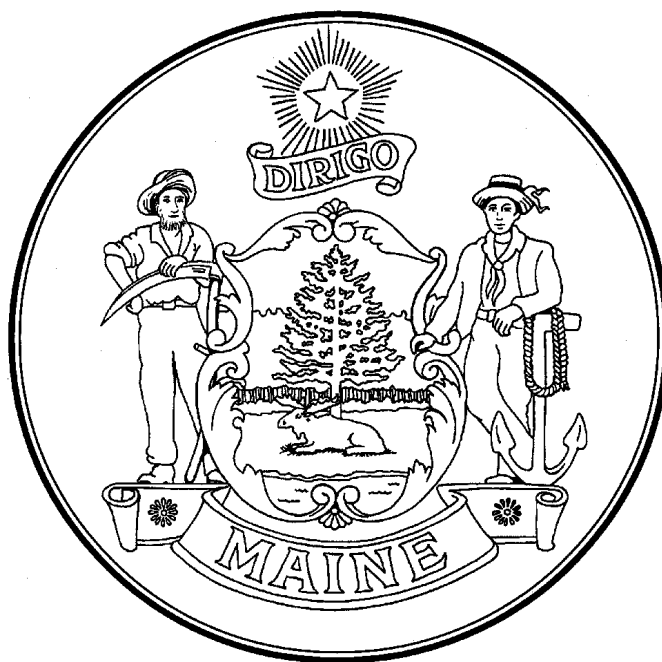


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
February 6, 2024

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

Prayer by Pastor Nic Benner of Granite Hill Church in Hallowell.

PASTOR NIC BENNER: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to be here with you this morning to pray for you. I know that what you do requires a lot of wisdom and requires a lot of discernment, and I just wanted to read a quick scripture on that. The Bible tells us that God possesses all wisdom and all we need to do to receive it is ask him for it. James 1:5 says if any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. And so, I want to pray that you can have wisdom this morning as you go about what you guys do. If you'll bow your heads and pray with me. Lord, we thank you for this morning. Lord, thank you for the opportunity that we have to gather in this place, Lord, and I thank you for all these Senators. Lord, thank you for all that you've done in their lives in allowing them to be in the position they are today. Lord, and I pray that you would give them generously, Lord, wisdom today, Lord, that they can go through what they're about to do, make decisions and discuss things, Lord, and do it wisely. Lord, do what's best in your eyes but also for this great state. Lord, so, I pray you bless them and bless this together, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

National Anthem Performed by Waterville Senior High School Select Choir.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Benjamin M. Chipman of Cumberland County.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Erik Steele, DO, of Yarmouth.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Health, Well-being and Academic Success of Children and Their Families Through Increased Community Support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine"
H.P. 1408 L.D. 2197

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives"
H.P. 1411 L.D. 2203

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Remove the Exemption from Sales and Use Tax for Automobiles Purchased for Use as Rentals"
H.P. 1409 L.D. 2198

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

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:
H.P. 1410

JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING ON HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY DAY
THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE BEEN A
PART
OF THE LEWISTON SHOOTING RESPONSE

WHEREAS, February 1st is observed as Health Care Advocacy Day by the Maine Public Health Association; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2023, a mass shooting in Lewiston took the lives of 18 people and injured 13 others; and

WHEREAS, the shooting affected the lives of innumerable family members, friends, partners and community members in Lewiston and throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Maine health care professionals, including emergency medical services workers, rehabilitation health care workers and mental health care workers, have continued to work tirelessly to support survivors and family members affected by the Lewiston shooting; and

WHEREAS, Maine health care professionals will continue to support Lewiston community members as they heal from the tragic shooting; and

WHEREAS, we owe these individuals a deep debt of gratitude for the critically important work they have been doing every day since the tragedy and the support they continue to provide to the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize on Health Care Advocacy Day the health care professionals who have been a part of the Lewiston shooting response and thank them for their commitment to serving the people of Maine.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise to recognize all the health care professionals who do such important work for our state. Health Care Advocacy Day gives us an opportunity to express our appreciation and respect for people who work hard in this critical field. I would like to thank Representative Cloutier for bringing forth this Joint Resolution to highlight the health care professionals who served the people of Lewiston so bravely in response to the shootings of October 25th. Thirteen Mainers were wounded in the attack on the 25th. One was brought to St. Mary's Hospital, one was brought to Mass General Hospital, and the rest went to Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. Three of those people passed away. The rest, miraculously, were treated and discharged. These doctors and nurses made an enormous difference, providing the treatment to allow these survivors to get on with their lives. With gratitude for all the work our health care professionals did to help these victims and to help the entire Lewiston community to start to heal from this tragedy, I ask that we pass this Joint Resolution today and take a moment to think about the challenging, critical work done every day by the health care professionals in Maine. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 875

STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AUGUSTA, MAINE

February 2, 2024
The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Nominations to the Board of Environmental Protection

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection:

Robert S. Duchesne of Old Town
Steven K. Pelletier of Topsham
Robert M. Sanford of Gorham

Pursuant to Title 38, MRSA §341-C, this reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: S.C. 864

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

January 23, 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. Curry of Waldo, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1555 An Act to Amend the Pine Tree Development Zone Program

January 31, 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. 1205 An Act Regarding the Scope of Practice of Certified Professional Midwives and Certified Midwives

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey S/Rep. Anne C. Perry
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 874

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

January 31, 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 Select Committee on Housing has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1134 An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of "Subdivision" Under the Site Location of Development Laws

L.D. 1257 An Act to Increase Housing Capacity and Protect the Municipal Tax Base and Working Lands

L.D. 1864 An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply by Prohibiting Certain Zoning Requirements in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water

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. 871

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

January 31, 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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 179 An Act to Provide Support for Restorative Justice Practices in Maine

L.D. 913 An Act to Support First Responders

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Beebe-Center S/Rep. Suzanne M. Salisbury
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 869

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

Infrastructure Are Available and in Designated
Growth Areas

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Teresa S. Pierce
Senate Chair House Chair

S/Rep. Traci Gere

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 870

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

January 29, 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 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has
voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to
Pass":

L.D. 795 An Act to Clarify Requirements for Moose
Hunting Permittees

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. David P. LaFountain S/Rep. Scott Landry
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 872

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

January 29, 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 Labor and Housing has voted
unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to
Pass":

L.D. 550 An Act to Increase Correctional Officer Salary
and Benefits

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 873

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

January 31, 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. 1944 An Act Regarding Tribal Gaming

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman S/Rep. Laura Supica
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 862

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

February 1, 2024
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. § 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Finance Authority of Maine due February 1, 2024.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Carlos R. Mello
Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 863

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**

January 30, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the University of Maine System (UMS) due by Feb. 1, 2024 documenting our qualifying sole-source procurements and contributions in FY23.

UMS is an economic engine for Maine. The System prepares Maine's workforce, supports small businesses through world-

class research and innovation, serves as one of state's largest employers, and through its purchasing goods and services from Maine businesses or those that employ many Mainers, positively impacts the Maine economy. In FY23 alone, UMS made \$105 million in payments to Maine vendors across 424 towns in the state.

More than one-half of the System procurements listed in this report are a result of a vendor/partner being named specifically in a grant award, typically from a federal agency. For example, the Maine Forest Products Council is specifically identified as a sub-recipient in several federal grants received by the R1 University of Maine from the U.S. Economic Development Administration during this reporting period. Those grants support our shared efforts to help Maine innovate its forest economy and dependent rural jobs in response to changing markets, technologies and climate.

If you need any additional information, please contact UMS Director of Government Relations Samantha Warren in my office at samantha.warren@maine.edu. Thank you for your ongoing interest and support of Maine's public universities.

Sincerely,

S/Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor
University of Maine System

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 865

MAINE PORT AUTHORITY

January 31, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required FY 2023 report from the Maine Port Authority due by February 1, 2024.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Matthew Burns
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 866

**STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

January 31, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. §12023(2)

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross and President Jackson:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., § 12023, please consider this the transmittal letter for the required report from the Workers' Compensation Board due by February 1, 2024. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

S/John C. Rohde
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 867

**STATE OF MAINE
MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

February 1, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Human Rights Commission due by February 1, 2024.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Kit Thomson Crossman
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 868

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

January 30, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross and President Jackson:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System (MCCS), I respectfully submit the attached report on certain procurements, contributions, and policy changes for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, as required by 5 M.R.S.A. § 12023.

To compile this report, MCCS used customized reporting features built into our business management systems. We then tested the validity of those reports and reviewed several transactions with college personnel. Combined, the seven colleges and the MCCS System Office make thousands of purchases each year.

While reporting is complex, our review indicates that the colleges' compliance with existing policies is extremely high, and expenditures are consistently mission related. In those few areas where we have identified need for improvement, refinements have been made or are under way.

MCCS will continue to use its internal controls and annual outside audit to adapt its systems to changing needs, and our Board of

Trustees will continue to monitor compliance through regular reporting and an ongoing dialogue with auditors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

S/David Daigler
President

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

Off Record Remarks

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

An Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Leavitt Area High School Boys Track and Field Team, of Turner, which won the Class B Boys State Track and Field Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; SLS 752

Sponsored by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: **MORRIS** of Turner, **WOOD** of Greene.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake.

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. You know, I get to stand up here and introduce these young ladies and gentlemen and it's always such an honor, as it is for all of us, when our schools do great things. And today, it is my pleasure to be standing before you today to recognize and celebrate the wonderful team accomplishments coming from my beloved high school, Leavitt Area High School. For those of you who don't know, they became the State Champions last year for the first time, and it's such an honor and a privilege. I watched Coach Jamie take this team over the last few years - because I was lucky enough to have my grandson on the team - and watched him take a team and build it and create such great camaraderie and team spirit that even the girls and the boys team won the accomplishment for the team sportsmanship award for both this year. So, not only did they win the state championships, but they won outstanding sportsmanship. And it's with great honor today that I get to recognize them here in the State House. They make you proud when you watch them, they're a great team. I thank you all for

being here, and you guys will get to hear me in another week because we've got more people coming because at Leavitt, we just keep on winning.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize up in the gallery the Leavitt Area High School Boys Track and Field Team of Turner, which won Track and Field State Championship, and their coaches. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Change of Committee

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Resolve, to Study the Gasoline Tax Allocations for Nonhighway Recreational Vehicles and Make Recommendations for Changes H.P. 624 L.D. 977

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Requiring Training Regarding and Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences" H.P. 874 L.D. 1360

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-462).**

Signed:

Senator:
INGWERSEN of York

Representative:
MADIGAN of Waterville

Comes from the House with the Reports **READ** and the Bill and accompanying papers **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

Reports **READ.**

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator **INGWERSEN** for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Resolve, to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent
S.P. 759 L.D. 1886

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-517).**

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

Resolve **READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (S-517) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator **INGWERSEN** for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 886 L.D. 2093

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-516).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (S-516) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator **BRENNER** for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Environmental Protection by Adjusting the Requirements for Certain Hearings and for Certain Agencies by Adjusting the Requirements for Cost-Benefit Analysis"
S.P. 362 L.D. 865

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-518).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (S-518) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**
ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

SECOND READERS

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

House

Bill "An Act to Update Air Quality Health Warnings"
H.P. 1306 L.D. 2044

Bill "An Act Regarding Processing of Applications Under the Natural Resources Protection Act to Ensure Consistency with Shoreland Zoning Laws"
H.P. 1321 L.D. 2059

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

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing Electronic Device Information as Evidence"
H.P. 1021 L.D. 1576
(C "A" H-732)

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1323 L.D. 2061
(C "A" H-733)

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

Senate

Bill "An Act to Make Technical Updates to the Maine Uniform Securities Act"
S.P. 848 L.D. 2020

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship"
S.P. 849 L.D. 2021

Bill "An Act to Address Identified Gaps in the Laws Governing Erosion Control and the Natural Resources Protection Act"
S.P. 862 L.D. 2034

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

**Pursuant to Constitution
Public Land**

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)

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **BALDACCI**, and the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **TIMBERLAKE**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

In accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 23 of the Constitution, passage requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate. 33 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **FINALLY PASSED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Acts

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

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (1/30/24) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling"
S.P. 665 L.D. 1660

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-514)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - January 30, 2024 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report

(In Senate, January 30, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Lyford.

Senator **LYFORD:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. We're in favor of recycling. This bill prohibits advanced recycling, referred to as chemical process in the bill, from being recycled as rather than considered a solid waste treatment. We believe this is problematic for two reasons - it is in conflict with the State's stewardship program for packaging that was passed in 2021. We have a solid waste crisis and need more recycling so that plastic packaging don't just end up in the landfills. Chemical process plastic processing takes products that aren't part of the traditional mechanical recycling and breaks them down to molecules level to the manufacturing into useful products. For example, chip bags and plastic packaging aren't in mechanical recycling, but should be recycled rather than put into landfills. This form of recycling is a way to recycle these types of products. As I have mentioned, there are also 24 states that have passed this type of legislation. This process uses heat that breaks down these products, doesn't create ash, and is the same as all the environmental issues for exhaust. So, I appreciate you voting this bill down. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson. President Jackson and Esteemed Colleagues of the Maine Senate, I rise today in support of the pending motion on LD 1660, An Act to Provide that Advanced Recycling Facilities are Subject to Solid Waste Regulations and that Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling. So, I want to first point out that advanced recycling actually is not recycling, and I'll explain why in a minute. But to focus your attention, I just want to say that this bill sounds complicated, but it's actually quite simple. It does only two things. First, it ensures that facilities that are processing plastic waste into fuel or toxic waste are regulated under Maine's solid waste laws. And secondly, and equally important, it ensures that these facilities provide financial assurance for cleanup costs so that when they no longer operate, taxpayers are not stuck with those cleanup costs. Currently, and fortunately, there is no advanced recycling facility in Maine. In the last few years, though, companies claiming without evidence that advanced recycling will help our plastic waste crisis, they've succeeded in passing laws in many states that reclassify advanced recycling facilities as manufacturing rather than waste facilities. The end result of the laws passed in other states, including our neighboring state in New Hampshire, is to exempt these facilities from solid waste management laws and regulations. It allows facilities to evade the public permitting process, siting restrictions, reporting requirements, and operating conditions that apply to every other solid waste facility. I will note that in the work session on this legislation, a member of the ENR committee read out some information about how these facilities impact the communities where they're found in, including significant air pollution, water pollution, and harmful impacts that are contrary to environmental justice. And that's what we're dealing with, with these so-called advanced recycling facilities. LD 1660 will protect Maine from this

type of harmful legislation that's circulating in other states by reinforcing Maine's solid waste hierarchy and accurately reflecting that this process and these facilities are not recycling. If passed, this bill would not prohibit a company from proposing an advanced recycling facility in our state. However, it makes clear that if a facility is proposed, that facility will be regulated like all other waste facilities and therefore be subject to the requirements we have created to protect Maine residents and our environment from harmful -- from harm due to improper waste management. Like other solid waste facilities, an advanced recycling facility would also have to protect taxpayers from shouldering the short- and long-term cleanup costs by proving its financial ability to clean up releases from the facility and to pay for the cost of closure and post-closure care and maintenance. Colleagues, I urge you to continue Maine's tradition of responsible waste management. Our laws and regulations ensure that the waste we produce and the facilities that manage it are designed, sited, developed, and operated in a way that limits any harm to our communities and our environment. Please vote in favor of the pending motion. Thank you for your attention today.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. As I've just been listening to the testimony here this morning, I had some questions and I think I'll end my remarks by posing them through the Chair, but the -- certainly, what we're talking about here is new technology. It's something different, it's not the same as the traditional recycling processes that we've had, so I don't disagree that it's not recycling, that's why it's called something different. But we do have a very serious problem in Maine, as I think most folks here know, with plastics that don't break down in these landfills. And so, preempting that we could do something new and novel about that issue with this legislation just, to me, feels completely backwards. But beyond that, as I've been listening to the remarks here tonight -- this morning, I'm not sure how these facilities are able to skirt around the regulations and the laws that are already in effect that would prevent them from doing things like polluting the air and polluting the water and just creating general pollution which would otherwise be against other laws. And so, I'm trying to wrap my head around this notion that these facilities are somehow able to do whatever the heck they want, whenever the heck they want, and are not beholden to any sort of environmental regulation, with or without this bill, whether they come to Maine or they don't come to Maine. So, if somebody could explain that dynamic to me of how they're able to, you know, do their own thing, that would be helpful to me in understanding this issue.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Senate President, and thank you for the question. So, this legislation does include a definition of plastic to plastic recycling, and that's the kind of true recycling of plastic that we want to promote in our state in order to divert plastic from the landfill. And so, what the definition says is that plastic to plastic recycling means using plastic waste to create new plastic material that can be used as industrial feedstock in place of raw material for the manufacturing of new products made

containing plastic. So, that is still allowed, that is taken out of this legislation and is allowed to not be regulated as solid waste. What this legislation focuses on is a different process which involves burning plastic in order to create gas and residue. That's a process that's very energy-intensive and also creates a lot of air and water pollution. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I think we all share the Good Senator from Aroostook's concerns about solid waste and wanting the state to be able to more effectively meet its waste hierarchy goals. I just want to share with you an example of what we're talking about when we use the term chemical recycling and how it's worked in other places. This bill is really designed to give the department clarity so that if and when one of these facilities intends to open in this state that it is not defined as recycling but rather it's defined as waste, and it's not defined as manufacturing. So, a company called Brightmark operates a facility in Indiana which they claim recycles plastic waste, but 70% of the output from this facility is a plastic derived syngas - synthetic gas - which Brightmark burns on site, hence the emissions. Another 20% of the output is a liquid fuel which Brightmark ships offsite to be burned. The remaining 10% is a powdery residue which Brightmark landfills. The same company sought to build similar facilities in Georgia and was required to demonstrate that the existing facilities and technologies actually resulted in plastic being recycled into new products. The company could not show that this was possible, and its output could be used to make new plastics was not possible and subsequently the project was not built. It's important to note that other states where these facilities have received federal and state -- they have received federal and state subsidies but they end up being both environmental and economic failures. The bottom line is that burning plastics either directly or indirectly through conversion into fuel does not and should not in Maine constitute recycling, according to our laws and our national laws and our international laws. I urge you to vote in opposition to the -- well, nope, that's actually not the case. I actually would like you and would urge you to support the bill. Thank you so much.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Request permission to pose a question through the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: So moved.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you. I have to say I'm really confused by this piece of legislation because as someone who would very much like to keep -- and first of all, minimize the amount of solid waste that has to be treated in any fashion in our state, and hearing the Senator from Cumberland's explanation which answered a question that I hadn't asked but I'm glad she addressed it, which is what is the output of these facilities, I'm still left with this question about why we need this bill at the present time. What is the current -- without this bill, what happens to a facility that would propose to come into Maine - and I understand that is a rarity and would be in the far distant future, maybe - but if such a facility came into Maine without this bill, what would

existing law require it to -- what kind of regulations about it be subject to without this law? It sounds like from the description that it is a -- would be a solid waste creating facility. And so, I don't -- I guess what I'm confused by is why we need a law to describe something which on its face to me would fall under our solid waste regulations, and I'd be grateful for any elucidation on that point that could be provided. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Senate President, and thank you to my Good Colleague from Oxford for the question. So, it is a good question because under careful read and interpretation of Maine's existing laws, you would say yes, these facilities should already be regulated as solid waste. But it's actually not that clear, and because we've seen aggressive efforts in other states to set up these facilities that again use public money and are economic and environmental failures, it seemed a simple fix to clarify Maine's law to tease out the fact that legitimate plastic to plastic recycling can happen, that these conversions of plastic into fuel and ash that is landfilled have to be regulated as solid waste if they're going to happen in our state. And so, the clarifying statutory fix is relatively simple, particularly when compared to the potential harm of having to unwind a facility that is, again, an economic and environmental failure in our state. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#510)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senator: BALDACCI

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-514) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Off Record Remarks

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (1/30/24) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata"

S.P. 425 L.D. 1056

Majority - **Ought Not to Pass** (9 members)

Minority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-515)** (2 members)

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In Senate, January 30, 2024, Report **READ**.)

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

On motion by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. In the dystopia of Nineteen Eighty-Four, George Orwell's protagonist, Winston Smith, observed, quote, you had to live - did live, from habit that became instinct - and the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every moment scrutinized. Written as one of the great works of fiction of the 20th century, here in our world of the 21st century, in an era after the Snowden revelations of our government's vast digital surveillance apparatus on the American people, we should ask ourselves is it still a fiction? Mr. President, I rise today with a simple request; let's make Orwell fiction again. That is why I rise in opposition to the Ought Not to Pass motion before us and in favor of Committee Amendment "A", an Act to Enhance Regulation of the Grand Jury Subpoena Process and Government Access to Electronic Device Information, which seeks to strengthen Fourth Amendment protections for the people of Maine against unreasonable search and seizure. This legislation proposed two basic changes to our laws, and the language of Committee Amendment "A" was crafted with the assistance and support of the Maine ACLU. First, this legislation would extend the same protections we have in law for the digital data of Maine people; a requirement for a search warrant from a judge to our metadata. What is metadata? It is not the content of an email or of a text message, but it is the data surrounding the content - who sent it, who received it, what time was it sent, where was it sent from. Some might suggest this is innocuous,

what's the harm? Well, it turns out you can learn a lot from metadata. According to a study from Stanford's Computer Security Laboratory, from metadata paired with basic machine learning algorithms, you can learn the identity of someone's romantic partners, the identity of their associates, you can learn personal medical conditions that they're dealing with from their interactions with healthcare providers. You can even learn, you know, whether they're growing cannabis in their homes - in some states that's still illegal - and much more. In the post-Snowden era, we know that government apparatuses in this county have a history of demanding from private companies so-called bulk metadata, which has amounted to a vast surveillance apparatus upon every single citizen and their comings and goings, and all their digital activity, as if we are cattle to be tracked and traced, not free men and women in a free country. Without warrant protections for our metadata, we must live with the awareness that Big Brother is watching at all times. And second, this legislation would close an additional loophole in warrant requirements that became glaring during public testimony and work sessions in the Judiciary Committee on matters of digital privacy. With grand jury subpoenas, the government can go snooping into all sorts of private information, like your personal bank records, and unless you are charged with a crime, you may never even be aware that this surveillance took place. This legislation would simply require that notice be given within one year to the individual who was spied upon, unless a court waives the requirement for any of a very broad number of reasons that are outlined in the legislation that would produce an adverse outcome. So, Mr. President, to quote the great patriot, Edward Snowden, quote, study after study has shown that human behavior changes when we know we're being watched. Under observation, we act less free, which means we effectively are less free. In the digital era, our Fourth Amendment is often treated as an anachronism, but I believe it is more important than ever that we take statutory action to protect our rights to individual privacy because Big Brother is watching, and he should mind his own damn business. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Colleagues. I just rise briefly to speak in support of the pending motion. LD 1056 would -- it doesn't really -- it doesn't close a, quote, loophole, it makes a sweeping change in Maine's grand jury process and is in conflict with the current processes and laws and rules, especially with regard to the confidentiality of law enforcement investigations. Committee Amendment "A" would severely compromise the ability of law enforcement agencies to conduct necessary investigations. Additionally, there are some process concerns with this legislation. So, on a completely different topic than the original bill which was narrowly focused on limiting the authority of the state to assist or enable federal agencies to collect or use electronic data or metadata, there was no public hearing on the new concept. And I would say even if you wanted to make this sweeping change in Maine's criminal laws, you would want it to be subject to our normal public hearing process. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Mr. President. Request permission to ask a question through the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: So moved.

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Mr. President. In part A of this bill, there's a requirement - or in the committee amendment that is up for discussion, part of what's up for discussion - there is a provision that suggests or says that within one year the subject for grand jury investigation needs to be told, essentially, of that -- of that and it needs to be disclosed to that individual what information has been gleaned. I'm wondering what is the -- what is the rationale for one year? Where does one year come from? There are parts of this that I'm sympathetic to, but I don't understand what the magic of one year is. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. So, the rationale behind one year is simply the fact that the grand -- when a grand jury subpoena is issued there is a period of time where perhaps they're looking to bring charges against an individual and they're collecting evidence. And so, the thought was what's -- what's an appropriate timeframe if it looks like that those grand jury subpoenas are not leading to charges being brought, what's an appropriate timeframe when probably that investigation has elapsed. If the investigation is still going after a year, right, you can petition the court and there's very generous exceptions that the court can recognize for why you wouldn't grant that notice. But it was -- one year seemed like an appropriate time, considering if it was like a month later, well, you know, there's high likelihood that investigation might still be going on. So, a period of time of a year. Considering there is no requirement right now, a year seemed like a generous period of time to which to afford the State but also ensure that notice was being given. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY**: Thank you, Senate President. I'd like to just provide my colleagues with a little bit more information. So, there was some feedback at the work session about this one-year timeframe, and the problem with the one-year timeframe is that many investigations do not conclude within a year, or an investigation may conclude and not lead to a prosecution, but a new investigation may happen in the future and this information could be relevant to that new investigation. But most significantly, I think, is the fact that the workaround process proposed in the legislation requires a court hearing on the request for -- to waive the disclosure requirement and that hearing would be public so it would kind of defeat the whole purpose of the legislation. You know, again, if we wanted to make this change as a matter of policy, we would want to vet it in a different way than this language was vetted. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#511)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senator: BALDACCI

24 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

SECOND READERS

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

House

Bill "An Act to Expand Accreditation Options for Laboratories That Conduct Blood-alcohol or Drug Testing"
H.P. 1312 L.D. 2050

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

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Combat Racketeering in Scheduled Drugs by Certain Organizations"
H.P. 1412 L.D. 2204

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Resolve, to Require the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Feasibility Study to Evaluate Transmission Technologies and Siting Locations for Any Future Electric Transmission Line Proposed Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program
H.P. 1413 L.D. 2205

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

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson.

Senator **DUSON:** Members of the Maine Senate, I rise today to offer comments acknowledging Black History Month. I'll spotlight stories about black Americans who have contributed to our shared history in Maine and throughout the nation. Today's spotlight is on the Portland Freedom Trail. At your desk is a map of the trail and an article by Asha Tompkins published by the USM Free Press on October 3, 2018. I selected this article because it highlights the important history of the trail. It also includes full attribution to the local leaders who worked so hard to bring this project to life, including Daniel Minter and Rachel Talbot Ross. The trail itself is best described in the article by Asha Tompkins. She writes - and I will not read the whole article but would like to offer a few annotated excerpts - it is likely that Portland, Maine is -- it is unlikely that Portland, Maine, is associated with the stomping of feet against cobblestone roads at midnight, with stowaways rushing to hide in unfamiliar houses. However, Portland has a significant part of the Underground Railroad. In 2006, locals joined forces to create a map using the history of the area to create what is now known as the Portland Freedom Trail. Some of the participants included Portland artist Daniel Minter and Representative Rachel Talbot Ross. Dispersed throughout the city are Minter's handcrafted placards which mark the most significant sites on the trail. The first of the markers was installed at the Eastern Cemetery. The walking tour, however, officially starts at the Franklin Street Wharf, where slaves once arrived as stowaways, and leads into downtown Portland. Many of the physical buildings no longer exist, yet these stories remain

to be told. The trail is dotted with engraved granite markers that explain the history behind each location and the people involved with helping human beings escape from enslavement. The map offers a brief description of each site. There's no suggested order, it's up to the traveler to decide. While it begins at Franklin Street Wharf, there are 13 logged stops. It's about two miles long, with a final destination at the Mariners Church. Regardless of the weathering of buildings on the breezy Maine coast, walking the Portland Freedom Trail is a window on the rich history of African Americans in Maine and the trail itself holds a rich historical significance in this city. Thank you, Mr. President. I invite my colleagues to travel down to Portland and let's go for a hike.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED** until Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:00 in the morning in memory of and lasting tribute to the victims of the October 25, 2023 mass shooting in Lewiston.