

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
Wednesday
February 28, 2024

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

Prayer by Reverend Scott W. Cousineau of First Parish Congregational Church.

REVEREND SCOTT COUSINEAU: Thank you, President Jackson. Thank you, Senators, for the invitation. Thank you to our honored guests. Let us be in the spirit of prayer. God of grace and God of glory, we come into your presence this morning as grateful people. We are grateful for the ways that you are made manifest in the world and in our lives. We are thankful for those who nurtured us, taught us, and inspired us. And we are thankful for the great beauty that surrounds us. We are thankful for all those who heard your call to love and serve their neighbors and answered that call. God, we thank you for creating us in your image and placing the spark of your holy spirit within us. Created in your image, our hearts beat in rhythm with your heart. Our spirits move in unison with your spirit. Your dream for the world is our calling and our guide. Oh, God, you desire that we live in community and harmony with you and with one another. You desire that we practice and follow the way of love. You desire compromise and cooperation over competition and conquest. You desire partnership and peace over division and hostility. Make your desires our desires. May your concerns be our concerns. God of immeasurable light, we ask your blessing upon this legislative body and the work that they have before them. Fill their hearts and their minds with your vision for how we are to live together. Be in their debates and their discussions. May they see your face in one another and in the faces of those who they represent. Let your light shine in them and through them and may we all walk and work and serve in your wonderful peace. We offer this prayer in your holy name. Amen.

Posting of the Colors by Loring Job Corps Center Honor Guard.

National Anthem Performed by Sergeant Jack Pitteroff of the 195th Maine Army National Guard Band.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Craig V. Hickman of Kennebec County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Angela Leclerc, MSPA, PA-C of Gorham.

Off Record Remarks

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 959

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

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Legislature
3 State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as a report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from its review and evaluation of the Advisory board for the Licensing of Taxidermists under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 of the Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The committee finds that the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Taxidermists is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. David LaFountain S/Rep. H. Scott Landry, Jr.
Senate Chair House Chair
READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 960

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

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Legislature
3 State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as a report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from its review and evaluation of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 of the Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The committee finds that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. David LaFountain
Senate Chair

S/Rep. H. Scott Landry, Jr.
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Implement Protections Against Deed Fraud"
S.P. 960 L.D. 2240

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Cosponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland and
Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland,
RAFFERTY of York, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives:
DUCHARME of Madison, MALON of Biddeford, PARRY of
Arundel, SHEEHAN of Biddeford.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a
Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases"
S.P. 958 L.D. 2238

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston and
Senators: BAILEY of York, BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BRENNER
of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, DAUGHTRY of
Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York,
President JACKSON of Aroostook, LAWRENCE of York,
NANGLE of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of
York, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ANKELES of
Brunswick, ARFORD of Brunswick, BELL of Yarmouth, BOYLE of
Gorham, BRENNAN of Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta,
CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COPELAND
of Saco, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South Portland,
DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, EATON of Deer Isle,
GATTINE of Westbrook, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of
Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North
Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HOBBS of Wells,
JAUCH of Topsham, KUHN of Falmouth, LAJOIE of Lewiston,
LaROCHELLE of Augusta, LOOKNER of Portland, MADIGAN of
Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford,
MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George, MEYER of

Eliot, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, MONTELL of Gardiner,
MOONEN of Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, MURPHY of
Scarborough, O'NEIL of Saco, OSHER of Orono, PERRY of
Calais, PERRY of Bangor, PRINGLE of Windham, RANA of
Bangor, RIELLY of Westbrook, RISEMAN of Harrison, ROEDER
of Bangor, RUNTE of York, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of
Westbrook, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAW of
Auburn, SINCLAIR of Bath, SKOLD of Portland, STOVER of
Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of
Portland, TERRY of Gorham, WARREN of Scarborough, WHITE
of Waterville, WORTH of Ellsworth, ZAGER of Portland,
ZEIGLER of Montville.

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

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **REFER** the
Bill to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook requested a **RULING OF THE
CHAIR** as to whether this Bill is **PROPERLY BEFORE THE
BODY**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until
Later in Today's Session, pending **RULING OF THE CHAIR**.

(See action later today.)

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Mechanic Falls the
Bill Dunlop Memorial Bridge
S.P. 959 L.D. 2239

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and
Representative: MILLETT of Waterford.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the
Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Cape Elizabeth Fire-Rescue, which responded to the mayday call
of the Tara Lynn II during a storm. The Water Extrication Team
was able to reach the boat and rescue the 4 people on board.
We extend our appreciation and best wishes;
SLS 1466
Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: KESSLER of South Portland,
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Colleagues of the Senate. I just rise to call out the incredible accomplishments of the Cape Elizabeth Water Extrication Team. This is a group of community members who train year-round and serve to ensure that when people experience trouble on the seas in our community there are resources available to rescue them. And this particular sentiment recognizes the work of the Water Extrication Team on January 13th. On that day, the Coast Guard got a Mayday call at midnight. At 1:20 a.m., the Cape Elizabeth Water Extrication Team responded to the wreck of the Tara Lynn II. Rescuers saved four fishermen in incredibly high seas and arduous conditions in the middle of the night. The winds were gusting up to 50 miles an hour with six-foot waves within 300 feet offshore. There were three attempts to save those on the boat, and only ten seconds during those attempts to actually get the fishermen off the boat. Later that day, the Tara Lynn washed ashore at Trundy Point and stayed there, but fortunately, the four fishermen who were on that boat were rescued due to the heroism of Lieutenant Nate Perry and rescue swimmer Harun Laleli from the Cape Elizabeth Water Extrication Team. I just want us to all recognize their heroic efforts in saving these lives. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Jared Mills, of Augusta, Chief of the Augusta Police Department, on his retirement after many years of service. Chief Mills began his service with the department as a police officer in 1998 and became chief in 2018. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1271

Sponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta,
LAROCHELLE of Augusta.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot.

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. It is my great honor to stand before you today to recognize a man who has gone above and beyond in protecting and attending to our community and region for the past 25 years. Jared Mills began his career as an officer for the Augusta Police Department all the way back in 1998 and has done nothing but serve our community with distinction since taking that first step. In his time with the department, he methodically climbed through the ranks, obtaining the role of detective, sergeant, and lieutenant. This eventually culminated in his promotion as police chief in 2018, where he was unanimously confirmed by the city council and served in that capacity until just recently stepping down with his retirement. In recent years, he coupled these duties in law enforcement with the

role of assistant city manager in Augusta, where he earned the reputation of a highly respected municipal executive. And we sure hope to see him coming back around soon, but during this time, in these different capacities, he proved himself as an able and selfless public servant. And to round out his resume even further, Jared obtained a master's degree in public administration in 2017, helping to propel him toward a teaching position at the University of Maine at Augusta, where I've had the pleasure of visiting and speaking with his classes on state and local government on several occasions. I could not be more grateful to have individuals like Jared around to set such a sterling example and maintain a solid foundation for our community. And, Mr. President, I would be remiss if I failed to mention just how integral Jared's wonderful family has been in supporting his efforts every step of the way. His lovely wife, Vivian, who is here with him today, and two daughters, Jasmine and Jiselle, have kept him grounded through the many immense challenges he's had to navigate through his lengthy career. Jared is exceptionally lucky to have those three around him, and he has shown us in the community just how important it is to keep family first. Jared, we're thrilled that you were able to make it here today along with your brother, Steve, and mom, Tisha, and want to thank you for everything that you've done and will continue to do as you move forward to new ventures. God bless you and your family.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Jared Mills, the recently retired Augusta Police Chief and District City Manager. He's from Augusta and joined buy his family. They are the guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot, and the entire Maine Senate. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Off Record Remarks

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Douglas Maifeld, of Rumford, a school resource officer with Regional School Unit 10, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maine Association of Police for his over 30 years of dedication to the youth of Maine and nearly 35 years of service as a police officer in Maine. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1468
Sponsored by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: HENDERSON of Rumford.

Donald Miller, of Woodstock, a sergeant with the Rumford Police Department, who received the Heroism Award from the Maine Association of Police. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1469

Sponsored by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: ANDREWS of Paris.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. It is our great privilege today to recognize two extraordinary law enforcement officials from the Rumford Police Department: Officer Douglas Maifeld and Sergeant Donald Miller. These two men were recently honored with awards from the Maine Association of Police for their exceptional work above and beyond the call of duty. At the annual Maine Association of Police banquet in late January, Officer Maifeld was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of remarkable commitment, accomplishments, and dedication to the youth in our community. In January 2020, after more than 30 years as a patrol officer and sergeant, Officer Maifeld retired from the Rumford Police Department. During his long career, Officer Maifeld dedicated a substantial amount of time and energy to supporting and mentoring youth in the Rumford and the River Valley as a DARE instructor, child safety seat specialist, and enthusiastic supporter and participant in the Special Olympics program. Months after his retirement, the Rumford PD hired Officer Maifeld back. In the fall of 2020, he began his second career as a full-time school resource officer for RSU 10 schools in Rumford and Mexico. In this role, he handles all police matters and conducts investigations for incidents related to the schools. Beyond the schools, Officer Maifeld is well known for his steadfast passion to mentor the youth in the community, teaching the next generation important skills and healthy lifestyles so they will become good community citizens. Every summer, Officer Maifeld spends time at Camp POSTCARD, a camp run by Volunteers of America, which stands for Police Officers Striving to Create and Reinforce Dreams, providing hundreds of kids with the opportunity to experience camp. As mentioned, he is dedicated to his work with Special Olympics as well. Last summer, he proudly participated in the Maine Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics and served his community as a Guardian of the Flame torchbearer at Special Olympics world games in Berlin, Germany. Officer Maifeld is a treasure. He has a great working relationship with school faculty, staff, and he knows almost every student by name. No matter the time, you will find him in and out of schools at sporting events and other special functions. He is constantly giving his support to the staff and the students he serves. I have seen Officer Maifeld in action many times and can attest that over the years that he has built really strong relationships with our whole community. In a role that requires a special kind of person, Officer Maifeld exemplifies time and again exactly what a school resource officer should be. I want to thank him for his many years of steadfast service to the people of the River Valley. Another incredible law enforcement officer from my district, Sergeant Donald Miller, who is also here

with us today, received the Heroism Award at the January banquet. Last October, Sergeant Miller intervened when an armed individual was inexplicitly stalking an innocent, random citizen and her infant child in Rumford. While Sergeant Miller was speaking with the terrified citizen and making arrangements to escort her and her child safely home, the armed suspect drove up to the scene, stopped in the middle of the street, and shined car headlights on them. Sergeant Miller's concern for the safety of the woman and the child, as well as the other officers now on the scene, grew when the suspect appeared to be incoherent. At the risk of placing themselves in danger, Sergeant Miller arranged a police cruiser to block the road, placing a physical barrier between the danger and the citizen and allowing them to escape. Sergeant Miller attempted to deescalate the suspect from behind limited cover, asking the suspect repeatedly to exit his vehicle. His efforts proved ineffective when the suspect threatened to kill the officers and attempted to shoot them, resulting in the police fatally shooting the suspect. For putting himself in grave danger to protect the lives of others, for his leadership and demonstration of bravery, the Maine Association of Police presented Sergeant Donald Miller with a Heroism Award. I want to thank Sergeant Miller for his incredible bravery and his service to the people of Rumford. We are blessed to have a courageous individual like him protecting our community. They are joined today by their chief, Tony Milligan. And in these troubling times, I also want to thank Chief Milligan for his leadership, and for all law enforcement, for their selfless service to all of the people of Maine. Thank you so much for joining me today in recognizing these amazing men.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Officer Douglas Maifeld of Rumford, Sergeant Donald Miller and his wife Jamie Miller of Woodstock, and Rumford Police Chief Tony Milligan of Rumford. They are the guests today of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim, and the entire Maine Senate. Would they please rise and accept the congratulations and thanks of the Maine Senate.

Off Record Remarks

Ashton Leclerc, of Gorham, who received the George Vinal Trophy for his being the Class AA South Basketball Tournament's outstanding player-sportsman. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1451

Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYLE of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham.

The Gorham High School Boys Basketball team, which won the Class AA South Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 1452

Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYLE of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. Eleven points, eight points away, five points away, three points away; all they needed was three points. For Ashton, this was simple enough. Earlier this year, he had broken the record for Gorham High School for the most three-pointers in a single game. He's described, as my daughter would say, as a walking bucket. Ashton is averaging 21 points this season. His sharpshooting from three and dynamic offense led the Gorham Rams to a 16-2 season. So, what is three more points for Ashton Leclerc? On January 30, 2024, with 997 points already in the bank, Ashton rolled through two screens to let it fly from deep for his one thousandth career point. It is for this achievement that Ashton was deserving of the legislative sentiment. But that's not all Ashton has accomplished this season. The Gorham Rams outplayed many teams to get to the regional finals last weekend - though I feel a little bit apprehensive that the final pitted two of the finest high schools in the entire state for both the boys and the girls' regional finals, those being my two district high schools, Gorham and Scarborough - strong performances by Gabe Michaud, Jesse James, Jack Karlonas, and Caden Smith. But one Ram stood out amongst the rest. During the final, the prestigious Vinall Trophy for Outstanding Player and Sportsmanship was given to none other than Ashton. Ashton and the Rams also made history as this is the first AA championship trip ever for the Gorham boys basketball team. Ashton's athletic achievements go beyond the realm of sports and statistics. It is a testament to the countless hours of practice, early mornings and late nights, and his relentless pursuit of excellence. I ask that you all join me in congratulating and wishing him and his team all the best at the state championship basketball game this Saturday at the Cross Arena in Portland. And I'd be remiss not to also give a shoutout to the Gorham Ram girls basketball squad, who also made it on to the regional finals this weekend and will be in the state championship basketball game this Saturday as well. Three points turned into three words - Go Rams -- Let's Go Rams! Thank you.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Ashton Leclerc, senior of Gorham High School, Captain of the Gorham Boys Basketball Team of the town of Gorham. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner, and the entire Maine Senate. Would the guest please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

ORDERS

Joint Resolution

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York (Cosponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco and Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, GATTINE of Westbrook), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 957

JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2024 AS HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a chronic cardiac disease involving thickening of the heart muscle and can potentially lead to debilitating symptoms and serious complications, including heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke and, in rare cases, sudden cardiac death; and

WHEREAS, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the most common inheritable heart disease and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or ethnicity, with a reported prevalence ranging from 1 in 200 to 1 in 500 in the general population; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 700,000 to 1,650,000 people in the United States have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, yet 85% of them may remain undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy shares symptoms, such as shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, palpitations and fainting, with other common cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, making it difficult to distinguish hypertrophic cardiomyopathy from these other diseases; and

WHEREAS, the all-cause mortality risk is 3 to 4 times higher in persons with untreated hypertrophic cardiomyopathy than in the general population; and

WHEREAS, knowing a patient's medical history and any signs and symptoms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that the patient is experiencing is an important first step in accurately diagnosing hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; and

WHEREAS, a health care provider must conduct a thorough screening with cardiac health questions to help calculate a patient's risk of genetic and congenital cardiac disorders; and

WHEREAS, a health care provider may conduct several tests, including an echocardiogram, a cardiac magnetic resonance imaging test or genetic testing, to confirm a family history of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and must examine the patient's heart to correctly diagnose hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; and

WHEREAS, following a diagnosis of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, it is important for patients to work with their health care providers to learn more about the disease and understand different management options, including prescription medicines and surgical treatments; and

WHEREAS, the 4th Wednesday in February has been designated Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day by the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association; 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 designate February 28, 2024 as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day, to acknowledge the critical importance of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy awareness in improving cardiovascular health in the State and to express our support for raising awareness of undiagnosed and untreated hypertrophic cardiomyopathy as a serious public health issue and the need to seek appropriate care for patients suffering from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Bailey.

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to the Secretary of the Senate. Hopefully you've said this term enough times that I can pronounce it accurately as well. Today, I rise to offer a few remarks on Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day, which is today, February 28, 2024. Before I begin, I want to thank my constituent, Joe Hanson of Saco, for bringing this important awareness campaign to my attention and for sharing his personal story with me. As the Senate Chair of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, I'm very happy to raise awareness for HCM. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, or HCM, is a genetic disorder that occurs when the heart muscle thickens, making it harder to pump blood. As a result, people with HCM are at higher risk for developing heart failure and atrial fibrillation, which can lead to blood clots or stroke and sudden cardiac arrest or death. HCM is the most common genetic heart disease, with nearly one in every 250 people living with HCM. Studies have shown that patients from various populations and age groups have HCM, which affect people no matter their gender, ethnicity, age, or geographic location. Many people with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy often go undiagnosed because the symptoms aren't always immediately recognized as indicators of a cardiac condition. Often, the symptoms mimic symptoms of noncardiac-related diseases. The most common symptoms, as we heard, are shortness of breath, heart palpitations, and fatigue, meaning that many patients can be misdiagnosed with asthma, anxiety attacks, or panic attacks. Although it can be difficult to diagnose, genetic testing can help. Because HCM is a genetic disorder, it is important for parents, siblings, and children of HCM patients to be screened. Genetic testing can be done using saliva or blood samples to identify genetic mutations. Aside from genetic testing, electrocardiogram, cardiac MRI, stress echo, physical exams can help diagnose HCM in patients as well. Increased awareness of the disease, along with access to screening, are key steps to getting an early diagnosis and ensuring that patients receive proper treatment. Fortunately, once diagnosed, a range of treatment options are available to relieve symptoms and prevent sudden cardiac death in people with HCM. These options include anti-arrhythmics, antibiotics, beta blockers, blood thinners, calcium channel blockers, cardiac myosin inhibitors, and more. To learn more about HCM, I urge you to visit the 4hcm.org website, where you

can connect with the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association. Also, the advancedcardiohealth.org website, where you can connect with a partnership to advance cardiovascular health. Again, thank you to Joe Hanson for bringing this to my attention and raising awareness of this disease. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Change of Committee

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** 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 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**, in concurrence.

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1396 L.D. 2181

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Add Schedule V Substances to the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program"
H.P. 1363 L.D. 2139

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.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Clarify MaineCare Copayments"
H.P. 1377 L.D. 2153

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.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Increase Safety for Child Welfare Services Workers"
H.P. 1311 L.D. 2049

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.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Arrearage Management

Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1330 L.D. 2067

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-764)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-764) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** on Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Consumers by Establishing an Abuse of Dominance Right of Action and Requiring Notification of Mergers"
H.P. 1161 L.D. 1815

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-771)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-771)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-771) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Real Estate Appraisers and Appraisal Management Companies"
H.P. 1324 L.D. 2062

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-770)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-770)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-770) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Remove the Age Requirement for Correctional Staff Retirement Under the 1998 Special Plan"
H.P. 920 L.D. 1424

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-769)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-769)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-769) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases
S.P. 958 L.D. 2238

Tabled - February 28, 2024, by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - **RULING OF THE CHAIR**

(In Senate, February 28, 2024, Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**. Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook requested a **RULING OF THE CHAIR** as to whether this Bill is **PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY**.)

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

Senator **HARRINGTON**: Thank you, Mr. President. I question whether or not this bill is properly before the body pursuant to Joint Rule 217.

THE CHAIR MADE THE FOLLOWING RULING:

"The Chair would Rule that the two bills are not identical and therefore L.D. 2238 is Properly Before the Body."

The Chair **RULED THE BILL WAS PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY**.

Senator **HARRINGTON** of York moved to **APPEAL** the Ruling of the Chair.

On further motion by same Senator, 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 Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise to speak about the differences between the matter before us, the LD on our calendar today, and the LD from the previous session. There is an important difference in the two legislative documents, and it relates to the scope of the application of the policy contained in the document. When and how a 72-hour waiting period applies or does not apply is really critical to evaluating this bill and deciding whether to cast a vote for or against that adoption. The prior LD lacked clarity on this very important point. It did not contain any description of whether it applies to correction officers, and that has been clarified in the new document, and then also the new legislative document replaces some very cumbersome and hard-to-understand language pertaining to persons who desire to promote the public interest with a very clear definition that relates to persons who work as security guards. I think that the clarity in when and how the 72-hour waiting period applies is crucial to the bill. It's a really important difference, and I think it sets the two legislative documents apart, and I would ask that you uphold the ruling of the Senate President that the documents are different. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is The Ruling of the Chair. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Franklin, Senator **BLACK**, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DAUGHTRY**, the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN**, and the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#558)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the Ruling of the Chair was **SUSTAINED**.

Senator **HARRINGTON** of York moved the Bill and accompanying papers be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

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

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Bill and accompanying papers be **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#559)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE

11 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **TABLE** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers, **FAILED**.

The pending motion before the Senate was the motion by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers.

ROLL CALL (#560)

YEAS: Senators: BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE

10 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 21 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers **FAILED**.

The pending motion before the Senate was the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **REFER** the Bill and accompanying papers to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York, 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 York, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON**: Thank you. I believe given the fact that we heard LD 60 in the Criminal Justice Committee, I think we had the expertise handling this bill. Just nine short months ago, we voted on it in this Chamber, and I think at the very least we should put it to the appropriate committee. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to echo the sentiments of my colleague from York County. While this body has ruled in agreement with the President that apparently these bills are substantially different enough to move forward - though some are in doubt - what is certainly true is that this exact topic was heard last year in the Criminal Justice Committee, and I'm not certain why the jurisdiction would change to the Judiciary Committee. If it is sent to the Judiciary Committee, as a member of that committee, I'll happily do my duty in terms of the public

hearing and the work session on it, but I haven't heard a rationale for why within the bounds of the same Legislature, just separated by a different session, why this topic would move to a different committee of jurisdiction. And I suppose I'll ask a question through the Chair to anyone who'd like to answer it, what is the rationale for moving this topic from Criminal Justice and Public Safety to the Judiciary Committee?

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Senate President. I rise to answer my good colleague from Androscoggin's question. There is currently a bill that has already been referred to the Judiciary Committee that addresses background checks, and it's very important for the 72-hour waiting period and the background check policies and the language in the legislation to be worked together because they have to kind of knit together, so to speak, and therefore it makes sense to include -- to refer both of them to the same committee. Thank you.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** I believe we just heard a wonderful rationale for why we should maybe explore the option of having a joint public hearing on this bill, as we discussed last week.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Reference to the Committee on Judiciary. 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 (#561)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools"
H.P. 1052 L.D. 1642

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-772).**

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass.**

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-772)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-772).**

Reports **READ.**

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED**

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise to support the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report, but I do want to point out a couple of things that concern me. In the bill, it talks about -- and this is the -- what's in front of you, the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended, it talks about Wabanaki studies may be taught as a component of other content areas as appropriate, including but not limited to content areas of English, language arts, mathematics, science, and fine arts. I have absolutely no problem with that - as somebody that's been in education for 40 years, I think it's high time that we worked on this - but I do have a problem with the process that I'm seeing along these same lines. And so, for example, we in the committee have been asked to look at the learning standards. And I guess what I can't understand is that in this amendment, we're talking about changes to science curriculum. Great. But in the rulemaking that the Department has brought us, they've already made 111 changes involving the insertion of the word Wabanaki, when there were zero back in 2019. That is supposed to be the job of the commission that we're putting together. So, my concern and complaint is directed toward the Department of Education. They have jumped the gun on these changes. They have employed some experts in making some of these changes, but we need time. Furthermore, the union has told us in a letter sent to all members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs that we're not prepared in terms of training our teachers, we're not prepared to adopt these new rules. So, today, what we have in front of us authorizes those changes, yet they're kind of already out there, and I've got some strong, strong, strong concerns about that. And I would ask the people on the other side of the aisle to help me rein in the Department a little bit on these issues. A couple of other things that really concern me and I want to make sure that everybody hears this correctly, because we seem to have lumped together Native American Studies, Wabanaki, and African American Studies. In the science standards that we have already looked at in our committee, in 2019, Wabanaki appeared in science standards, not the social studies standards, Wabanaki -- the word Wabanaki appeared zero times. Now, according to -- if we pass the rules, it would appear 63 times. Again, that's going to be -- that should be the job of the commission and others that are assisting the commission and the money that we're putting into the commission is going to enable that. But here's one that just shocked me - imagine this - in 2019, the Maine learning standards for science mentioned the word African American zero times. Zero. And now, in 2024, it's mentioned once. Wabanaki 63, African American 1. This is the DOE, it's not us. It's our job to make sure that the Executive Branch doesn't go around wild on these things. And I brought this up in committee, and -- which is the reason I'm today going to support this motion, but you'll see on the committee report that I did not. I mean, I just throw my hands up in the air when I see this stuff. It's hard to believe. We need to do better. And I know my committee cares, and I know you care, and all I would ask is that you just please when you talk to people in the Executive Branch that you bring up these unbelievable inadequacies and the unfairness in reference between groups of people. It makes no sense to me. So, I will be supporting the motion, and thank you very much, Mr. President, for allowing me to speak.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I rise as a happy co-sponsor of this measure before you today. I testified before the public hearing and have to share a little history. In the late 1970s, my father, Dean Bennett, was the leader of a Maine studies curriculum project which set out social studies curricula for the entirety of the state of Maine, including his authorship of a book that some of you may have had in your middle school experience - back then, we called in junior high school - and it was a book called Dirigo. My father did something extraordinary at the time, which was he reached out to the Wabanaki community of people, and he invited them to participate in the writing of the textbook, and three chapters of that book actually relate to the Wabanaki's perspective on the history of Maine. For years, this book was used in middle schools, and it was -- I read it even today, actually, when we pick up Wabanaki issues before the Legislature, I reread sections of that textbook because in very simple form - it's written for eighth graders - it talks about the experience of the Wabanakis. And I commend it to you and would be happy to share copies of it with you, if anybody's interested. For years, this book was used in the public schools, for over ten years. These book have shelf lives, new curricula were written, etcetera. And so, then, 20 years later, there was a bill passed in this Legislature requiring the teaching of Wabanaki studies in our schools. And we all know from recent news reports that that somehow fell by the wayside. Here we are, another 20 years forward, so we're now 40 years in, and we have this measure before us, again requiring that Wabanaki studies be part of curricula in our schools. Perhaps with the advent of learning standards, our institutional memory will be a little bit better regarding the need to teach Wabanaki studies in our schools. But if the Legislature has to take it upon itself periodically every decade or two to make sure that the laws that we passed are followed and that the Wabanaki traditions and culture and history which is intertwined with the rest of us who inhabit this land we call Maine, then we'll just have to continue to do it. So, with this bill, I hope that we will once again remember our responsibilities and teach Wabanaki studies so that we'll all be better informed, our kids will be better informed about our heritage, and we will be following the laws that we've passed repeatedly in recent history. So, with that, I would encourage you to vote for the pending motion, and I thank you for your attention.

Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-772) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Cost of Copies of Medical Records"
H.P. 1375 L.D. 2151

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

Signed:

Senators:
BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:
MEYER of Eliot
FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea
MADIGAN of Waterville
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-766)**.

Signed:

Representative:
CRAVEN of Lewiston

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Application of the Law Requiring Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Cover Towing and Storage Charges for Certain Vehicles" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1332 L.D. 2073

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

Signed:

Senator:
BAILEY of York

Representatives:
PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
PRINGLE of Windham

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Representatives:
CYRWAY of Albion
SWALLOW of Houlton
Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in 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.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State"
H.P. 1365 L.D. 2141

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-773)**.

Signed:

Senators:
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:
LANDRY of Farmington
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
DILL of Old Town
GOLEK of Harpswell
HEPLER of Woolwich

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford
MASON of Lisbon
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Greene
WOODSOME of Waterboro

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-773)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-773)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

On further motion by same Senator, 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 Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate, here in the great State of Maine, we know full well the importance of a healthy environment and especially the vital importance of clean, clear water. Maine people deserve to know that the water we drink is clean and that the shores of the lakes and rivers on which we build our homes are safe and healthy. When Eurasian milfoil -- watermilfoil was discovered in Cobbosseecontee Lake in the summer of 2021, members of the lake community knew they had to step up. A year later, the local grassroots efforts of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association have seen tremendous results thanks to the swift action of lake residents, local businesses, and partner agencies, including the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, a nature conservancy focused on 27 bodies of water in and around the Winthrop lakes region. As the Senator representing southern Kennebec County and a former board member of the Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association, I want to take this opportunity to applaud them for a job well done. Left unaddressed, invasive aquatic plants like milfoil can choke a lake, destroying its ecosystem and the opportunities for us to all enjoy it. Eurasian watermilfoil is one of the most aggressive and fast-spreading invasive plants infesting our lakes today all across the country. It forms dense mats on the water's surface and displaces native plants, having a devastating impact on fish and wildlife as well as our ability to swim, fish, paddleboat, and simply enjoy the lake. Property values on lakes infected by this milfoil have dropped. Local businesses have suffered. Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate, let us remain vigilant and work together to keep all of Maine's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams

pristine for years to come. And so, Mr. Senate President, as the lead sponsor of this legislation here in this Chamber, let us not only vote to pass this necessary bill today, but let us fund it, enact it, and send it to the Governor's desk for her signature. The people of the State of Maine deserve nothing less. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'll fill the gap. I want to rise in support of this measure. As a Senator who represents what is lovingly called the Lakes Region of Maine, although there are others, as the Senator from Kennebec may contest me on that, the lakes region that I represent in the Bridgton/Harrison area has some of the most beautiful lakes in our state, throughout Oxford County, throughout the interior side of Cumberland County. Invasive aquatic plants is an ongoing present danger not only for our environment but for our economy. People are spending so many volunteer hours, thousands of volunteer hours trying to clean up these invasive plants. And I've heard some disturbing words in discussing of this bill that well, we're going to lose the fight, so why are we ever engaged in it? We have to be engaged in this fight. We have made tremendous strides in engaging with this fight, and we've cleaned up some of our lakes. We have to remain vigilant. It will never end because this is the way invasive species work, but that doesn't mean that we can just give up. The people of my district depend on this ongoing effort. I don't know whether this amount of money is the right amount of money and whether we can find it within the resources that we have at this level, but we must support doing all we can as a state to support the efforts that countless people across the state have spent decades literally working on to protect our lakes from invasive aquatic species. So, I'm very much in support of the pending motion.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report. (Roll Call Ordered)

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Correct Outdated References in and Relating to the Maine Human Rights Act"
H.P. 1366 L.D. 2142

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-765)**.

Signed:

Senators:
CARNEY of Cumberland
BAILEY of York
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland
HENDERSON of Rumford
KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
MORIARTY of Cumberland
POIRIER of Skowhegan
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris
HAGGAN of Hampden

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-765)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-765)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-765) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Noncompete Clauses"
H.P. 951 L.D. 1496

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-768)**.

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-768)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-768)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, 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 Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. This bill builds on the work of the Senate as we unanimously banned noncompete clauses for veterinary practice last session. For those that may not remember the conversation, noncompete clauses prevent workers from working in their industry or starting their own business if they leave their job. It used to be only used for very highly paid positions, often in finance, on Wall Street, but over the last few years, it's become increasingly common for workers all over the place and in all kinds of jobs. It's now used far more broadly as a way of keeping workers without paying them more. About one-fifth of workers currently across the county have noncompete clauses, including folks like janitors and dog walkers. It's about 30% of people that earn around the equivalent of the minimum wage, or 30% of noncompetes apply to those folks. So, this would make sure that noncompetes are reasonably used, that they're not broader than necessary, and that they are simply used to protect trade secrets or in the case where it's a co-owner of a business. So, this is particularly important as inflation has made it more important for people to be able to have some flexibility to change jobs, to pursue new opportunities, and to make more money. It's important for workers in rural areas and it's important because we want people to be innovative and entrepreneurial. There was a commentary distributed here with an exuberant amount of punctuation that I just wanted to address briefly. The trade secrets provision is well defined, it is the same as used in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, which it references, in Maine. It is broad, but it is clear, and it says simply that trade secret is information that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use and is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy. That would apply to all of the bullets here. So, today, I'd like to ask this Chamber to protect Maine workers, to promote

entrepreneurship and innovation, to allow for higher wages and better-fitting jobs for Mainers and allow more people to work more easily in rural Maine. Thank you, Mr. President.

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 (#562)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE,

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-768) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training" H.P. 1374 L.D. 2150

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

Signed:

Senators:
NANGLE of Cumberland
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay
ABDI of Lewiston
COPELAND of Saco
DHALAC of South Portland
RISEMAN of Harrison
SINCLAIR of Bath

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors" H.P. 859 L.D. 1345

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-767)**.

Signed:

Senator:
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush
CROCKETT of Portland
HASENFUS of Readfield
MATLACK of St. George
RANA of Bangor

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Representatives:

QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-767)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-767)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-767) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Clarify That Certain Imported Motor Vehicles Are Not Off-road Vehicles"
H.P. 38 L.D. 63

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

Signed:

Senator:

FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
O'CONNELL of Brewer
PARRY of Arundel
WHITE of Waterville
WHITE of Guilford

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-774)**.

Signed:

Senator:

CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland, Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Senator **CHIPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. Just very briefly, this bill is an issue of fairness, and I voted the way I did because there were several people in the state who purchased and were registered Mitsubishi Delica full-size vans in their towns and drove them around for some period of time and then the state sent them letters and revoked their registrations. And it really points to a larger issue of passenger vehicles that are manufactured for road use that aren't allowed to be used in Maine, and I won't get into the details on that, but I just think that more work needs to be done maybe in the next session to figure out some sort of solution for at least some kind of limited use on the roads by some of these vehicles. Thank you.

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator **BRENNER** for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Emergency Activities and Structure Elevation Increases in Flood Zones from Permit Requirements Under the Natural Resources Protection Act"
S.P. 858 L.D. 2030

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-547)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-547) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator **CARNEY** for the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters"
S.P. 923 L.D. 2171

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-549)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-549) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Off Record Remarks

SECOND READERS

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

House

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 270: Uniform Reporting System for Quality Data Sets, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1385 L.D. 2165

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

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Increase the State's Share of the Cost of Health Insurance for Retired Teachers" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1136 L.D. 1773
(C "A" H-762)

Bill "An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Require Funding for African American Studies"
H.P. 1279 L.D. 2001
(C "A" H-763)

Bill "An Act to Amend a Notice Provision Regarding Registration of Out-of-state Child Custody Determinations Under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act"
H.P. 1340 L.D. 2081
(C "A" H-761)

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

Senate

Resolve, to Adopt Conceptual Elements of the 2023 Augusta State Facilities Master Plan
S.P. 869 L.D. 2068

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate As Amended

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Efficiency Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles by Maine Businesses and to Establish a Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project"
S.P. 61 L.D. 122
(C "A" S-541)

Bill "An Act to Require Industry Training and Certification for Persons Undertaking Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation for Bridges"
S.P. 657 L.D. 1640
(C "A" S-546)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding State-chartered Credit Unions"
S.P. 783 L.D. 1921
(C "A" S-542)

Resolve, to Authorize the State Tax Assessor to Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory
S.P. 852 L.D. 2024
(C "A" S-540)

Bill "An Act to Authorize Medical Waivers for Menhaden Fishing Licenses"
S.P. 854 L.D. 2026
(C "A" S-545)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes"
S.P. 877 L.D. 2084
(C "A" S-539)

Bill "An Act to Provide for the 2024 and 2025 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 916 L.D. 2160
(C "A" S-543)

Resolve, to Rename the Interstate 295 Interchange in the Town of Freeport the Matthew MacMillan Bridge
S.P. 924 L.D. 2173
(C "A" S-538)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Update Maine's Domestic Violence and Stalking Laws
S.P. 878 L.D. 2085
(C "A" S-528)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 31 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 31 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Require Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect to Military Family Advocacy Programs
S.P. 888 L.D. 2095
(C "A" S-523)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 31 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 31 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 29: Allowances for Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services
H.P. 1392 L.D. 2177

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 31 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 31 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.

Acts

An Act to Provide for Consistent Billing Practices by Health Care Providers
H.P. 988 L.D. 1533

(C "A" H-752)

An Act to Expand Access to Drug Treatment Courts
S.P. 627 L.D. 1596
(C "A" S-526)

An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws
S.P. 851 L.D. 2023

An Act to Remove the Exemption for Certain Roadside Springs from Regulation as Public Water Systems in the Laws Regarding Water for Human Consumption
S.P. 864 L.D. 2036
(C "A" S-524)

An Act to Establish Training and Certification Standards for Probation and Parole Officers
H.P. 1307 L.D. 2045
(C "A" H-754)

An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses
H.P. 1314 L.D. 2052

An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
H.P. 1315 L.D. 2053

An Act Regarding Businesses' and Consumers' Use of Returnable, Reusable and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages and Nonfood Items
S.P. 884 L.D. 2091
(C "A" S-529)

An Act to Amend the Start Date of the September Upland Game Season
H.P. 1422 L.D. 2216

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

An Act to Establish the Community Housing Production Program
H.P. 1197 L.D. 1867
(C "A" H-751)

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

An Act to Allow Candidates for District Attorney to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act
H.P. 1263 L.D. 1966
(C "A" H-753)

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

An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Abuse and Violence by Amending the Law Regarding Proximity Restrictions in Final Protection from Abuse Orders
S.P. 896 L.D. 2103
(C "A" S-527)

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

Resolve

Resolve, to Establish a Plan to Provide Transitional Housing and to Support the Growth of Maine's Workforce
S.P. 684 L.D. 1721
(C "A" S-522)

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

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 (2/27/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters"
H.P. 1370 L.D. 2146

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-760)** (8 members)

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

Tabled - February 27, 2024 by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In House, February 22, 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-760)**.)

(In Senate, February 27, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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 Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#563)

YEAS: Senators: CHIPMAN, TIPPING

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE

2 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 29 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **FAILED**.

The Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/27/24) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Improve Maine's Labor Laws by Changing the Laws Governing Elections of Collective Bargaining Agents for Certain Public Employees"
S.P. 860 L.D. 2032

Majority - **Ought to Pass** (6 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (3 members)

Tabled - February 27, 2024 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report (Roll Call Ordered)

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#564)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, LAWRENCE

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Paper

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources"
H.P. 1437 L.D. 2237

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

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** 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
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation

The **Department of Professional and Financial Regulation**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council asked leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 255: Workers' Compensation Fronting Companies, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1432 L.D. 2233

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Pursuant to Public Law

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Require Telephone Solicitors to Use the Reassigned Numbers Database"
H.P. 1433 L.D. 2234

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**, pursuant to Public Law, chapter 144, section 6.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Resolve

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to Add a 3rd Option for Gender on State Forms
H.P. 1434 L.D. 2235

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, pursuant to Resolve, chapter 76, section 2.

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

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Resolve

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Expand the List of Crimes Eligible for a Post-judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information to Include Convictions for Possession and Cultivation of Marijuana"
H.P. 1435 L.D. 2236

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, pursuant to Resolve, chapter 103, section 7.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, 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:** Thank you. With your kind -- thank you for your kind attention. What I hope to have conveyed during this month is that black history is American history. Today, the spotlight for Black History Month is a focused excerpt from the anthology *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African Americans from 1619 to 2019*. Its editors, Ibram Kendy and

Keisha Blain, have assembled essays, short stories, poetry, and more, penned by over 90 writers, each of whom takes on a slice of that 400-year span. The following is an abbreviated reading from the first essay in that anthology, entitled *The Arrival*, authored by Nikole Hannah-Jones, the award-winning author of the 1619 Project. For tomorrow, I will offer an excerpt from the closing essay of that anthology, *Conclusion*, written by Keisha Blain, author of *Set the World on Fire* and co-author of the source anthology, *Four Hundred Souls*. *Arrival*. Four hundred years ago, in 1620, a cargo ship lowered its anchor on the eastern shore of North America. It had spent 66 grueling days on the perilous Atlantic Ocean and its 102 passengers fell into praise as they spotted land for the first time in more than two months. These Puritans had fled England in search of religious freedom. We all know their names, their descendants proudly trace their lineage back to the group that established self-governance in the New World - that is, amongst the white population. The indigenous people were already governing themselves. They arrived on the *Mayflower*, a vessel that has been called one of the most important ships in American history. Every fall, regaled by stories of the courageous pilgrims, elementary school children whose skin is peach, tan, and chestnut, fashion black captain hats from paper to dress up like the passengers on the *Mayflower*. Our country wrapped a national holiday around the pilgrim's story, ensuring the *Mayflower's* mythical place in the American narrative. But a year before the *Mayflower*, in 1619, another ship dropped anchor on the eastern shore of North America. Its name was *White Lion*, and it, too, would become one of the most important ships in American history. And yet there is no ship manifest inscribed with the names of its passengers and its descendants society. These peoples arrival was deemed so insignificant, their humanity so inconsequential, that we do not know even how many of those packed onto the *White Lion's* hull came ashore, just that some 20-and-odd negroes disembarked and joined the British colonists in Virginia. But in his sweeping history, *Before the Mayflower*, scholar Lerone Bennett, Jr. said of the *White Lion*, no one sensed how extraordinary she really was, but few ships before or since have unloaded a more momentous cargo. This cargo, this group of 20-30 Angolans, sold from the deck of the *White Lion* by criminal English marauders in exchange for food and supplies, was also foundational to the American society. But while every American child learns about the *Mayflower*, virtually no American child learns about the *White Lion*. And yet, the story of the *White Lion* is classically American. It is a harrowing tale. One filled with all the things that this country would rather not remember. A taint on a nation that believes above all else in its own exceptionality. The Adams and Eves of black America did not arrive here in search of freedom or a better life; they had been captured, stolen, forced onto a ship, shackled, writhing in filth as they suffered and starved. Some 40% of the Angolans who boarded that ghastly vessel did not make it across the middle passage. They embarked not as people but as property, sold to colonists who were just beginning to birth democracy for themselves, commencing a 400-year struggle between the two opposing ideas foundational to America. Black Americans, by definition, are an amalgamated people. Our bodies form the genetic code. We are African, Native, and European, that made America and Americans. We are the living manifestation of the physical, cultural, and ideological merger of the peoples who landed on those two ships but a year apart, and of those people who were already here at arrival. Despite the way we've been taught these histories, these stories do not

march side by side or in parallel, but are inherently intertwined, inseparable. The time for subordinating one of these histories to another has long passed. We must remember the White Lion along with the Mayflower and the Powhattan along with the English and Jamestown. As the voice implores, nations reel and stagger on their way. They make hideous mistakes, they commit frightful wrongs, they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable. The true story of America begins in 1619. This is our story. We must not flinch. Thank you, Mr. President.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, until Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10:00 in the morning.