

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
January 18, 2024

Senate called to order by President Troy D. Jackson of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Reverend John Allen of First Parish Church in Brunswick.

REVEREND JOHN ALLEN: Let us pray. God, you do not call us into life alone, but you have made us for community with one another and with you. With grateful hearts, we call to mind those communities that have shaped each of us, the ones who first loved us, who taught us, nourished us, and healed us body and soul. Those communities that have invited us to serve. We give thanks for each community around this state, forged as they are through the aggregate of simple kindness. Communities that are remade each day through the expression of neighborliness, compassion, solidarity, and love. We grieve with communities that have been torn by violence and visited by disaster. We pray that you would draw near to them with a tender presence, to bring comfort and courage. And we pray that you would call forth from each of us a response of compassion commensurate with their pain. We rely on your grace, oh, God, and each other's, to move through any mistakes and missteps of our past and to work with one another to form the world that you long for. Where strangers break bread as kindred, where forgiveness prevails on hardened hearts, where weapons of war are recast into the tools of sustenance and streets are restored by a vision of love. Grant us wisdom for the work of deliberation and discernment. Open us to hear the unheard and see the unseen. Encourage us to follow the dictate of our conscience through which you speak to every human heart. And bring us deep peace as we set hearts and hands and minds to the work of our community. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Richard A. Bennett of Oxford County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Lisa Letourneau, MD, MPH of Portland.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Joint Order: S.P. 922

Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 799

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

January 16, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, Senate President
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Rep. Blier of Buxton, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 387 An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by
Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice
Vouchers

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Teresa Pierce
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Traci Gere
House Chair

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Prioritize School Construction Projects for Schools Affected by Disasters"
S.P. 921 L.D. 2170

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, LIBBY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, HEPLER of Woolwich, JAUCH of Topsham.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Support the Development of Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine"
S.P. 920 L.D. 2169

Presented by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative LaROCHELLE of Augusta and Senators: INGWERSEN of York, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, GATTINE of Westbrook, GOLEK of Harpswell, RANA of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Luke Bliss, of Farmington, who received a lifesaving award from the Farmington Police Department in recognition of his actions in rescuing a woman who had a medical event and was in trouble. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1340

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: LANDRY of Farmington.

Jimmy Reel, of Farmington, who received a lifesaving award from the Farmington Police Department in recognition of his actions in rescuing a woman who had a medical event and was in trouble. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1341

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: LANDRY of Farmington.

Andrew LaFlamme, of Farmington, who received a lifesaving award from the Farmington Police Department in recognition of his actions in rescuing a woman who had a medical event and was in trouble. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1342

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: LANDRY of Farmington.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Franklin, Senator Black.

Senator **BLACK:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today, having the opportunity to commemorate the attentiveness, quick thinking, and heroism of these three young, fine men. Around noontime on November 28th, Farmington P.D. received a report of a woman had gone and not returned home from her regular trip to the gym at UMF and was officially considered missing, with a silver alert being issued shortly thereafter. As it turns out, she had parked her car behind the UM -- University of Maine's rec center, far away from her usual normal spot, and had collapsed on the way back to her vehicle, completely going unnoticed. She remained on the ground for several hours, where her core temperature steadily dropping before Andrew, Jimmy, and Luke happened to notice her as they took an exceptionally well-timed extra lap around the grounds as part of their practice. They were on -- actually were on their ninth mile and it was their last mile when they found this lady, and it was just by chance that they looked out and saw that there was a car up back with a door open, it had been open, and they didn't even -- couldn't even see her at the time, but they went and investigated because they realized something wasn't right. Upon finding her, these three did not hesitate into springing into action and coordinate a team to ensure her survival. Before medical personnel was able to arrive on the scene, Mr. Reel helped relay first aid instructions from professionals over the phone to his teammates. If it was not for these valiant efforts, there was a very reasonable chance that this woman would have remained undetected and not survived until morning. Gentlemen, please accept my gratitude and adoration for your outstanding work and your cool headedness in a moment of serious crisis, and that of the entire Senate body. We are grateful to have students like yourself representing our state, and hopefully with some bright things to come in each of your futures. Thank you very much for being here today.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize in the rear of the chamber Luke Bliss, Jimmy Reel and Andrew LaFlamme all of Farmington for the sentiments that award the great efforts they've brought forward for the people of the State of Maine. Would they please rise and accept the greetings and thanks of the Maine Senate.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data"
H.P. 1325 L.D. 2063

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

SECOND READERS

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the following:

Senate

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine's Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees"
S.P. 866 L.D. 2038

READ A SECOND TIME and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment have preference in the Orders of the Day and continue with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (1/11/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements"
H.P. 1264 L.D. 1967

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-728)** (7 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (4 members)

Tabled - January 11, 2024 by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In House, January 9, 2024, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-728)**.)

(In Senate, January 11, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **LAWRENCE** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM**: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I was hoping that someone might table this motion today because I am inclined to support this bill, I actually support local access television channels, and I think that they're important in providing transparency for local governments. However, this bill is -- shouldn't be complex and for certain, I've had enough time to dive into what all of this means, but I honestly can say that I still don't understand the bill and exactly what it's doing. And so, while I care deeply for what I want the purpose for this bill to be, I am not certain that this language is, in fact, doing what I -- what I believe it might be doing. And so, you know, if we had to vote on it today, my vote would be no, but I would really love a little extra time to make certain of what I'm voting on. So, that's -- I just want everyone to understand where I'm at with this bill. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters"
S.P. 923 L.D. 2171

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.