

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 25, 2024

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

Prayer by President Ray Vensel of the Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation in Litchfield.

RAY VENSEL: Good morning. From the name of my group, you might expect me to ask you to step outside of your usual demonstrations of faith. You would be wrong. However you understand your place in the world, acknowledge it. That's religious freedom, and we support everyone's religious freedom by working for the separation of state and church. The Maine Senate convenes at the behest of a community of strongly held views, often strongly expressed. You sacrifice much for us. So does your staff. They show good will towards your constituents and high energy in support of your efforts. They deserve our thanks. And you; you work out of a desire to serve and it's often thankless, so thank you. It could be difficult to change our minds even a little, let alone admit to being wrong. But sometimes minds have to change so that we can grow. This is progress. We are imperfect humans who often need help, and an invocation is the act of asking for it. So, I ask for help from whatever source supports your world, whether it be God, Jehovah, Allah, Krishna, Buddha, or all that is best in our fellow humans. If my words can invoke anything, may it be that we use evidence and reason to make decisions. That we listen carefully to those with whom we disagree and that we strive for an environment where motives are known to be sincere and honorable. May we remember those who have suffered and do what we can to help them. May we treat others as we wish to be treated. May we have open minds in our conversations, debates, and yes, our arguments. May we remain tolerant of each other regardless of differences in lifestyles, identities, or religious or nonreligious beliefs. And may the result of your work help to build a better Maine. Amen, and thank you.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Eric L. Brakey of Androscoggin County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Patrick Connolly, MD of Falmouth.

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. 931

Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 30, 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.

Senator **MOORE** of Washington requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Legislative Day.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 829

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

January 5, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Oxford County Commissioners on November 2, 2023:

Lee Smith of Albany Township

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on November 2, 2027, which is scheduled to be filled by Oxford County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser
Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 818

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

January 22, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
131st Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Franklin County Commissioners on January 16, 2024:

Thomas Dubois of Salem Township

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on January 16, 2028, which is scheduled to be filled by Franklin County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser
Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 819

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Lee Smith of Albany Township, for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

YEAS	Senators	2	Ingwersen, H. of York, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
	Representatives	3	Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Osher, L. of Orono, Shaw, K. of Auburn
NAYS	Senators	1	Black, R. of Franklin
	Representatives	5	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Jackson, C. of Oxford
ABSENT		2	Rep. Costain, D. of Plymouth, Rep. Jauch, R. of Topsham

Five members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and six in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Lee Smith of Albany Township, for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission be denied.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, the Nomination was **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**.

The Following Communication: S.C. 820

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

January 17, 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 Sen. Hickman of Kennebec, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 650 An Act to Improve Maine Agriculture and Food Systems

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Rep. William Pluecker
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 824

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

January 18, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st 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 the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1494 An Act to Help Address the Worker Shortage in Behavioral Health Care Services by Allowing Provisional Licensure and Providing for Reimbursement for Out-of-state Licensees

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Anne C. Perry
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 828

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

January 17, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st 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 the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1994 An Act to Provide for Increased Academic Research by Allowing the Gathering of Data or Statistics by Telephone

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 825

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

January 16, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st 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 the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has voted

unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1455 An Act to Establish the Weighing Point
Preclearance Program

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Ben Chipman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Lydia Crafts
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 826

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

January 16, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st 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 the
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has voted
unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to
Pass":

L.D. 1210 An Act to Establish a Maine Highway Capital
Fund to Provide Consistent Funding for the
Construction and Repair of Maine's Roads and
Bridges

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Ben Chipman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Lydia Crafts
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 827

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

January 22, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st 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 the
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has voted
unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to
Pass":

L.D. 235 An Act to Promote Economic Development in
the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging
Project in Portland Harbor

L.D. 1138 An Act to Improve Work and Family Mobility by
Altering and Removing Certain Requirements
for Driver's Licenses and Nondriver
Identification Cards

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Ben Chipman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Lydia Crafts
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 821

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

January 18, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st 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 the
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has
voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to
Pass":

L.D. 1991 An Act Regarding Gubernatorial Primary
Elections

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide Relief to Small Businesses Affected by Severe Weather-related Events" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 930 L.D. 2191

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell and Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, KEIM of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HENDERSON of Rumford, MONTELL of Gardiner, WHITE of Waterville.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Kirsty Beauchesne, of Lewiston, who won the United States of America's Miss Maine 2024 Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1351

Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, LAJOIE of Lewiston.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo.

Senator **ROTUNDO**: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to recognize Lewiston's own Kirsty Beauchesne, who entered her very first pageant in October and won, becoming Miss Maine for 2024. Kirsty is currently pursuing her BMA at Husson University and has received a degree in marketing from Bryant University in Rhode Island, where she competed in Division 1 cheering. In the wake of the recent tragic events in Lewiston, Kirsty has identified gun safety as a chief concern and has stated that she will raise awareness of this issue in her capacity as Miss Maine. I applaud her dedication to her hometown and welcome her voice in this

critically important work. The next exciting step for Kirsty is a trip to San Antonio, Texas, in July to represent Maine in the Miss United States of America Pageant. I thank Kirsty for representing our community of Lewiston in such a positive light and wish her the best of luck in July. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Kristy Beauchesne of the town of Lewiston. They are the guests today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo. Would the guest please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Emma May Brown, of North Waterboro, who won the United States of America's Teen Maine 2024 Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1352

Sponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York.
Cosponsored by Representatives: SAMPSON of Alfred, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON**: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise today to recognize Emma May Brown of North Waterboro. Emma May Brown is an incredibly impressive young woman. Inspired by her mother's experience as an investigator/placement coordinator for Child Protective Services, Emma created a platform called Fresh Start. The goal of this platform was to raise \$10,000 for a local organization that provides safe housing to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence. For over a decade, Emma and her mother have provided random acts of kindness to struggling individuals during the Christmas season and on Christmas day. Some examples of these random acts of kindness include every month or so going out to eat and randomly picking a family in the restaurant and anonymously pay for their entire meal. During the Christmas season, they have randomly picked individuals to give \$100. When they are shopping, if they see someone buying Christmas gifts for kids, they have purchased the items for them. They have created entire Christmases for families and individuals in need. Emma works incredibly hard in school. As a result of her hard work, she was the only student in her high school selected to attend a two-year vocational program for cosmetology. She spends her free time teaching local kids mixed martial arts, photographing sunsets, being at the beach and lake with friends, boating, fishing, four-wheeling, and snowboarding in the winter. Last October, Emma was named the United States of America's Miss Teen Maine 2024. All four of the women here today will represent Maine in their respective divisions at the national pageant being held in San Antonio, Texas, in July. We wish them the best of luck.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Emma May Brown of the town of North Waterboro. They are the guests today of the Senator from York, Senator Harrington. Would the guest please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Kristin Willett, of Chelsea, who won the Pink Warrior Productions/United States of America's Maine Pageant and was named Ms. Maine 2024. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1209

Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec
Cosponsored by Representatives: LEMELIN of Chelsea.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to congratulate Kristin Willett of Chelsea for being Ms. Maine. I'm going to read in her own words. I grew up and currently live in Central Maine with my son, Conrad, and two daughters, Iliana and Evelyn. We have a mini Australian poodle named Toto, as well as two rabbits, Lucky and Cottontail, and a guinea pig named Russell. My one-year plan is to complete my bachelor's degree in elementary education at the University of Maine at Augusta as well as open a nail salon. I'm currently enrolled at the University of Maine and will complete my course by the fall of 2024. My five-year goal is to open a Montessori preschool and practice nails on evenings, weekends, and during the summer. I plan to obtain my pilot's license by 2026. I'm an energetic, compassionate person who enjoys staying busy. When I'm not working toward my dream, I like to model and volunteer for local film sets. I also enjoy camping, hiking, gardening, and crafting. The United States of America Pageant is my first. I joined the pageant for a few reasons. The first was to show my children to step outside their comfort zones and get involved in their community. My children and I would volunteer at many events, and we created fundraisers of our own. I created and hosted two events over the last year called Photo Frenzies. A photo frenzy is a walkthrough photography event. Friends and families can walk around the hall, working with multiple photographers for one low price. The proceeds go towards the fight against heart disease, which leads me to my platform. My platform is the American Heart Association. I have a large family that has been greatly affected by heart disease. It is important to me to teach awareness of heart health and help fight heart disease with preventative care like exercise and eating healthy. The Photo Frenzies successfully raised over \$500 towards this fight. Another project I started last year was Coupons from Cupid. I would use bottle donations and coupons to buy bulk items for local shelters. This project brings me great joy. I look forward to continuing to support my community. Through the experiences and new friendships, the United States of America Pageant has empowered me to be a woman I have always wanted to be. I promise to always inspire those around me to be positive and patient through example. I

promise to empower each individual to be the best person they can be. I promise to uplift the communities in which I live and the communities throughout our great nation. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Maine, Kristin Willett. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Kristin Willett of the town of Chelsea. They are the guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman. Would the guest please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Katie Winchenbach, of Windham, who won the United States of America's Mrs. Maine 2024 Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1190

Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, PRINGLE of Windham.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT:** The Chair is going to recognize the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Nangle, to recognize another one of our Miss Maine awardees.

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues of the Senate. Today, I have the honor of welcoming Ms. Katie Winchenbach of Windham, the new crowned United States of America's Mrs. Maine 2024. Katie exemplifies the spirit of Maine through her remarkable dedication to empowering women and promoting community service. As a nonprofit leader and corporate attorney, Katie has been instrumental in guiding aspiring women lawyers through her role with Ms. JD, another title, a national nonprofit supporting aspiring and early career women attorneys. She's also the vice president of the Maine Women's Conference and board member of the Women Standing Together, where she advocates for women leaders in our local business community. Her recent participation in the United States of America Pageant is a testament to her commitment to personal growth and community involvement. Katie's journey, marked by resilience and compassion, is not just about holding title, it's about inspiring and lifting others. As Katie prepares to represent our community on the national stage, let us acknowledge and celebrate her achievements as true reflections of the hard work and community spirit and dedication that Maine is known for.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

Danielle Emerson, of Biddeford, who has been named the 2024 Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year for the State of Maine for the 2nd consecutive year. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 1353

Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, SHEEHAN of Biddeford.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Ingwersen.

Senator **INGWERSEN**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Danielle Emerson, a senior at Biddeford High School, for being named the Gatorade 2024 Player of the Year Award for volleyball in Maine. If this name is familiar to you, as it is to me, it's because I rose last year and expressed a sentiment for Danielle for getting the 2023 Gatorade Player of the Year Award for volleyball in Maine. She is one of only four to have won this award for two consecutive years. Danielle finished this season with 250 kills, 56 aces, and 284 assists. She led the Tigers to a 13-3 record, and the Class A semi-finals. Danielle also won the award last year, as I said. So, again, I'd like to extend best wishes to Danielle for her future endeavors in this hard-earned and well-deserved recognition. So, congratulations, Danielle.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Cabin Restaurant, of Bath, which is celebrating 50 years in business. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1354

Sponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Cosponsored by Representative: SINCLAIR of Bath .

The Joint Order was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Senator **VITELLI**: Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I would remiss if I did not stand for a moment and let you know about the best pizza in the state of Maine is to be found at the Cabin Restaurant on Washington Street in Bath. And I would encourage you, next time you go to Bath - and there's lots of other reasons to go to my lovely community - that is one of the stops that you should make. For 50 years, the Cabin Restaurant has been the place to go for consistently good pizza. Whether you like the traditional pepperoni and cheese or the more

innovative shrimp scampi, their pizza has always lived up to its reputation. It's where we went after soccer games, it's where we go for birthday parties, they managed to make it through the pandemic through great takeout order service. I want to congratulate Paul Hasenfus and his team for keeping this great institution, this meeting place, this place to get, again, the best pizza in the state of Maine, going for 50 years and here's to 50 more. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Joint Resolution

Joint Resolution in Memoriam:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

Martin Engstrom, of Fryeburg. Mr. Engstrom was a veteran of the United States Air Force who served as a weapons control technician. After his service, he become a broadcast engineer. He had a long career with Portland-area television station WMTW running the station's transmitter on the summit of Mount Washington, from which he also broadcast weather reports for 38 years. With a Maine accent so thick some viewers thought it must be fake and wearing a clip-on bow tie, he read his reports from hand-written cue cards he taped to the camera. His folksy, unpolished style made him a hit, and he was affectionately known by the public as "Marty on the Mountain." He retired from WMTW in 2002 and was inducted into the Maine Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2019. Mr. Engstrom will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;
SLS 1357

Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

Cosponsored by Representative: NESS of Fryeburg.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Today, I rise to honor the life of a Western Maine icon, Marty - and actually, an icon for the whole White Mountain region, across the states - Marty Engstrom. He died earlier this month at the age of 86. I'm sure that many of you, if you are of an age similar to mine, will remember Marty. He was an engineer, he was known for four decades, as indicated, as Marty on the Mountain. He would read weather reports from atop the mountain for viewers of WMTW Channel 8. However, it wasn't so much the weather reports themselves that long-time viewers loved. It was him and the way he read them. He wore a clip-on bowtie, and he read his reports in a naturally occurring thick Maine accent. He ended all of his weather reports with a distinct and genial smile and eminently memorable smile that endeared him to so many. When Marty took the engineering job at the top

of the mountain in 1964, he didn't realize he'd be responsible for actually reading the weather reports on camera, and when his bosses instructed him to appear friendly during his weather reports, Mr. Engstrom responded by delivering that eminently memorable smile at the close of each broadcast. He certainly made it count. Everybody over the age of 40 seems to have fond memories of Marty on the Mountain. Many have said they turned to WMTW's weather reports specifically to see the charismatic Mr. Engstrom do his thing. They didn't care about the weather reports. I mean, whatever's happening on Mount Washington may not be happening in your backyard, anyway. They tuned in to see Marty on the Mountain. Mr. Engstrom retired from WMTW TV in 2002. In 2019, he was inducted into the Maine Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He went on to write a book titled Marty on the Mountain, 38 years on Mount Washington, about his experiences. We'll all miss his infectious smile, and we extend our condolences to his family and to his many friends today. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Change of Committee

Senator ROTUNDO for the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics Using the School Funding Formula Criteria"
S.P. 914 L.D. 2118

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass

Senator NANGLE for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act Regarding the State Auditor's Reporting Requirements on State Agencies' Financial Activities"
S.P. 834 L.D. 2011

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

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

SECOND READERS

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

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements"
H.P. 1264 L.D. 1967
(C "A" H-728)

READ A SECOND TIME and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Senate As Amended

Bill "An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks"
S.P. 17 L.D. 25
(C "A" S-513)

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey a Parcel of Land in the Town of Woodstock
S.P. 861 L.D. 2033
(C "A" S-512)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Paper

Resolve, to Ensure That the Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewiston Has Necessary Authority to Discharge Its Fact-finding Mission (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1405 L.D. 2192

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

**Pursuant to Statute
Maine Turnpike Authority**

The **Maine Turnpike Authority**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 asked leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2025" H.P. 1404 L.D. 2190

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218, in concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, in memory of and lasting tribute to Martin Engstrom of Fryeburg.