

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
March 5, 2024

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

Prayer by Pastor Russell Carle of Goodwins Mills Advent Christian Church in Dayton.

PASTOR RUSSELL CARLE: Let's bow together in prayer. Father God and creator of all things, we worship you and thank you for the state that you've made us part of. We thank you for the riches that we have, for the blessings of friends and family. We thank you, Lord, for this Body that comes together to try to solve the problems that we have in the State of Maine, because not everybody is rich and not everybody's healthy and not everybody's doing well. I pray, Lord, that you'd bless these people that have dedicated their lives to try to make a difference. I pray that you keep them from discouragement. I pray that you encourage them with hope. I pray that you protect them from harm. I ask, Lord, that you would keep them safe as they travel. I pray, Lord, that you would bless their families. Lord, in a group this size, there are going to be people that suffer with every sort of illness and sickness and discouragement. Lord, bless this people and show your love. Use them for great good and we give you the praise. I pray this, Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Lisa M. Keim of Oxford County.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Order

The following Joint Order:
H.P. 1438

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report out, to the House, a bill regarding gas tax allocations.

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

READ and **PASSED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 972

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

February 29, 2024

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

Re: Nominations to the Maine Labor Relations Board
Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals for reappointment to the Maine Labor Relations Board:

Sheila G. Mayberry of Falmouth as the Neutral Chair and Rebekah J. Smith, Esquire of Union and Shari Broder of Freeport as Neutral, Alternate Chairs.

Pursuant to Title 26, MRSA §968, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: S.C. 973

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

February 29, 2024

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

RE: Nominations to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System:

Nathan Burnett of Hiram for appointment
Kirk Duplessis of Gardiner for appointment
Brian H. Noyes of South Freeport for reappointment

Pursuant to Title 5 M.R.S.A. §17102, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 978

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

March 4, 2024

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

RE: Nominations to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Laura S. Burden of Portland and Lee Jay Feldman of Lisbon for reappointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

Pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §5155, this reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 979

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

March 4, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of Andrew T. Mueller of Cumberland to the Finance Authority of Maine

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Andrew T. Mueller of Cumberland for appointment to the Finance Authority of Maine.

Pursuant to Title 10, M.R.S.A. §965, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 964

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

February 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. Hickman of Kennebec, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 246 An Act to Amend the Campaign Finance Laws

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 965

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

February 28, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 248 An Act to Amend the State's Liquor Laws

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 966

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

February 26, 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. Timberlake of Androscoggin, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 192 An Act Concerning the Future of Clean Election Funding

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 968

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 23, 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 Education and Cultural Affairs has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 2107 An Act Regarding Department of Education Reliance on Criminal Background Checks Required by the Department of Health and Human Services

L.D. 2170 An Act to Prioritize School Construction Projects for Schools Affected by Disasters

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 976

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

February 26, 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 Energy, Utilities and Technology has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 2206 An Act Regarding Incentives for Heat Pumps
 and Other Weatherization Products and
 Services

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Mark W. Lawrence S/Rep. S. Paige Zeigler
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 969

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

February 23, 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 and Human Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 353 An Act Concerning Substance Use Disorder,
 Treatment, Recovery, Prevention and
 Education

L.D. 2128 An Act Regarding Nonemergency
 Transportation for MaineCare Members
 (EMERGENCY)

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci S/Rep. Michele Meyer
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 967

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

February 21, 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. 629 An Act to Improve, Protect and Defend the
 Individual Civil Right to Bear Arms Through
 Exemption of Firearms and Ammunition from
 Taxation

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. 970

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

February 27, 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. 2194 An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide

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. 971

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

February 22, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 2195 An Act to Protect Businesses from Fraudulent or Predatory Financial Settlements by Allowing Those Businesses Opportunities to Remove Architectural Barriers in Noncompliance with the Maine Human Rights Act

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney S/Rep. Matt Moonen
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 974

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

February 23, 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 Taxation has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":
An Act to Promote Research and Development in the State by Increasing the Research Expense Tax Credit

L.D. 1222 An Act to Expand Child Care Services Through an Employer-supported Tax Credit

L.D. 2111 An Act Regarding the Timeline for Property Tax Abatement Based on Hardship or Poverty

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Nicole Grohoski S/Rep. Joe Perry
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 975

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

February 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 Veterans and Legal Affairs has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- L.D. 1530 An Act to Support Patients by Permitting On-site Consumption of Medical Cannabis and Medical Cannabis Products
- L.D. 1757 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Reporting and Tracking of Adult Use Cannabis
- L.D. 1952 An Act to Allow On-site Cannabis Consumption

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 977

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

March 1, 2024

Darek M. Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Maine State Legislature
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Robert B. Hunt, Clerk of the House of Representatives
Maine State Legislature
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Secretary Grant and Clerk Hunt,

We respectfully offer this letter for inclusion in the Calendars of the Maine Senate and the Maine House, on behalf of all of our colleagues on the Committee on Government Oversight of the 131st Maine Legislature. The Committee recently adopted the following report: "Frontline Perspectives in Child Protection as Catalysts for Reform" (February 2024), which may be found online at the following link:
<https://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees/GOC>.

This report was developed following committee work sessions held since November 2023. An Executive Summary may be found on page 5 of the report. We wish to emphasize that most of our recommendations received unanimous or nearly unanimous support among our Committee members, and we were greatly informed by those on the frontlines who were able to share with us their real-world experiences and vital perspectives. We will also be providing the full report to Members of the Maine Legislature and other interested parties today, directly, via electronic mail, followed by bound and printed hard copies at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

S/Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Jessica L. Fay
House Chair

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Set a Debt Limit for the Anson and Madison Water District" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 964 L.D. 2242

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

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend MaineCare Rules Governing Certain Types of Behavioral and Mental Health Services and to Form a Stakeholder Group to Study Methods for Improving Those Services
S.P. 965 L.D. 2243

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senator: MOORE of Washington.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow the Department of Corrections to Comply with the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 970 L.D. 2250

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Submitted by the Department of Corrections and 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.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Carrabec High School Boys Soccer Team, of North Anson, which won the Maine High School 8 Man Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1279

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: DUNPHY of Embden.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BLACK:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. It is my pleasure to be standing before you today to commemorate the fine collection of young men and their outstanding accomplishments this last fall, bringing home the Maine High School 8-Man Soccer State Championship. Capping off a perfect 18-0 season, the boys from Carrabec took down a very formidable foe team from Millinocket in a narrow and hotly contested match, with a lone goal being served in by Christopher Caruso being the deciding score. This win made for the second state soccer championship of the school's history, following in the footsteps of the 2004 Class C State Champion squad. It sort of goes without saying that an undefeated championship implies a strong level of teamwork, but learning about this team's particular style of champion play perhaps makes their feat all the more impressive. Placing a special emphasis on winning the time of possession battle over individual player, this group of boys used a method of attack somewhat unique to those teams that they face, executing it to a tee, and it's showcased in the very timely fashion of the championship faceoff that demanded that exact style of play. Coach Paul Vicneire was quoted after the game as saying "I've coached 26 years, and this is absolutely the hardest working team I've ever had". That's some pretty high praise for somebody in and around the game that long. I'm certainly inclined to take his word for it. Thank you, gentlemen, for being here today, and please accept my immense congratulations, along with my sincere gratitude for the manner in which you have represented my area with your fierce commitment to each other, embodying the spirit of the way you play the game. Thank you very much.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the Carrabec High School Boys' Soccer, who won the Maine High School 8-Man Championship. They're also joined by their coaches: Paul Vicneire, Coach Greg Caruso, Principal Peter Campbell and Liz. They are the guests today of the Senator from Franklin, Senator Black and the Senator from Somerset, Senator Farrin. Would they all please stand and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Authorize a Stop-work Order Regarding an Activity That Is Creating a Substantial Adverse Impact to a Protected Natural Resource"
S.P. 971 L.D. 2253

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond and Senator: BENNETT of Oxford, Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, O'NEIL of Saco.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

ORDERS

Joint Order

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 968

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services shall report out, to the Senate, a bill regarding manufacturers of insulin.

READ and **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1394 L.D. 2179

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.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias" H.P. 1349 L.D. 2125

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-782)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-782)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-782) **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 Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute" H.P. 182 L.D. 284

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-783)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-783)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-783) **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 Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce" (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1357 L.D. 2133

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-784)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-784)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-784) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1403 L.D. 2189

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-776)**.

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
HICKMAN of Kennebec

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren
HEPLER of Woolwich
JAUCH of Topsham
OSHER of Orono
SHAW of Auburn

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

Signed:

Senator:

BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:

COSTAIN of Plymouth
CRAY of Palmyra
GUERRETTE of Caribou
HALL of Wilton
JACKSON of Oxford

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-776)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-776) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-785)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste"
H.P. 645 L.D. 1009

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-775)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
DOUDERA of Camden

HOBBS of Wells

O'NEIL of Saco

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

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-775)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-775)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

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 Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say a few words about this bill so that we're all clear on what we're voting on. So, this bill will divert food waste from landfills within the state of Maine. Currently 40% of municipal waste in this state is food waste. So, if passed, starting in 2026, a person would be considered a food waste generator when the average amount of food waste generated weekly by them is two or more tons, and that that food waste generator is located within 20 miles of an organic recycler with available capacity. It ramps up so that in 2028, a food waste generator would be considered a person that generates one or more tons of food waste per week and is located within 25 miles of an organic recycler with available capacity. Simply put, this policy will direct that food waste produced at an industrial or commercial scale may not be disposed of in an incineration facility or solid waste landfill, and it must to the maximum extent practicable reduce the volume of food waste it generates and separate and arrange for the donation of excess edible food and manage the remaining food waste that generates through agricultural use, composting, or anaerobic digestion at the point of generation, at a different location or by transferring the food waste to an organic recycler for management. This amendment also makes changes to the state's food recovery hierarchy and clarifies that the state waste disposal reduction goals are as follows. First, we want to reduce the volume of surplus food waste generated at the source point of generation. We want to donate the surplus of excess edible food to food banks, soup kitchens, shelters, and other entities and

rescue organizations, and similar groups where surplus food can be used to feed hungry people in the state of Maine. Diversion of food scraps and waste for agricultural use, for animal feed, including -- and also for utilization of waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion, creation of nutrient-rich soil amendments through compost of food scraps, the composting or anaerobic digestion of food waste, and finally, the last part of that hierarchy is the land disposal or incineration of food waste scraps. Currently, nine states - Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington - have passed some form of food waste reduction and recycling laws. These laws have been incredibly successful at reducing food waste, addressing food insecurity, and developing and expanding organic recycling businesses and programs. For instance, Vermont's law, which is nearly identical to this one, has increased food donations and reduced the amount of food that is landfilled. In 2012, Vermont enacted this law, which implemented a phased-in food waste disposal ban much like what we're considering today. The law was phased in over a period of eight years and became applicable to all Vermonters in July of 2020. This law does not go that far. This law does not affect residential food waste producers. In 2015, donations increased by 30% in Vermont - food donations, that is. This rose to 40% in 2016, and the Vermont Food Bank noted that the law helped provide roughly 40,000 meals in 2016. A significant portion of these new donations are fresh produce and other perishables which were otherwise being landfilled. The law also significantly reduced the amount of food being landfilled in the state. A recent report from the University of Vermont found that 71% of all food waste generated in Vermont is being diverted now for disposal -- from disposal. Similarly, in 2021, the Maryland Legislature passed a food waste reduction and recycling law. Currently, the law prohibits anyone who generates at least two tons of food waste per week from disposing the material in a landfill or incinerator. Beginning in '24, the prohibition will apply to those who generate at least one ton of waste per week. It's phased in much like what we're proposing here today. Even though this law is still in its infancy in Maryland, it has helped spur economic investment into Maryland's existing food waste recycling services. And what I want to remind everybody is - and we talk about this a lot in the ENR committee - is that waste in the State of Maine is considered a commodity. Food waste would function much in the same way if this law were to be passed, spurring economic development of businesses that would be involved in composting and recycling of food waste. I urge you all to support LD 1009. 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 Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **BALDACCI**, Senator from Cumberland, Senator **CHIPMAN**, and the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **TIPPING**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#575)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, CHIPMAN, TIPPING

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators 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" (H-775) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Off Record Remarks

Senate

Pursuant to Statute

Senator LAWRENCE for the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Definition of 'Underground Facility' and Reduce Administrative Burdens Under the So-called Dig Safe Law" S.P. 967 L.D. 2245

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**, pursuant to Resolve, chapter 47, section 3.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Protect the Fund for a Healthy Maine"
S.P. 969 L.D. 2249

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**, pursuant to Resolve, chapter 100, section 7.

Report **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT**.

Pursuant to Statute

Senator CURRY for the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Motor Vehicle Dealer Display Area and Licensing Requirements Working Group"
S.P. 966 L.D. 2244

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**, pursuant to Resolve, chapter 19, section 5.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Ought to Pass

Senator BEEBE-CENTER for the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Resolve, to Fill All Vacant and Expired Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 872 L.D. 2071

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

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator CURRY for the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Board of the Finance Authority of Maine to Allow for the Addition of a Proxy Designee"
S.P. 867 L.D. 2039

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Implement a Facility-based Monitoring System for Slot Machines"
S.P. 871 L.D. 2070

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-552)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-552) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities"
S.P. 881 L.D. 2088

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-551)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-551) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers"
S.P. 257 L.D. 589

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-553)**.

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BOYLE of Gorham
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

Reports **READ**.

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

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

Senator **STWEART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. In Caucus this morning, we worked through what the amended version of this bill which started off as a concept draft and then morphed into it looks like five different -- or a five-part bill. And there were some questions around what it is that this legislation is seeking to do. And so, if maybe the sponsor or the committee -- different members could explain that I think that would be helpful for the benefit of just purely educating the Body here. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the question, Senator. I would point out, though I am not a fan of concept drafts, the concept draft actually had four pretty elaborate

parts to it and so this bill actually puts those four points into full language. I just did not have time to draft it before the deadline, as you all know how that is with the Revisor's Office, but it actually just has two major parts. The first has the Public Utilities Commission looking at grid enhancing technologies. These are technologies that are cost effective and actually save us from having to build additional transmission lines or upgrade substations. There are things like dynamic line ratings, that's a way that you can actually allow more load to go across a transmission line based on temperature. So, all the lines are rated the same around the world, but we obviously have a unique climate here compared to other places, and so dynamic line ratings let us move more electricity across the same line, which reduces the need to build transmission lines, which is something that could be quite controversial. So, that's the first part of the bill, allows the Public Utilities Commission to look at these grid enhancing technologies that are being used elsewhere in the country and around the world. They can then ask the utilities, you know, why aren't you using these, suggest that they use them, look at these technologies and rate cases to determine if the utilities are actually making the most prudent decisions on behalf of the ratepayers or if it would be better to employ some of these technologies. That's the first part of the bill. The second part of the bill builds on a very bipartisan law that we passed last year called the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act. That law basically allows Efficiency Maine Trust in conjunction with the Public Utilities Commission as well as the Governor's Energy Office to look at additional opportunities to invest in different efficiency technologies to actually reduce rates. So, the more that we are doing things like putting heat pumps on the grid, the more use we have of the current grid, the less cost it is per kilowatt hour because the infrastructure is the same. That's what that bill did; this bill is adding a section where they can look at beneficial load in terms of commercial and industrial applications. So, this is really important because there are places where our grid is well built but not well utilized, unfortunately, and especially because of different closures we've had in mills. So, it's asking Efficiency Maine to look at whether or not there should be additional incentives, whether we should use economic development tools like the Dirigo Program in order to have more development by high using commercial or industrial operations to locate in these areas. That way, we can better utilize the grid that we have without going to places that are going to require major upgrades. So, it's not my most concise description of the bill, but this bill, in my mind, has a lot of value to ratepayers. It is more intelligently using the grid that we have rather than just investing without a good strategy about location and modern technologies. Thank you.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Limit Utility Shut-offs"
S.P. 798 L.D. 1962

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-554)**.

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
GEIGER of Rockland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

Reports **READ**.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I guess we've reached this point in the session where we have divided reports coming through on complicated subjects and we have limited amount of time in the day. I would appreciate if someone -- I've looked at the documents available, and I would appreciate it if somebody in lay terms could explain the purposes of this bill. Thank you.

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Simply put in lay terms, previously we dealt with utilities shutting off power to people during extreme winter storms because of nonpayment. This just expands that to look at expanding that to summer months and other times when there are heat waves and severe power usage and not having the utility shut people off during that time. It doesn't forgive their bill or anything, it just doesn't allow them to shut them off during extreme weather conditions.

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 (#576)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, CHIPMAN, TIPPING

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-554) **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 Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training"
H.P. 1374 L.D. 2150

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

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals"
H.P. 819 L.D. 1294
(C "A" H-779)

Resolve, to Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses
H.P. 1218 L.D. 1903
(C "A" H-778)

Bill "An Act to Enact the Reentry Success and Earned Time Act"
H.P. 1271 L.D. 1978
(C "A" H-777)

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
(C "A" H-773)

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

Senate As Amended

Resolve, to Establish the Stakeholder Group to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State
(EMERGENCY)
S.P. 876 L.D. 2083
(C "A" S-550)

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

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

Emergency Resolve

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
H.P. 1385 L.D. 2165

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 32 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 32 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 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)

An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects
S.P. 892 L.D. 2099
(C "A" S-530)

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

An Act to Provide Funds for Comprehensive Family Life Education Services
S.P. 120 L.D. 254
(C "A" S-537)

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

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board to Analyze Data on the Adequacy of Certain Maine Workers' Compensation Benefits
S.P. 767 L.D. 1896
(C "A" S-534)

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

Resolve, to Establish the African American and Wabanaki Studies Advisory Council and Provide Funding to Support African American Studies and Wabanaki Studies
H.P. 1279 L.D. 2001
(C "A" H-763)

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Pursuant to Resolve

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission"
H.P. 1444 L.D. 2252

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.

Pursuant to Resolve

The Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Mining Excise Tax Laws"
H.P. 1445 L.D. 2251

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION**, pursuant to Resolve, chapter 83, section 1.

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

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

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

Pursuant to Statute

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions"
H.P. 1440 L.D. 2241

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12006, subsection 2.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Reduce the Reporting Requirements for Special Utility Districts and to Require the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank to File a Report with the Legislature"
H.P. 1441 L.D. 2248

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, in concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers"
S.P. 257 L.D. 589

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-553)** (8 members)

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

Tabled - March 5, 2024, by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

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

(In Senate, March 5, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-553) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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

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

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President. Women and men of the Senate, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month. This celebration began as a week designated by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, and then in 1987 Congress declared March Women's History Month. During the coming days of March, I've asked each of the women Senators in this body to join me in introducing an individual who has made significant contributions to our state so that collectively we can celebrate our shared history. I'd like to begin by introducing Florence Brooks Whitehouse, an early and forceful leader of the struggle to win the vote for women in Maine. Born into a prosperous Augusta family in 1869, Florence spent summers on Squirrel Island, a community off Boothbay, not far from where I live today. After studying for a time in Boston, she took an extended trip to Europe, parts of Africa and the Holy Lands, spending an entire winter in Egypt before returning in 1894 to marry Robert Treat Whitehouse, whom she had likely met on Squirrel Island. The couple moved to Portland, a bustling city of 40,000 where over the next couple of years they collaborated on writing, directing, and acting in plays. Robert pursued his legal career, becoming the US Attorney for Maine in 1905. Florence became the mother of three sons, and with the encouragement of her husband continued to write, publishing several novels based on her travels in Egypt. There were active in other civic and cultural groups as well. It was likely at one of these 'current topics' lectures given by a Mrs. Morrill that Florence may have taken up the call to action on women's suffrage as she listened in disagreement to arguments as to why women didn't want the vote, wouldn't use it if they had it, were really too busy running their households and besides were too frail for the rough and tumble of politics anyway. Her own views were decidedly more egalitarian and on the side of women's suffrage. In addition to being a writer, she was a forceful and cogent speaker; after one debate local press claimed that she closed the debate by quote "reading the cleverest and best prepared suffrage speech that has been given in this city for many years." In ensuing years, she would go on to write newsletters and pamphlets and spoke widely on behalf of suffrage in Maine and around the country. From 1911 through until the signing of the 19th Amendment in Maine, Florence played an active, visible role in promoting women's suffrage, joining the Board of the Maine Women's Suffrage Association, the affiliate of the national organization. The push to get the vote for women, through both state legislatures and nationally, took years. Organizing local chapters, spreading the word and engaging others to pressure the Maine legislature year after year was arduous, made especially challenging in our rural small town state. Yet they – and Florence – persisted. In March, 2015 – sorry, this should say 1915. Got ahead of myself. After the

Senate overwhelmingly voted to send the suffrage referendum to the voters, Florence and her allies filled the House gallery to watch that vote. It failed by 10 votes – this was the 12th time suffrage was defeated in the Maine Legislature. It would take another 5 years of struggle both in Maine and at the national level before the vote was won. There were major schisms that occurred within the suffrage movement; WWI came and drew attention and resources away. Florence joined the Red Cross, but she never gave up. When Maine finally ratified what was called the Susan B Anthony amendment, granting women the right to vote, Florence Brooks Whitehouse stood behind then Governor Milliken as he signed the document. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Florence, her leadership and tenacity, in helping secure the vote for us. I leave you with the words of Florence as she testified in front of the Maine Judiciary committee. Quote, "I have no quarrel with you, but henceforth, this you must know: the world is mine, and yours. The pulsing strength and passion and heart of it. The work I set my hand to, women's work. Because I set my hand to it." For more on Florence's life and work in the suffrage movement in Maine, I recommend reading the book Voting Down the Rose, by our very own Anne Gass. Thank you, Mr. President.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, until Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 10:00 in the morning.