

I am very proud to think that this body is going to find a fix to the National Guard and the Air Guard tuition assistance program. In an age when college affordability is a real issue here in this state, this is a game changer. So I want to thank the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette, and the Representative from Norridgewock, Representative Farrin, for being strong advocates, pushing for that education benefit for our Guard members. I also want to thank the Representative from Newcastle, Representative Devin, for his work to help the American Legion with a tax relief in this package that I think is going to be very helpful, not only to the American Legion, but to our other veterans' organizations. And I especially want to thank the good Representative from Limington, Representative Kinney. He has been a vital member of the Veterans' Commission this past fall and he's been a strong advocate for the Commission bills and I can't say enough about his calm and cool leadership and his willingness to search for a compromise to work together and find a path forward for these bills. And the Representative from Ellsworth, Representative Luchini, the Chair of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee has been a steady supporter of this entire process.

I could go on thanking Members of this body, Mr. Speaker, but I realize there's too many folks that are deserving to say in just one statement. I said it a few days ago, I know that everyone in this chamber supports our veterans from the bottom of their heart, and same, too, for our Guard members. Earlier, we had a discussion about spending and spending priorities and sources of funding to get the job done, and I'm hopeful that we found the middle ground that will enable this body to come together and do what we all want to do: pass legislation to show our veterans and our Guard members that we support them.

A lot of people have been working on these bills for just about a year and a half, and I care deeply about helping other veterans the way I've been helped. So, I want to apologize if I've offended anyone along the way. Please charge it to my passion for helping my fellow veterans and not to my heart. So, I want to thank, once again, my good friend from Limington, Representative Kinney, for offering this amendment, and I want to thank my colleagues for sticking with this debate and for standing beside our veterans and Guard members. I want to thank everyone that's played a role in developing what I think are strong policy proposals worthy of our support. I truly hope we can send a strong message to our veterans today. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "C" (H-626) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-584) was ADOPTED.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-584) as Amended by House Amendment "C" (H-626) thereto was ADOPTED.

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-584) as Amended by House Amendment "C" (H-626)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 697)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that Bill, "An Act To Increase Government Efficiency," S.P. 446, L.D. 1241, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the Senate.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in 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. 666) (L.D. 1639) Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Pretrial Justice Reform Task Force" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-453)**

(S.P. 669) (L.D. 1642) Bill "An Act Regarding Stolen Valor" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-454)**

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS
The Following Communication: (S.C. 922)
**MAINE SENATE
127TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

March 31, 2016
Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Speaker Eves:

In accordance with 3 MRSA §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 127th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, the nomination of Honorable Keith A. Powers of Cape Elizabeth for appointment as an Active Retired Judge of the District Court.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, the nomination of Honorable E. Allen Hunter of Caribou for appointment as an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, the nomination of Lois N. Skillings of Brunswick for reappointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, the nomination of Sharon A. Eggleston of Brunswick for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, the nomination of Joshua W. Bragg of East Machias for appointment to the Washington County Development Authority.

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act To Amend and Clarify the Laws Governing the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund" (S.P. 698) (L.D. 1692)

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.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry

(H.P. 1158) (L.D. 1693)

Sponsored by Representative GIDEON of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MAKER of Calais, McCABE of Skowhegan, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: EDGECOMB of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford.

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

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

**CONSENT CALENDAR
First Day**

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

(H.P. 1043) (L.D. 1518) Bill "An Act To Ensure Children in the Care of Caretaker Relatives Can Access Fundamental Services" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-627)**

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

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Highways, Bridges and Multimodal Facilities"

(S.P. 699) (L.D. 1694)

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

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Strengthen the Laws on Operating a Motor Vehicle under the Influence of Intoxicants"

(S.P. 661) (L.D. 1628)

Majority (8) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on March 31, 2016.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-420)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act To Revise the Laws Regarding Dental Practices

(H.P. 1086) (L.D. 1596)

(C. "A" H-621)

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.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 700)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that Bill, "An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses," S.P. 519, L.D. 1398, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the Senate.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Ways To Support and Strengthen the Direct Care Workforce across the Long-term Care Continuum (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1119) (L.D. 1644)

(C. "A" H-606)

FAILED of **FINAL PASSAGE** in the House on March 31, 2016.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-606) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-455)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1143) (L.D. 1675) Resolve, To Create the Task Force on Public-private (EMERGENCY) Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-628)**

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

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for 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 BUCKLAND of Farmington, the House adjourned at 12:07 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., Monday, April 4, 2016.