

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 19, 2024

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

Prayer by Pastor Chris Dumas of Five Islands Baptist Church in Georgetown.

PASTOR CHRIS DUMAS: Good morning. Thank you for having me. Nothing new under the sun. Heavenly Father, we're thankful for the watch and care that you provide over the affairs of these men and women today. We thank you for all those who dedicate their life to serving their communities and their state. As a fellow public servant, life is a service and a sacrifice and a noble pursuit, and we ask a blessing on this legislative body here this morning and the families and communities they represent. Bless them with good health and safety as they collaborate, debate, problem-solve, and work together to steer the citizens of Maine to a safe and sustainable future. Lord, we're so grateful that nothing escapes your care and your notice. You're never asleep, and you never change. This morning, we ask that your discernment and wisdom guide these men and women as they address and deal with the challenges that present to them during these sessions. Your unchanging truth gives us great comfort, and knowing your ways are kept and your promises are true. So, this morning, we ask for your helping hand in carrying out the oaths that we take to serve the people of Maine. Lord, your word tells us we are to demonstrate compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience with one another and forgiving each other as you forgave us. We know in these sessions that our opinions often differ, but we all offer our opinions to do in the interest of what's best for the people that we dedicated our lives to serve. Keep us humble as we discuss and deliberate our differences, and I pray that each one of us here finds the faithful pursuing qualities that were put on our hearts and minds that called us to service in the first place stay true to us as we do what's best for the citizens of Maine. Father, many things vie for our attention this morning, and we ask that you grant us your wisdom and clarity to all the men and women here as they do the work serving the people of this great state, our home, Maine. We need your help, Lord, and we pray this in your name. Bless everyone here and the families they represent and bless these sessions in the weeks to come. Amen.

National Anthem Performed by Holly Tabbutt of Columbia.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Marianne Moore of Washington County.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kimberly M. Caldwell MPAS, PA-C of Auburn.

Off Record Remarks

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

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 (3/14/24) matter:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Gray-New Gloucester High School Boys Basketball Team, of Gray, which won the 2024 Class A State Championship.
SLS 1565

Tabled - March 14, 2024 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending - **PASSAGE**

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Men and Women of the Senate. I rise today to honor and celebrate the outstanding success of the Gray-New Gloucester High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team. Nearly 50 years since their last state championship win, this group of dedicated student athletes came together and left it all on the court, bringing home the 2024 Class A State Championship. What makes this team so special is their years of playing hoops together, starting in elementary school. There is truly something special about growing up playing team sports. You learn invaluable life skills while creating a strong work ethic and a respect for teammates and others. The countless hours of practice in perfecting their game paid off when this team went 20-2 this season, storming their way through the playoffs. Facing foul trouble, and down 13-8 in the first half, the Gray-New Gloucester Patriots came together and persevered, taking the lead by halftime, and never looking back. When the final horn sounded, this group, along with their coaches, parents,

and countless fans, knew what they had accomplished - a gold ball and a place in Maine high school basketball history. I'm lucky to be joined here by the team and their coaches today. The entire community continues to celebrate. I'm sure they're looking forward to March Madness in the coming weeks. I congratulate them on this outstanding achievement and best of luck in their future endeavors. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the Gray-New Gloucester Boys Basketball Team of the towns of Gray and New Gloucester. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce and the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings and congratulations of the Maine Senate.

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.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:
H.P. 1455

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRELAND

WHEREAS, on October 7, 1924, Ireland formally opened diplomatic relations with the United States when Ambassador Timothy Smiddy presented his credentials to President Calvin Coolidge; and

WHEREAS, after the Irish people's long and painful struggle for independence, the United States was one of the first nations to recognize the fledgling Irish state, and when Ambassador Smiddy emerged from the White House, he became Ireland's first ambassador to any country in the world; and

WHEREAS, while 1924 marked the beginning of formal diplomatic relations, the deep Irish-American connection dates back centuries, and today nearly one in 10 Americans identify as being of Irish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Irish immigrants helped build the America we know today, from the skyscrapers of Manhattan and the transcontinental railroad to our modern political system; and

WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have made an enormous contribution to public debate and politics in America, from their

local communities to the White House, and more than 20 American presidents have claimed some Irish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the influence of Irish people in America extends well beyond the Oval Office and the United States Capitol to every state of the nation, and there are a significant number of state Legislators within the American Irish State Legislators Caucus; and

WHEREAS, since Timothy Smiddy's momentous audience in the Oval Office 100 years ago, 18 Irish ambassadors have presented credentials to American presidents, and over this time, Ireland's relations with the United States have evolved significantly; and

WHEREAS, from an impoverished and internationally isolated state, scarred by years of conflict, Ireland has transformed over the past century into the economically prosperous and culturally vibrant peaceful nation of today, and this transformation is due in part to the support of friends in the United States, from the crucial role America played in brokering peace in Northern Ireland, culminating with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, to the substantial American economic investment in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, there are almost 1,000 American companies in Ireland employing over 200,000 people, and approximately 100,000 people are employed in every state in the United States by over 650 Irish-owned companies, and Ireland is now the 9th largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the diplomatic relationship between the United States and Ireland is a shining example of how ancestral ties, historical connections, cultural affinities and shared values can create a foundation for enduring partnership and mutual prosperity, and Irish-American state Legislators across the United States are playing a vitally important role in fostering this partnership and ensuring that it continues and flourishes for another century to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Ireland; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the American Irish State Legislators Caucus.

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

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise because over the weekend, we celebrated a very important holiday, St. Patrick's Day, and wanted

to just denote here, and I thought it was very fitting that we have this Joint Resolution in front of us that also recognizes the 100th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the United States and Ireland. And indeed, here in Maine, we have had many occasions to both interact with, engage with, grow as countries together, but in Maine, specifically, even more so. That includes the legacy left behind by Senator George Mitchell who helped broker the Good Friday Agreement back in 1998 that led to basically the ending of a civil war conflict between Ireland and Northern Ireland. And even here today, we are -- we have pending legislation in front of us that deals with creating the Maine-Ireland Trade Commission, and in establishing diplomatic ties with their country in a similar fashion that we have with Canada, recognizing the amount of overlapping heritage and lineage that exists between the State of Maine and the country of Ireland. Earlier this year, we had the honor to have the Senate President of Ireland, Mark Daly, come visit us - and thank you to our own Senate President who gave him the opportunity to speak from the rostrum in what was a historic moment and historic day. And he sends his greetings to us here in the Maine Senate. He has sent along a letter which I will leave on my desk for anybody who wishes to read it, sending his regards and celebrations for St. Patrick's Day, as well as these pins that signify the American Irish State Legislators Caucus. And as Senator Daly would say, you don't have to be Irish in order to be a member of the caucus, you just have to be a supporter of Ireland. And so, if anybody would like to join that caucus, we do in fact have membership certificates as well, which I am sure he would appreciate seeing from afar, and there are some benefits of that as well. And one last note, he also, because he is in fact a very gracious man, sent us a flag from Ireland that we can all gather around here after session today and take a picture with our pins and the flag in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the amount of heritage that we overlap here in Maine and, indeed, the 100th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the United States and Ireland. And so, with that, Mr. President, I just want to say Happy St. Patrick's Day, I hope you all celebrated accordingly, whatever that means to you, and look forward to continuing to build on that progress already made here in Maine to better our bond and strengthen our ties and our goals and our economies and our culture between Maine and Ireland. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Off Record Remarks

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 1014

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

The Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

131st Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety from its review and evaluation of the Department of Public Safety pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the Requirements of the Act, the committee notified the department by letter of its intent to review the department on May 2, 2023. The department submitted its evaluation report November 1, 2023 and presented the report to the committee on January 30, 2024. The committee held a work session on the report on March 5, 2024 to discuss the report.

The committee has reviewed the report and finds the Department of Public Safety is operating within its statutory authority and meets all criteria under the Act.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Pinny Beebe-Center	S/Representative Suzanne Salisbury
Senate Chair	House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1015

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

The Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

131st Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety from its review and evaluation of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the Requirements of the Act, the committee notified the Maine Emergency Management Agency by letter of its intent to review the department on May 2, 2023. The department

submitted its evaluation report November 1, 2023 and presented the report to the committee on January 30, 2024. The committee held a work session on March 5, 2024 to discuss the report.

The committee has reviewed the report and finds the Maine Emergency Management Agency is operating within its statutory authority and meets all criteria under the Act.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Pinny Beebe-Center S/Representative Suzanne
Senate Chair Salisbury
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1016

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

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

131st Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services from its review and evaluation of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee finds that the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection, Bureau of Financial Institutions, Bureau of Insurance, Office of Securities and Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation are operating within their statutory authority. The review of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation is done in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and we defer to that committee with respect to any findings related to the portions of the Department under their jurisdiction and oversight.

As a result of our review, the committee has recommended that the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation develop legislation for consideration in the 132nd Legislature to provide authority to the staff of each licensing board to determine whether complaints that do not address violations of the board's laws or rules or are outside the board's jurisdiction may be resolved

informally without presentation to the licensing board. The committee has also recommended that the Office of Professional and Occupational develop legislation for consideration in the 132nd Legislature, in consultation with the Board of Dental Practice and interested parties, to establish a separate Board of Dental Hygiene.

Sincerely,

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1017

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

March 15, 2024

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

RE: Appointments to the Maine Superior Court

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate the Honorable Maria A. Woodman of Monmouth and the Honorable Daniel J. Mitchell of Scarborough as Justices of the Maine Superior Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, these appointments are contingent on spconfirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1018

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

March 15, 2024

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

RE: Nomination of Judges to the Maine District Court

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate The Honorable Michael Duddy, Jeffrey B. Wilson, Esq. and Theodore H. Irwin, Jr., Esq. as Judges of the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1019

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

March 15, 2024

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

RE: Nominations to the State Workforce Board

Dear President Jackson:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following individuals to the State Workforce Board:

- Ryan Bushey of Houlton, Benjamin Waxman of Portland and Abraham Furth of Old Town for appointment.

- Adria O. Horn of Pittston, Alec Rodman Rogers of Manchester and Vaughan Woodruff of Pittsfield for reappointment.

Pursuant to Title 26 MRSA §2006, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine 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. 1020

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

March 15, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of Kelly H. Bickmore of Cape Elizabeth to the Gambling Control Board

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Kelly H. Bickmore of Cape Elizabeth for appointment to the Gambling Control Board.

Pursuant to Title 8, MRSA §1002, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1021

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

March 15, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of Cedar Breeze Worster of Harrison to the
State Board of Education as a student member

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Cedar Breeze Worster of Harrison for
appointment to the State Board of Education as a student
member.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, MRSA §401, this appointment is
contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by
the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1022

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

March 15, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of Barry T. Woods of Harpswell to the Mid-
Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Barry T. Woods of Harpswell for
appointment to the Mid-Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13083-I, this appointment is
contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by

the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,
Economic Advancement and Business.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1008

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

March 13, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule
505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on
Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the
nomination of Peter DelGreco of North Yarmouth, for
reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of
Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Rafferty, J. of York, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	7	Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Sen. Libby, J. of Cumberland, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred, Rep. Worth, J. of Ellsworth

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Peter DelGreco of North Yarmouth, for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#594)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Peter DelGreco** of North Yarmouth for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Off Record Remarks

The Following Communication: S.C. 1009

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

March 13, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Kossi Gamedah of Falmouth, for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	7	Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Libby, J. of Cumberland, Sen. Pierce, T. of Cumberland, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred, Rep. Worth, J. of Ellsworth

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Kossi Gamedah of Falmouth, for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

Dear Mr. President:

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#595)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Kossi Gamedah** of Falmouth for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1010

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

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Anne Roosevelt of Embden, for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	7	Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Libby, J. of Cumberland, Sen. Pierce, T. of Cumberland, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred, Rep. Worth, J. of Ellsworth

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Anne Roosevelt of Embden, for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#596)

YEAS	Senators	2	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland
	Representatives	7	Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Sen. Pierce, T. of Cumberland, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred, Rep. Worth, J. of Ellsworth

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Anne Roosevelt** of Embden for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1011

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

March 13, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of William B. Eisenhardt of Castine, for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees.

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

Signed,
S/Joseph E. Rafferty Senate Chair
S/Michael F. Brennan House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#597)

YEAS:	Senators: None
NAYS:	Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **William B. Eisenhardt** of Castine for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1012

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

March 13, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Mark R. Gardner of Kittery, for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	7	Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Libby, J. of Cumberland, Sen. Pierce, T. of Cumberland, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred, Rep. Worth, J. of Ellsworth

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the

nomination of Mark R. Gardner of Kittery, for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#598)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Mark R. Gardner** of Kittery for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1013

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

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine

131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Anthony Hall of Winterport, for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland
	Representatives	7	Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Sen. Pierce, T. of Cumberland, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred, Rep. Worth, J. of Ellsworth

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Anthony Hall of Winterport, for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#599)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Anthony Hall** of Winterport for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Ought to Pass

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 **Ought to Pass**.

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

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Increase Land Access for Historically Disadvantaged Populations"
S.P. 511 L.D. 1274

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-577)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-577) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator PIERCE for the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** on Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types
S.P. 697 L.D. 1752

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-578)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-578) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **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:

Acts

An Act to Restrict Noncompete Clauses
H.P. 951 L.D. 1496
(C "A" H-768)

An Act to Provide for Medical and Vessel Breakdown License Exceptions for Commercial Menhaden License Holders
S.P. 853 L.D. 2025

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

RECALLED FROM GOVERNOR'S DESK

An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters
S.P. 923 L.D. 2171
(C "A" S-549)

(In Senate, March 7, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, in concurrence.)

(**RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk, pursuant to Joint Order (S.P. 985).

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**, in concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.
The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/14/24) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Ensure the Workers' Compensation Board's Allocations Are Properly Funded"
S.P. 927 L.D. 2176

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-575)** (7 members)

Minority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-576)** (4 members)

Tabled - March 14, 2024 by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In Senate, March 14, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-575)** 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 Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator **POULIOT**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#600)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, DAUGHTRY, LAWRENCE, POULIOT

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 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 AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-575)** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-575) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-575)**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator CARNEY for the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Support Constitutionally Required Public Defense by Creating the Maine Office of Public Defense Services" S.P. 270 L.D. 653

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-579)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-579) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you. So, today I'm going to be speaking in honor of Women's History Month and I'm going to be talking about some trailblazing women in the law in our great state of Maine. So, today I rise to offer a few remarks on Clara Holmes Hapgood Nash, Gail Laughlin, and Harriet Henry in honor of Women's History Month. Clara was born Clara Holmes Hapgood in Fitchburg, Mass. in 1839. She was a lawyer and the first woman admitted to the Bar in New England, having been admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine in 1872. Clara and her family moved to Acton, Mass., the hometown of both her parents, in 1846. Although her schooling was often interrupted due to ill health, she eventually graduated from the State Normal School in Framingham and became a teacher. In 1869, Clara married Frederick Cushing Nash, a Maine lawyer. Not long after their marriage, Clara began to study the law in her husband's office. In 1871, she became a Justice of the Peace and in October 1872 she was admitted to the Bar in Maine, becoming one of the earliest women lawyers anywhere in the United States. Clara formed a partnership with her husband. In 1873, she appeared in court for the first time and she also led a petition drive in favor of women's suffrage. Clara and her husband later moved back to Massachusetts where she could no longer practice law because Massachusetts, being behind us a little bit, did not yet admit women to the Bar. Moving on to Gail Laughlin. Gail Laughlin was a prominent lawyer, Legislator, and women's rights advocate. She was the first woman to practice law and serve in both Chambers of the Maine Legislature. She was born in 1868 in Robbinston, which is located in Washington County. She graduated from Portland High School in 1886,

receiving the Brown Medal for earning the highest grades. For four years, Gail worked as a bookkeeper, saving enough money to attend Wellsley College. In 1894, she received her A.B. At the same time, she wrote for the American Economist to save enough money to enter Cornell University Law School. In 1898, she graduated, earning her LL.B. She was admitted to the New York Bar in 1899. Upon graduation, Gail opened her first law office in New York City. From 1902 to 1906, she campaigned for the National American Women's Suffrage Association. By 1908, Gail opened her second law office, this time in Denver, Colorado because women were there given the right to vote. In Colorado, she served on the State Board of Pardons, the Denver Mayor's Advisory Council, and the State Executive Committee for the Progressive Party. While serving on these committees, her focus shifted to injustice of all-male juries. Thus, she adopted the cause of jury duty for women. In 1914, Gail moved to San Francisco and opened her third law office. During her time there, she served on the Republican State Central Committee, sat as a judge for the police courts, founded and directed the state branch of the National League for Women's Services, and joined the National Women's party. She drafted and successfully lobbied a law to permit women to serve on juries in California. By 1924, Gail returned home to Portland to share a law office with her brother. She was elected to the Maine State Legislature in 1929 and served three terms. She submitted many bills that became law, including a bill to raise the marriage age from 13 to 16 and an act to prevent husbands from committing their wives to mental institutions based solely on the husband's testimony. Gail also served in the Maine State Senate from 1935 to 1941. It took a bit over a century after Clara passed the Bar and was admitted to practice law in Maine for the State to appoint its first woman Judge. Judge Harriet Henry was the first woman to be appointed a Maine State Judge, being appointed in 1973 by then-Governor Ken Curtis. Harriet was born in 1923 in Ashland, Kentucky and was a graduate of Smith College and George Washington University of Law. She was married to Merton Henry in 1954 and she moved to Maine in 1958, where she served as the President of the Portland League of Voters. She wrote the history of the Maine District Court system in 1987 and was a founding member of the National Association of Women Judges. After retiring as a judge in 1990, she was the Chair of the Commission to Study the Future of Maine Courts. And I would just add, I started my legal career at Jensen Baird Gardner and Henry, the Henry in that is - was Martin Henry and during my time there I did have the honor of spending some company picnics at the Henry's, I would call it compound, on Sebago Lake and got to meet Judge Henry. Of course, because I worked for the firm, I never got to practice in front of her because she was conflicted out. We, as women, all stand on the shoulders of our foremothers. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Clara, Gail, Harriet, and countless other women in the law who helped pave the way for those, like me, who have come after them. Because of the door opened by Clara, I too was able to be admitted to the Bar in Maine. Because of the door opened by Gail, I too was able to practice law and serve in both Chambers of the Maine State Legislature. Because of the door opened by Harriet, I too was able to serve as a judge, serving as York County Probate Court Judge. Because of all of these incredible women and others, I was able to have this memorable conversation with my then-five-year-old son that I'd like to share with you all. We were riding in the car and out of the blue my son asked me, 'Mom, can boys be lawyers?' to which I responded, 'Yes, of course boys can be

lawyers. Both boys and girls can be lawyers. Why do you ask?' 'Well,' he said, 'it just seems weird to me, a boy lawyer.' We sure have come a long way. Thank you, Mr. President.

Off Record Remarks

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** This is an excerpt from Heather Cox Richardson's newsletter that came out over the weekend. March 14th, as my seatmate has mentioned, is a very, very important day in U.S. history. As Shakespeare's famous warning to Cedar, beware the adze of March. An adze is a woodcutting tool, I understand, I have looked that up, and he put it that way because the importance of March 15th is, of course, that is the day in 1820 that Maine, the Pine Tree State, joined the union. Maine statehood had national repercussions. I know we've been talking about Black History Month last month, we're talking about women's history, so I thought it was important that I bring this up today as well. The inhabitants of this northern part of Massachusetts had asked for statehood in 1819, but their petition was stopped dead by southerners who refused to permit a free state, one that did not permit slavery, to enter the union without a corresponding slave state. The explosive growth of the northern states had already given free states control of the House of Representatives, but the south held its own in the Senate, where each state got two votes. The admission of Maine would give the north the advantage, and southerners insisted that Maine's admission be balanced with the admission of a southern slave state lest those opposed to slavery use their power in the federal government to restrict enslavement in the south. They demanded the admission of Missouri to counteract Maine's two free senate votes. But the Missouri Compromise infuriated northerners, especially those who lived in Maine. They swamped Congress with petitions against admitting Missouri as a slave state, resenting that slave owners in the Senate could hold the State of Maine hostage until they got their way. Tempers rose high enough that Thomas Jefferson wrote to Massachusetts - and later Maine - Senator John Holmes that he had for a long time been content with the direction of the country, but that the Missouri question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union, it is hushed indeed for the moment, but this is a reprieve, not a final sentence. Congress passed the Missouri Compromise, but Jefferson was right to see it as nothing more than a reprieve. The petition drive that had begun as an effort to keep the admission of Maine from being tied to the admission of Missouri continued as a movement to get Congress to whittle away at slavery where it could. By, for example, outlawing slave sales in the nation's capital, and would become a key point of friction between the north and the south. There was also another powerful way in which the conditions of the state's entry into the Union would affect American history. Mainers were angry that their statehood had been tied to the demands of far distant slave owners and anger worked its way into the state's popular culture. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 meant that Maine men who grew up steeped in that anger could spread west. And so, they

did. In 1837, Elijah Lovejoy, who had moved to Alton, Illinois from Albion, Maine, to begin a newspaper dedicated to the abolishment of human enslavement, was murdered by a pro-slavery mob who threw his printing press into the Mississippi River. Elijah Lovejoy's younger brother, Owen, had also moved west from Maine. Owen saw Elijah shot and swore his allegiance to the cause of abolition. I shall never forsake the cause that has been sprinkled with my brother's blood, he declared. He turned to politics, and in 1854, he was elected to the Illinois State Legislature. His increasing prominence brought him political friends, including an up-and-coming lawyer who had arrived in Illinois from Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln. Lovejoy and Lincoln were also friends with another Maine man going to Illinois, and that was Elihu Washburne, who had been born in Livermore, Maine, in 1816, when Maine was still part of Massachusetts. He was one of seven brothers, and one by one, his brothers had all left home, most of them to move west. Israel Washburn, Jr., the oldest, stayed in Maine, but Cadwallader moved to Wisconsin and William Drew would follow, going to Minnesota. Elihu was the only brother who spelled his last name with an "E". Israel and Elihu were both serving in Congress in 1854 when Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act overturning the Missouri Compromise and permitting the spread of slavery to the west. Furious, Israel called a meeting of 30 congressmen in May to figure out how they could come together to stand against the slave power that had commandeered the government to spread the south's system of human enslavement. They met in the rooms of Representative Edward Dickinson of Massachusetts, whose talented daughter, Emily, was already writing poems, and while they came to the meeting from all different political parties, they left with one sole principle: to stop the slave power that was turning the government into an oligarchy. The men scattered for the summer back to their homes across the north, sharing their conviction that a new party must rise to stand against the slave power. In the fall, those calling themselves anti-Nebraska candidates were sweeping into office. Cadwallader Washburn would be elected from Wisconsin in 1854 and Owen Lovejoy from Illinois in 1856, and they would, indeed, create a new political party - the Republicans. The new party took deep root in Maine, flipping the state from Democratic to Republican in 1856, the first time it fielded a presidential candidate. In 1859, Abraham Lincoln would articulate an ideology for the party, defining it as the party of ordinary Americans standing together against the oligarchs of slavery, and when he ran for president in 1860, he knew it was imperative that he get the momentum of Maine men on his side. In those days, Maine voted for state and local offices in September rather than November. So, a party's win in Maine would start a wave - as Maine goes, so goes the nation - the saying went. So, Lincoln turned to Hannibal Hamlin, who represented Maine in the Senate, and whose father had built the house in which the Washburns grew up. Lincoln won 62% of the vote in Maine in 1860, taking all eight of the state's electoral votes, and went on to win the election. When he arrived in Washington quietly in late February to take office the following March, Elihu Washburne was at the railroad station to greet him. I find it fascinating that a group of ordinary people from country towns who shared a fear that they were losing their democracy could figure out how to work together to reclaim it. Happy birthday, Maine. Thank you, Mr. President.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, until Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:00 in the morning.