

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
1st Legislative Day
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

This being the day designated in the proclamation of the Governor for meeting of the One Hundred and Thirty-Second Legislature in extra session, the members of the House of Representatives assembled in their hall at 10:00 in the morning and were called to Order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Marc Swartz, Calvary Chapel, Augusta.
National Anthem by Abigail Gerrish, Mexico.
Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point, a message was received from the Senate, borne by Senator DUSON of Cumberland of that body, announcing a quorum present and that the Senate was ready to transact any business that might properly come before it.

A roll call was taken. 146 out of 151 Members answered to their names, and accordingly the Chair declared a quorum present.

Those absent were:

Representative EDER of Waterboro
Representative LANIGAN of Sanford
Representative OLSEN of Raymond
Representative SINCLAIR of Bath
Representative WALKER of Naples

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative RUDNICKI: Mr. Speaker, could you inform us whether or not, in this illegal special session, if the Good Representative from Auburn gets her vote back?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that that is a decision of the Body.

The Following Proclamation: (H.C. 102)

**STATE OF MAINE
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, there exists in the State of Maine an extraordinary occasion arising out of the need to resolve many legislative matters pending at the time of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, the public health, safety and welfare requires that the Legislature resolve these pending matters as soon as possible, and in any event prior to the date of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine, including but not limited to the state budget, pending legislation, pending nominations of state board and commission members, and pending nominations of judicial officers by the Governor requiring legislative confirmation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JANET T. MILLS, Governor of the State of Maine, by virtue of the constitutional power vested in me as Governor pursuant to Article V, Part I, Section 13 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, do convene the Legislature of this State, and hereby request the Representatives and Senators to assemble at ten o'clock in the morning in their respective chambers at the Capitol in Augusta on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, in order to receive communications, resolve

pending legislation carried over from the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature and act upon pending nominations and whatever other business may come before the Legislature. In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-first day of March Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor
S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative GREENWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to talk about the Proclamation and how we got here.

We started off Thursday morning with a prayer that openly mocked God. We then went through the day and pushed a budget with no regard for this side of the aisle. We then heard amendment after amendment from my side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, and then, rather than taking a vote on the merit of the amendment, it was decided to motion to Indefinitely Postpone, which seems to be a way to shield or cover what the actual amendment is. We then continued through the day and recessed for a while, and then came back and then it was apparent that we were going to adjourn without day.

And I was just mortified that we have so much more work to do, Mr. Speaker. I even put together a carryover order, or an amendment to the one that was proposed by the Other Body, that I would agree there was lots of work to be done, but I was in agreement that we would carry it over to the next regular session, and that any committee work for the next two weeks or that had been scheduled would continue. Mr. Speaker, that seemed reasonable and fair. But that's not what happened.

We heard from the Good Senator from Cumberland, who came and announced to the Floor of the House that the Other Body had completed its work. We then sent our Good Representative from Portland to the Other Body to announce to them that we were done with our work. I was confident we weren't done with our work; still bills being referenced, still many haven't even come out of the Revisor's Office, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your side voted, as did ours, to adjourn without day, *sine die*. Announcing to the world that our work was done. I was willing to accept that and hoped to see you in January of 2026. But what I'm confused about is that just several hours later, on Friday, the 21st, just hours after the Body had spoken and said we were done our work, the Chief Executive ordered us back, declaring some sort of emergency or extraordinary occasion that I'm really unclear as to what happened from 12:30 a.m. on Friday morning, the 21st day of March, until a few hours later, when the Chief Executive declared this unusual, extraordinary, emergency circumstance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I left here and I went to my day job; was there from about 1:15 in the morning till about 1:45 in the morning, and then I drove home, I went to bed, I got up early, had to get my kids off to school. It seemed like a normal day, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't aware of any natural disaster; hurricane, earthquake, sky falling, anything along those lines, Mr. Speaker. But the Chief Executive said that there is. So, I'm not sure if there was some sort of coordinated effort, and I would never question the motives or intentions of anybody in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, but what I read here is, I think the Chief Executive called your side liars. Just a few hours before, this Body announced their work was done, and a few hours later, the Chief Executive says, no, you were lying, you're not done, and proclaims this occasion to bring us back.

So, I'll ask you, Mr. Speaker, if our work was done, and we voted on that, I would like to make a motion that we adjourn without day, *sine die*, and ask your support for that motion to reaffirm our vote from Friday morning at about 12:30 a.m.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales moved that the House stand **ADJOURNED WITHOUT DAY**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADJOURN WITHOUT DAY**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm at a crossroads right now. I'm disheartened, confused and more than a little hurt for my colleagues and my constituents. I'm not even sure what my role is here anymore.

Last week, a majority budget was passed to, quote, 'continue services,' but these continuing services are coming in at more than our projected revenues, about \$100 million over. Mr. Speaker, what is the point of working any bill with a fiscal note that isn't negative? I'm not sure how responsible it is of me to vote for anything with a fiscal note, including my own bills, one of which is to ensure that all caregivers have the ability to change the diapers of their children in State buildings, because we don't have access to diaper changing stations in all of our restrooms. That's only \$15,000, but how do I vote for that? We don't have \$15,000.

Mr. Speaker, I can't reconcile these two things. While I will continue to show up, work the bills hard, represent my constituents, I'm conflicted. Also, Mr. Speaker, the division in this Legislature is very disheartening. I think it's pretty well known, by you and all of our colleagues, that I am one who is willing to work across the aisle. I am very consistently, lately, feeling as though Members who are not in my party hate me, which I did not feel before, Mr. Speaker. This is my fifth year serving, and I have not felt so much hate as I do now. Just because I belong to the Republican party. I'm not consulted on schedules in my Committee as I was in the 131st. Members on the other side of the aisle ask me to sign onto bills as the token Republican. Mr. Speaker, I'm not questioning motives of anybody in the Chamber, but I do know the difference between someone asking me because they genuinely think that I am interested and wanting to work for or against something, versus somebody wanting a Republican on a bill.

I'm just letting you know how I feel, Mr. Speaker. I'm very concerned with what this means for our great State, I'm feeling very disheartened and I don't know a way forward, Mr. Speaker. But I feel the real emergency is the division, the lack of working together and working another 1,000-plus bills; I don't even know the official number; with fiscal notes when we are already in the negative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually, within my Committee, have had the opposite relationship with the Members. Up until last Thursday, I felt as though I could trust the other side of the Body with everything that they said. I felt respected and heard, and we had good relationships.

That trust is broken because of that vote on Thursday. And that's extremely disappointing, because we're in the Tax Committee and we're dealing with finances in this State and people are losing their homes over taxes. We need to be working together, and there has been a division put up that is very great at the moment. And I truly hope that I will accept that

the Members on the other side can be taken at their word from this point forward, Mr. Speaker, because that word was broken on Thursday. And I do have a question to the Chair, please?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **QUINT**: On Thursday, our House Calendar said our adjournment date was June 18th, and I notice our new House Calendar has no adjournment date. Is it the intention of the Speaker for this session to go on past the statutory adjournment date now that a Special Session has been called and we have so many bills left to do, or are we going to honor what, quite frankly, constitutionally and historically, within this building, has been our statutory adjournment date?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member and the Body that it's the intention to work as earnestly as possible to complete our work within the timeframe of the previous statutory adjournment that applied to the First Regular Session. I, in my own personal interest, have as much desire to get our work done on time as probably everyone else in this Chamber who has work and families and other things that obligate them outside of that timeframe.

The Member may proceed.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you very much, and thank you for publicly stating that, because it is a concern for all in this Body. But I do want to point out that I am in agreement with the Good Representative who has put forward this motion. We said on Thursday; or I did not say that, Mr. Speaker, you said on Thursday; that we were done, and I would think that the Body that voted to be done on Thursday would also vote to be done today as well. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **THORNE**: Mr. Speaker, are you aware, or anybody else in this room aware of any money that is available to fund bills with a fiscal note on this Session going forward?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Adjourn Without Day. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 51

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury,

Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Eder, Lanigan, Olsen, Sinclair, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 68; No, 77; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 77 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the motion to **ADJOURN WITHOUT DAY FAILED**.

Subsequently, the Proclamation was **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

The Speaker inquired if there was objection to taking a series of items out of order.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **OBJECTED** to taking a series of items out of order.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 103)

STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

March 25, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:

on March 20, 2025

Gigi Guyton Thompson of Peaks Island, Deborah Neuman of Hampden and Daniel Piltch of Freeport for reappointment to the Maine Retirement Savings Board.

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §172, these reappointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board"

(H.P. 827) (L.D. 1252)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, GUERRETTE of Caribou, JACKSON of Oxford, PLUECKER of Warren.

Bill "An Act Regarding Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Products"

(H.P. 832) (L.D. 1257)

Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon.

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, GEIGER of Rockland, HENDERSON of Rumford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, PLUECKER of Warren, STROUT of Harrington, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier

(H.P. 839) (L.D. 1264)

Sponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement"

(H.P. 834) (L.D. 1259)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, MCCABE of Lewiston, SACHS of Freeport, SATO of Gorham, Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act Regarding Penalties for Fentanyl Trafficking When That Trafficking Results in an Overdose Causing Serious Bodily Injury of a Person"

(H.P. 838) (L.D. 1263)

Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, HAGGAN of Hampden, NUTTING of Oakland, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program"

(H.P. 800) (L.D. 1225)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

Bill "An Act to Ban Cellular Telephones from Public School Classrooms"

(H.P. 809) (L.D. 1234)

Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington. (BY REQUEST)

Bill "An Act Regarding Physical Escort and Restraint and Seclusion of Students in Schools"
(H.P. 823) (L.D. 1248)

Sponsored by Representative SARGENT of York.
Cosponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, FROST of Belgrade, HAGGAN of Hampden, HEPLER of Woolwich, RAY of Lincolnville, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SINCLAIR of Bath, TUELL of East Machias.

Bill "An Act to Ensure In-state Tuition for Postsecondary Students Who Are Registered to Vote in the State and to Amend Eligibility Requirements for the Free Community College Tuition Program"

(H.P. 830) (L.D. 1255)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CIMINO of Bridgton, HAGGAN of Hampden, QUINT of Hodgdon, WHITE of Guilford.

Bill "An Act to Support Healthy Meal Programs in Maine Schools by Allowing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to Make Loans to Repair and Renovate School Kitchens and Cafeterias"

(H.P. 831) (L.D. 1256)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CARLOW of Buxton, CROCKETT of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Law Allowing School Boards to Accept the Volunteer Services of Immediate Family Members of Superintendents or School Board Members"

(H.P. 846) (L.D. 1271)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following House Order: (H.O. 18)

ORDERED, that a Committee of ten be appointed to wait upon Her Excellency, Governor Janet T. Mills, and inform her that a quorum of the House of Representatives is assembled in the Hall of the House for the consideration of such business as may come before the House.

READ and **PASSED**.

The Speaker appointed the following Members to the Committee to wait upon the Governor and inform her that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives have assembled in the Hall of the House for the consideration of such business as may come before the House:

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook
Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston
Representative BRENNAN of Portland
Representative STOVER of Boothbay
Representative DHALAC of South Portland
Representative RANA of Bangor
Representative DUCHARME of Madison
Representative FREDETTE of Newport
Representative ARATA of New Gloucester
Representative BLIER of Buxton

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following House Order: (H.O. 19)

ORDERED, that a message be conveyed to the Senate that a quorum of the House of Representatives is present for the consideration of such business as may come before the House.

READ.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 52

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharne, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Brennan, Eder, Lanigan, Olsen, Sinclair, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 80; No, 64; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the House Order was **PASSED**.

Subsequently, Representative GATTINE of Westbrook reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged.

The Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland to inform the Senate that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives have assembled in the Hall of the House for the consideration of such business as may come before the House.

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN of Portland reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative UNDERWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question at the Chair, please.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative UNDERWOOD: Yes, how is it determined; who determines who to go; that you call up and you assemble a group and send them to the Other Chamber; and how is that determined, who goes and who doesn't?

The SPEAKER: It's determined by the Chair.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Lower Electric Rates for Maine Ratepayers by Requiring the Payment of Certain Costs from the General Fund"

(H.P. 798) (L.D. 1223)

Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, PAUL of Winterport, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process"

(H.P. 815) (L.D. 1240)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Provide That Portfolio Requirements for Renewable Electricity Resources Apply Only to Actual Retail Sales"

(H.P. 825) (L.D. 1250)

Sponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, WARREN of Scarborough, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, HARRINGTON of York.

Resolve, to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Contracts

(H.P. 826) (L.D. 1251)

Sponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, FREDETTE of Newport, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Include Qualified Out-of-state Electric Vehicle Providers and Clarify Provisions Regarding Electric Bicycles Under the Electric Vehicle Fund"

(H.P. 833) (L.D. 1258)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources"

(H.P. 845) (L.D. 1270)

Sponsored by Representative RUNTE of York.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, KESSLER of South Portland, SACHS of Freeport, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, Senator: LAWRENCE of York.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Modify Confidentiality Laws to Protect Children Being Placed into Custody by the Department of Health and Human Services"

(H.P. 808) (L.D. 1233)

Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington.

Bill "An Act to Support Adult Family Care Homes and Residential Care Facilities That Are Small or Located in Rural and Isolated Areas of the State"

(H.P. 812) (L.D. 1237)

Sponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, EATON of Deer Isle, FARRIN of Jefferson, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, HASENFUS of Readfield, MCCABE of Lewiston, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act to Require Data Collection on and Reporting of Psychiatric Hospital Resources and Transparency in Denials of Emergency Involuntary Admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals"

(H.P. 814) (L.D. 1239)

Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MCCABE of Lewiston, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Licensing of Assisted Living Facilities" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 818) (L.D. 1243)

Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DRINKWATER of Milford, GRIFFIN of Levant, JAVNER of Chester, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program"

(H.P. 836) (L.D. 1261)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MEYER of Eliot, MOONEN of Portland, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Cap State General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities"

(H.P. 849) (L.D. 1274)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: COOPER of Windham, EDER of Waterboro, FOLEY of Wells, FREDERICKS of Sanford, LEMELIN of Chelsea, OLSEN of Raymond, WHITE of Ellsworth.

Bill "An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities"

(H.P. 852) (L.D. 1277)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative: MEYER of Eliot.

Resolve, to Create Pilot Programs to Provide Tuition Assistance and Grants for Rural Child Care Providers

(H.P. 855) (L.D. 1280)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, HASENFUS of Readfield, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, OSHER of Orono, RAY of Lincolnville, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, RENY of Lincoln.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand the Licensing of Outpatient Surgical Facilities"

(H.P. 829) (L.D. 1254)

Sponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, HENDERSON of Rumford, PAUL of Winterport.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved to **REFER** the Bill to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I object to this item being sent to Judiciary and request a Roll Call and would like to speak to my motion.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **REFERENCE** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill was initially referred to Health and Human Services. It has to do with the licensing of outpatient surgical facilities. This is clearly a bill that belongs with this Committee, Mr. Speaker, and it appears that it may be getting directed to Judiciary because it deals with a particular form of health care that gets seen by that Committee a lot. I think the fact that we are dealing with health care is a pretty good indication that it should go to the Committee that it was initially referred to, Health and Human Services, and it should remain in that Committee, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Reference to the Committee on Judiciary. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 53

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Trout, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Eder, Lanigan, Olsen, Sinclair, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 77; No, 68; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Study the Costs and Funding of a Universal Health Care Plan for Maine

(H.P. 844) (L.D. 1269)

Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, INGWERSEN of York, PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Align Intrastate Commercial Motor Vehicle Insurance Requirements with Federal Standards"

(H.P. 851) (L.D. 1276)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CRAFTS of Newcastle, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative RUDNICKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, where we've already taken several votes today and the Good Representative from Auburn has yet to receive her voting rights back, I'd like to move to restore all voting and speaking rights to the Representative from Auburn for this extra session and all regular/extra/special/illegal sessions thereafter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to whether or not the Representative's motion is to suspend House Rule 401, Part 11?

Representative RUDNICKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We need to take a vote for her, please.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield moved to **SUSPEND** House Rule 401.11 for the purpose of allowing Representative LIBBY of Auburn to vote and speak.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 401.11 for the purpose of allowing Representative LIBBY of Auburn to vote and speak.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Suspend House Rule 401.11. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 54

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Dill, Eder, Lanigan, Olsen, Sinclair, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 68; No, 76; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 401.11 **FAILED**.

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors"

(H.P. 801) (L.D. 1226)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick. Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, JULIA of Waterville, KESSLER of South Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, CURRY of Waldo.

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Requirement That Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Equip Vehicles with a Standardized Data Access Platform"

(H.P. 802) (L.D. 1227)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick. Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CROCKETT of Portland, GOLEK of Harpswell, MINGO of Calais, WALKER of Naples, Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Clarify Certain Terms in the Automotive Right to Repair Laws"

(H.P. 803) (L.D. 1228)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick. Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CROCKETT of Portland, GOLEK of Harpswell, MINGO of Calais, WALKER of Naples, Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction"

(H.P. 807) (L.D. 1232)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield. (BY REQUEST)

Cosponsored by Representatives: GUERETTE of Caribou, MATLACK of St. George, SAYRE of Kennebunk, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Small-cap Loan Guarantee Program for Affordable Housing Investments"

(H.P. 813) (L.D. 1238)

Sponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, MACIAS of Topsham.

Bill "An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts"

(H.P. 820) (L.D. 1245)

Sponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, STOVER of Boothbay, STROUT of Harrington, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees

(H.P. 821) (L.D. 1246)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport.

Bill "An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments"

(H.P. 822) (L.D. 1247)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, ROEDER of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Address the Housing Crisis by Reducing Barriers to Building More Accessory Dwelling Units"
(H.P. 847) (L.D. 1272)

Sponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: JULIA of Waterville, KESSLER of South Portland, PUGH of Portland.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I'm a freshman here, this is my first term, and you've been very kind to me all through the process, so, I appreciate that. I have a question.

So, according to the House Calendar, this is our First Legislative Day, and yet the Good Representative from Auburn still cannot vote.

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to the Point of Order from the Representative from Portland.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question before the House is referencing of these bills. I would ask you to direct all comments be made about referencing of these bills.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Body that a Member is allowed to pose questions about the operations of the Legislature even when there's an open question. The Member may proceed with her question.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, my question is, if this is indeed the First Legislative Day for us, and our Representative from Auburn is still unable to vote on the issue that is before us; which is why I'm bringing this up; how many sessions will this go through where she cannot vote? Because I think the people of her district are really entitled to be able to have a Representative who is voting on their behalf, and I'm not seeing that. So, my question is, when does this end? When will she be able to vote?

The SPEAKER: The question from the Member, the Chair would answer that the decision is a decision of the Body.

Subsequently, the Bills were **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Make Change for Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund"

(H.P. 816) (L.D. 1241)

Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRIDGEPO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MATLACK of St. George, SAYRE of Kennebunk, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Comprehensively Protect Consumer Privacy"
(H.P. 799) (L.D. 1224)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BRIDGEPO of Augusta, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CROCKETT of Portland, DILL of Old Town, HENDERSON of Rumford, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase"

(H.P. 805) (L.D. 1230)

Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, HYMES of Waldo, MCINTYRE of Lowell, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, WHITE of Guilford.

Bill "An Act to Improve Government Transparency and Accountability by Establishing a Process to Allow a Person to Require the State to Enforce Certain Laws and Rules"

(H.P. 837) (L.D. 1262)

Sponsored by Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: MACIAS of Topsham, OSHER of Orono, PUGH of Portland, RAY of Lincolnville, SAYRE of Kennebunk.

Resolve, Directing the Attorney General to Convene a Working Group to Propose a Plan for Expanding the Reach of Treatment Courts

(H.P. 841) (L.D. 1266)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: LEE of Auburn, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SINCLAIR of Bath.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to correct the record in response to the Member from Bridgton's inquiry. The decision is a matter of a decision of the House. It is also a decision of the Representative from Auburn as to whether or not she wishes to issue an apology, which is why House Rule 401, Part 11, was invoked to begin with.

Bill "An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties"

(H.P. 810) (L.D. 1235)

Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DRINKWATER of Milford, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, RANA of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, TIPPING of Penobscot.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport" (H.P. 811) (L.D. 1236)

Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCIO of Penobscot and Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, RANA of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Delay Payment of Benefits Under the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 824) (L.D. 1249)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CHAPMAN of Auburn, HAGGAN of Hampden, HYMES of Waldo, LAVIGNE of Berwick, LEMELIN of Chelsea, POMERLEAU of Standish, WHITE of Ellsworth.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Convene a Task Force to Examine and Study Issues Relating to the Gap Between the Economic Output and Wages of Workers in the State

(H.P. 842) (L.D. 1267)

Sponsored by Representative PUGH of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, HENDERSON of Rumford, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Make Paid Family and Medical Leave Voluntary" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 848) (L.D. 1273)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CARUSO of Caratunk, CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, EDER of Waterboro, FOLEY of Wells, HENDERSON of Rumford, LANCE of Paris.

Committee on **LABOR** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 828) (L.D. 1253)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, FOLEY of Wells, PARRY of Arundel, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STROUT of Harrington, TUELL of East Machias, WHITE of Guilford.

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Marine Resources to Conduct Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops"

(H.P. 854) (L.D. 1279)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.

Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STROUT of Harrington, WEBB of Durham, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Requirements for Warming Shelters"

(H.P. 819) (L.D. 1244)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Representative: SUPICA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Public Employee Market Pay Studies and Comprehensive Reviews of the Classification Plan for State Service Positions"

(H.P. 840) (L.D. 1265)

Sponsored by Representative DHALAC of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: BECK of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation"

(H.P. 835) (L.D. 1260)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Promote the Production of Natural Resources Bioproducts by Amending the Renewable Chemicals Tax Credit"

(H.P. 850) (L.D. 1275)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

Bill "An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process"

(H.P. 853) (L.D. 1278)

Sponsored by Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, SWALLOW of Houlton, WOOD of Greene.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes"

(H.P. 806) (L.D. 1231)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BISHOP of Bucksport, MASON of Lisbon, PARRY of Arundel, RAY of Lincolnville, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas"

(H.P. 817) (L.D. 1242)

Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DODGE of Belfast, EATON of Deer Isle, MONTELL of Gardiner, RUNTE of York, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Address Employee Recruitment and Retention Issues Within the Maine State Ferry Service by Providing a Yearly Stipend"

(H.P. 843) (L.D. 1268)

Sponsored by Representative RAY of Lincolnville.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, EATON of Deer Isle, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, MACIAS of Topsham, WEBB of Durham.

Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Campaign Finance Laws Between Enrolled and Unenrolled Candidates"

(H.P. 804) (L.D. 1229)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CHAPMAN of Auburn, EDER of Waterboro, FROST of Belgrade, SUPICA of Bangor.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report of the Chair-Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

Representative SACHS from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Tax Treatment of Prepaid Wireless Telecommunications Service in Maine"

(H.P. 685) (L.D. 1056)

Reports a recommendation for a **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

On motion of Representative SACHS of Freeport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and sent for concurrence.

Change of Committee

Representative GERE from the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program"

(H.P. 419) (L.D. 651)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

Recognizing:

Paul Zimmerman, of Guilford, recipient of a Spirit of America Foundation Award. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the foundation presents awards to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 146)

Presented by Representative WHITE of Guilford.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WHITE of Guilford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the Sentiment for Paul Zimmerman.

He has done so many things for the community and Piscataquis County; Guilford, in particular; that it's really hard to list the achievements. He serves as a town Selectman, but so much more. He has for several years put on Thanksgiving dinner at his restaurant that he doesn't charge for, he has brought the Vietnam Memorial Wall to the town of Guilford over the Fourth of July weekend last year and is currently working on another big project very similar. Just one thing after another, and so many that I would love to talk about that he really doesn't want to be recognized for that he does behind the scenes.

This man and his lovely partner, Martha, have touched so many lives that it's just unmistakable that they are incredibly loving and caring people for the community. The patriotism that exudes from the restaurant is like no other. If you ever have the chance to visit the establishment, you'll see one wall that started out as a flag that now has grown over onto the surrounding wall with signatures of veterans that have been in the establishment, and when they come in, the National Anthem will play and all the patrons will rise, mandatorily, as they go and sign the wall.

The outreach that this man has had for the community is just unparalleled, and I remember back to one Sunday afternoon when I brought my wife to dinner about a year and a half ago, that happened; everyone rose, we listened to the National Anthem, stood at attention and watched an old man get escorted up to put his signature on the flag. As he left, he walked past, and I shook his hand, and he said, 'that's the first time since I got back from Vietnam that anybody's ever recognized me.' And we need more people in our community that are willing to reach out to touch those that don't get recognized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to rise briefly and give some support to what my friend the Representative from Guilford said about Mr. Zimmerman, or P.Z., as he's affectionately known in the area.

Mr. Zimmerman is the consummate supporter of veterans, first responders, law enforcement, but also the youth in our area. I know Representative White mentioned the Thanksgiving dinner, but what he didn't mention is that not only does he offer that Thanksgiving dinner for free, but he also makes sure that that dinner can get delivered to people that are shut in at their homes, and he does that free of charge as well.

Mr. Zimmerman brings the Vietnam Memorial Wall to our county, and he's also bringing the Gold Star Wall to our area,

and for that, we're greatly appreciative. And he's also recently agreed to open his restaurant for a location for a peer support group for first responders and for law enforcement. And I just want to say that in my experience, there's been no greater supporter for law enforcement, for veterans, from someone that you would classify as a civilian; someone who's never been a veteran, someone who's never been in that first responder community. It's just his love for his community and his county and for our nation that he does that, and he's a great patriot and a great American and I just couldn't say any better things, so, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative PAUL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of my comments will be maybe a little redundant from my other colleagues, but comments of a man of this caliber I think bear repeating.

So, I rise to honor an American hero, Paul Zimmerman. I've had the privilege of knowing Paul for several years now, and I'm truly honored to call him my friend. Paul is not only an entrepreneur who owns several businesses, creating jobs and boosting the economy of Guilford and Piscataquis County, but he is also someone who has dedicated himself to making his community a better place. When there's a gap in the community, Paul steps up. Whether it's organizing fundraisers, providing Thanksgiving meals, as was mentioned before, or simply helping his neighbors, his generosity is unmatched. He is a man who gives without hesitation.

Paul's patriotism runs deep. A proud veteran who served his country with honor, he continues to support and uplift veterans every single day. If you ever visit his restaurant in Guilford, you'll witness something very special. The National Anthem is played every single night, with everyone standing at attention to honor our country and our flag. He even has an honor wall for veterans to sign, ensuring that their sacrifice is never forgotten. Plus, the food is delicious, and the company is even better.

If that wasn't enough, Paul also serves as a town Selectman and is actively involved in local government. Paul is the type of citizen who makes his community stronger, and his love for his country is clear in everything that he does. It is an honor to know him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Maddie Provost, of Fairfield, a player on the Lawrence High School girls basketball team, who recently scored her 1,000th career point. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 151)

Presented by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative RUDNICKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I made a slight error. Maddie is actually from Albion, rather than Fairfield, but I will tell you, she's still one of my kids because she goes to Lawrence High School. Lawrence High School, having served on the School Board for 11 years, all the towns are my towns.

So, Maddie, I will tell you, is an outstanding student. Maddie's a junior at Lawrence High School, who has played on the varsity basketball team since her freshman year. She's been a starter for the past two years and has been named to the KVAC teams her sophomore and junior seasons, and was a member of the All-Rookie team her freshman year. In addition to playing basketball, Maddie was the member of this year's soccer team, where she was recognized for making the KVAC soccer First Team. In addition to her sports, she's an honor student and is looking forward to continuing her career as a college athlete in the future. Maddie scored 1,000 points this year and she still has a year to go. Just imagine what she can do over the next year.

Congratulations to Maddie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Colton Carter, of Fairfield, who won the Class A State Wrestling Championship in the 190-pound Weight Class. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 152)

Presented by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec, Senator FARRIN of Somerset, Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Representative FLYNN of Albion.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative RUDNICKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made this error, too; he's actually from Clinton. But again, I take personal privilege.

Colton Carter is a senior at Lawrence High School and has been a member of the football team, the wrestling team, the lacrosse team and also dual sports in the spring as a member of the school's track and field team. Colton achieved his 100th career win last year, and this year was the State Champion in the 190-pound weight class. Colton was named to the Pine Tree Conference First Team this past year, and he ran for over 1,000 yards on the season. Colton is looking to continue his athletic career next year in college and is hoping to play football at the collegiate level.

I want to just say congratulations to Colton, and we look forward to what he can do in the future. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

In Memory of:

William E. Haggett, of West Bath. Mr. Haggett served three years in the United States Air Force as a radar controller before working for Brown Wales Steel Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was then recruited by Bath Iron Works to be an assistant buyer in the purchasing department. This began a 28-year career with BIW, where he held many roles before becoming President and Chairman of the Board. During his time at BIW, 75 ships were delivered to the United States Navy. For his exemplary leadership in the maritime defense industry, he was awarded the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Award, and he served on a presidential commission on the merchant marine and defense under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. He also was for a time President of Irving Shipbuilding LTD. After his shipbuilding career, he managed several Libra Foundation businesses and served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for both Pineland Farms Natural Meats and Pineland Farms Potato Company. He served on the Bath City Council and the boards of Colby College, Maine Maritime Academy, Associated Industries of Maine, Maine Sports Hall of Fame, Maine Maritime Museum, Reed and Reed Construction and Shipbuilders' Council of America. He helped establish Hyde School in Bath, serving on the school's first board, and helped raise funds to construct a new 55,000 square foot YMCA. Years later he helped the Y raise funds to expand child care facilities in the Bath area. He was an active member of the Phippsburg Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Mr. Haggett will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 145)

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Hepler.

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Our community has lost a genuine Renaissance person in Bill Haggett. In nearly every part of civic and business life, Bill was there, and often in a big way. As you heard, he was, among other things, President of the Bath Iron Works, he helped establish the Hyde School, was CEO of Pineland Farms, served on Bath City Council, spearheaded the Bath YMCA's child care facility. I stopped being surprised when I would see him or hear of his involvement in making a big thing happen.

There were some comments on Facebook, just a sampling of them: "He was a hardworking, caring member of our community;" Bill "was the best example of a person giving back to their community;" this came from a former Member of this Body and the Other Body; "We need more Bill Haggetts;" "He was a people person" and took pleasure in helping out. Sally and Bill were terrific neighbors and their friendship for years has added so much. He was, indeed, a good friend and neighbor in West Bath. I will miss his kind counsel and always try to aspire to his example of making our community a better place. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

At this point, the Chair recognized the Representative from Bath, Representative **SINCLAIR**, and he was added to the roll call of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline" (H.P. 38) (L.D. 74)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill simply allows the Department of Education to extend their system of learning results review from five to seven years.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Chamber. After public hearings and work sessions on this bill, there are unanswered questions and concerns and many considerations following that work. Four points, really. Will changing the timeline of Maine Learning Results address the alarming test results of our Maine students' performance as compared to students around the country? A second one was, will changing the review schedule impact a positive change with the Department of Education in local districts being held accountable for implementation of the Maine Learning Results? A third consideration, will changing this timeline consider the impact of the Department of Education declaring DIE as a priority over academic standards such as reading, writing, math, science and social studies? And a fourth one, which comes from the Maine Education Policy Research

Institute, otherwise known as MEPRI; in the report, it states, quote, "the EPS model focuses first on student outcomes, (Maine Learning Results), and second, on the services and resources needed to achieve these outcomes." The EPS model "defines what is adequate in terms of resources and dollars to provide the education necessary for each child to have the opportunity to achieve Maine Learning Results." So, it reinforces the question and the concern about how this timeline change would address content concerns and accountability within the EPS formula.

For those reasons, I will be opposing this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 55

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Chapman, Eder, Lanigan, Mason, Mitchell, Olsen, Perkins, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 64; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1. 78 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources"

(H.P. 298) (L.D. 444)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the words of the lady from Auburn, this bill is critical to ensuring that Maine's energy policy is rooted in economic pragmatism and prioritizes the well-being of our residents over arbitrary government mandates. The existing statutory goals for renewable energy consumption have resulted in significant economic consequences for Maine households and businesses. The time has come to repeal these mandates and refocus our approach on affordability, reliability and free market principles. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I ask that you follow my light and vote down the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative SACHS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion.

This bill proposes to eliminate Maine's renewable portfolio standard, which requires that a specific amount of the electricity sold to consumers comes from renewable resources. Twenty-nine states, Washington, D.C. and three territories have an RPS. Maine's RPS was amended and endorsed in the 129th by a bipartisan vote, not only of the EUT Committee but also of the Legislature, including a Member who had voted for it who serves in this Body, to increase Maine's total RPS requirement to 80% by 2030. I oppose the pending motion because I support their bipartisan work.

RPS portfolio standards exist, as I said, in those 29 states because they save ratepayers money through both rate suppression on both supply and distribution part of the bill, and they generate significant economic development. RPS targets

are also designed to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and are crucial for controlling those electricity costs in Maine. As we know, fossil fuel prices, including natural gas, of which our supply definitely demands, they're volatile and can lead to unpredictable spikes in electricity rates, especially in a State like Maine. Expanding renewable resources reduces that exposure to the market fluctuations and enhances our energy security by utilizing locally available resources. And the evidence, Mr. Speaker, demonstrates that RPS targets have done just that.

According to a 2024 analysis from the Governor's Energy Office, our State renewable resource investments have saved Maine ratepayers more than \$21 million per year by suppressing prices in regional electricity markets, by outcompeting more expensive resources like those fossil fuels. Data from the Maine PUC also shows that past renewable energy procurements have driven generation costs down, which also have lowered bills, including the sale of energy from those approved procurements, reduced delivery prices for CMP by 5.5% and Versant residential customers by up to 3.8% in 2022, while helping to offset those high storm recovery costs. RPS standards also create jobs and provide significant economic development benefits. Maine's RPS has resulted over \$100 million in direct investment, \$900 million in operations and maintenance spending, over 1,000 full-time-equivalent jobs and over \$1 billion in worker income between 2008 and 2022, according to, again, a 2024 report commissioned by the GEO. Maine's clean energy economy grew three times faster than its overall economy between 2016 and 2022, according to the Maine Clean Energy Industry Report.

I say all this because these are all identifiable benefits that are supported by data from multiple sources, Mr. Speaker. There was no evidence presented at the hearing that removing RPS and simply letting the free market reign will replace or enhance the more than \$2 billion of tangible economic benefits. I urge the Body to follow the data and support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anything that's named climate change produces nothing for the economy of this State. It adds no value to any product anywhere, because; until it can stand on its own and produce from its own energy resources a living, and also, to add something to the State coffers; it is, excuse my expression, worthless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 56

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette,

Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Chapman, DeBrito, Eder, Lanigan, Mason, Olsen, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 65; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the **Majority Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Designate the Spring Peeper as the Official State Amphibian"

(H.P. 36) (L.D. 72)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the motion, and I do so for several reasons.

First, quote-unquote, "there exists in the State of Maine an extraordinary occasion arising out of the need to resolve many legislative matters pending at the time of the adjournment of the First Regular Session," the Chief Executive stated mere hours after we folded up our tent and adjourned without day. This matter before us now, LD 72, does not in any way, shape or means qualify as, quote-unquote, "an extraordinary occasion," in my book. Nor does, quote-unquote, "the public health, safety and welfare require," again as the Chief Executive so eloquently stated in that same order; require "that it be resolved as soon as

possible." Yet, Mr. Speaker, here we find ourselves, days after adjourning and quickly being compelled back into session, to deal with a laundry list of serious issues; issues such as property tax relief, the housing crisis, State spending, soaring energy costs, caring for older Mainers, ensuring that our schools do not lose federal funding and helping that our State keep and retain quality workers, just to name a few. What should pop up onto our agenda today as one of the first items we're dealing with? LD 72, a bill to designate the spring peeper as the State amphibian.

The first day of a special session, and one of the first things we're dealing with is picking a State amphibian. And in a few minutes, we'll be debating whether to approve a State reptile. While I'm well aware I cannot speak to that issue, there is an overarching issue that I can speak to. We are wasting taxpayers' money picking amphibians and reptiles and dogs and songs when we have thousands of truly important, burning issues before us that somebody felt could improve the quality of life of their constituents.

We will have many principled debates, much back-and-forth this session, but I can imagine the following conversation playing out in a grocery store or a coffee shop in each of our 151 districts. Constituent: "So, how'd you spend your first day back?" Representative: "We picked the State amphibian." "You picked a State frog, seriously?" "Well, the spring peeper is a symbol of Maine, and it is spring." "Have you looked out the window lately?" "So isn't the Fisher plow, why don't you put that one on the books?" "Never mind, my property tax bill is going through the roof, and all you did was vote on a State frog." That, Mr. Speaker, will be the conversation around kitchen tables, in supermarkets, coffee shops, on talk radio, social media from Kittery to Calais and from Madawaska to Machias tonight.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is why we should reject the motion before us, move on to another and spend our time debating the issues which are in keeping with the spirit of the Chief Executive's Proclamation. I encourage you to follow the advice of one Kermit the Frog, who thinks it could be nicer being red. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree that we have a lot of bills that are in front of us in our special session that will rise to the level of seriousness that perhaps this one doesn't, but I would like to offer some compelling reason to support this.

This is some testimony that was provided to our Committee from Rita Scott, a fourth-grade student at Asa Adams Elementary School in Orono: "I am here in support of LD 72 proposing the spring peeper as our State amphibian. I love spring peepers. In my opinion, they are the best type of frog. When they start peeping, it means winter is finally over. We can play outside without snow gear and school will be over soon. They're like tiny alarms that tell you when spring has sprung, plus they're very important for our forest because they eat bugs, insects, and snails. Spring peepers are important to the health of our wetlands and forests. They remind us of the delicate balance of our natural world. Spring peepers peep because it's their mating call. If we don't hear the peepers, that means the balance of their habitat is off. Every spring, I eagerly anticipate their return, a sure sign that warmer days are ahead. I enjoy walking my dog on the little path my family calls lupine lane. In the warm weather, it's blooming with life. There are snails and frogs galore, and the air is filled with the enchanting chorus of spring peepers. I love to try and catch the peepers, but they're

really fast. It's so much fun to listen to them all peeping together. It sounds like a tiny orchestra."

I just want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this bill has no fiscal note, and the only requirement would be that our State of Maine website would just be updated to show that the spring peeper is our State amphibian. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question. So, when we're giving speeches on the House Floor, it is acceptable to list a child and, like, where they're from and that sort of information, that is okay?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that the Member from Westbrook, I believe, just read testimony that was submitted to the record in front of the Committee of jurisdiction.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 57

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Campbell, Eder, Hymes, Lanigan, Mason, Olsen, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 83; No, 60; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

83 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Designate the Wood Turtle as the Official State Reptile"

(H.P. 37) (L.D. 73)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative TUELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't go through my speech from before again, but the same still stands with this bill. We have much more important things to be doing than selecting turtles and frogs and other various creatures that can be debated whether they're amphibians or reptiles or what have you. So, please join me in voting against the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 58

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin,

Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Campbell, Eder, Hymes, Lanigan, Mason, Olsen, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 85; No, 58; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

85 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Expenditure Limit for the Informal Bidding Process for the Selection of Professional, Architect and Engineer Services"

(H.P. 65) (L.D. 100)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative GREENWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having been in government about 30 years, I know it's nice when you want to get the best deal, and the best way to do that is to go out to bid; submit, you know, request for proposal, those type of things. I understand this is a Department bill and the argument was, well, you know, costs have gone up, we shouldn't have to go out to bid if it's this threshold. But it's more than just

the threshold. The bill, if enacted, would strike the words "without advertising or competitive selection" and increase the threshold to \$50,000, without having to have any review, any bid process. Mr. Speaker, I think that's not in the best interests of the taxpayers; therefore, I oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative FAULKINGHAM: Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to add to what my Good Friend from Wales said there.

In a time where we're seeing State budgets grow a billion dollars budget over budget, we have a bill before us today that would increase the amount that goes out to bid from \$25,000 to \$50,000. I can't for the life of me, Mr. Speaker, understand why in an amount that significant, with the amount of projects that the State has, why you would increase that bid amount so high, so that anybody could be hired for \$50,000, when we could run that project out for a bid and save the State as much as \$25,000 per bid. There's absolutely no fiscal reason to pass this bill, Mr. Speaker. I urge the Members to vote no on the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative SALISBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure that Members are aware, this bill was brought forward from DAFS and this bill specifically talks about bids that would go out, specifically for professional architect and engineering services. We're not talking about every bid that goes out from the State. So, it is a very targeted area of the bidding process that goes out. The member from DAFS that came and spoke to the Committee let us know that this amount hasn't been reviewed since the early 2000s, where originally, it was \$10,000. And as time goes on, as was mentioned, based on inflation and the bids that are going out and the projects that the State of Maine is working on, the consensus is that going up to \$50,000 will help us to get these projects more quickly, in line with the work that we're trying to do and, again, just specifically is talking about the architect or engineering process of bids that are being sent out for projects. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 59

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Eder, Hymes, Lanigan, Mason, Olsen, Walker.
RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass Report was ACCEPTED.

The Bill was READ ONCE.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE to the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS reporting Ought to Pass on Bill "An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents"

(H.P. 525) (L.D. 818)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting Ought Not to Pass on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

READ.

On motion of Representative SUPICA of Bangor, TABLED pending ACCEPTANCE of either Report and later today assigned.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 79) (L.D. 114) Bill "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority" Committee on ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY reporting Ought to Pass

(H.P. 310) (L.D. 481) Bill "An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default" Committee on ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY reporting Ought to Pass

(H.P. 587) (L.D. 922) Bill "An Act to Amend the Procedure for Filing a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and Responsibilities" Committee on JUDICIARY reporting Ought to Pass

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws Regarding Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine"

(S.P. 517) (L.D. 1288)

Bill "An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions"

(S.P. 525) (L.D. 1295)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds"

(S.P. 510) (L.D. 1282)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Consideration of Legacy Preferences or Donor Preferences in Postsecondary Educational Institution Admissions"

(S.P. 513) (L.D. 1285)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Employees Covered Under the Maine Retirement Savings Program to Elect to Enroll and Unenroll in a Payroll Deduction for an Individual Retirement Account"

(S.P. 511) (L.D. 1283)

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Fostering a Positive Economic Environment for Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency

(S.P. 515) (L.D. 1286)

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Athletic Trainers"

(S.P. 520) (L.D. 1290)

Bill "An Act Establishing Alternative Pathways to Social Worker Licensing"

(S.P. 528) (L.D. 1298)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Denial of Health Insurance Claims"

(S.P. 531) (L.D. 1301)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund"

(S.P. 516) (L.D. 1287)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Watercraft Franchisor Warranty Reimbursements"

(S.P. 526) (L.D. 1296)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Implied Warranty Laws"

(S.P. 530) (L.D. 1300)

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine"

(S.P. 523) (L.D. 1293)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Repeal Provisions of Law Governing the Privacy of Broadband Internet Customer Personal Information"

(S.P. 512) (L.D. 1284)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles"

(S.P. 529) (L.D. 1299)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Number of Voters of a Municipality Required to Petition for Consideration of Deorganization of That Municipality"

(S.P. 532) (L.D. 1302)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifications for the State Auditor"

(S.P. 533) (L.D. 1303)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Apportionment of Service Revenue

(S.P. 521) (L.D. 1291)

Bill "An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit"

(S.P. 524) (L.D. 1294)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues

(S.P. 534) (L.D. 1304)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Codify the Maine Turnpike Authority's Contributions to the Highway Fund with Regard to the Sensible Transportation Policy Act"

(S.P. 522) (L.D. 1292)

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Transportation to Work for Forestry Workers and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers"

(S.P. 535) (L.D. 1305)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Election Recount Process"

(S.P. 518) (L.D. 1289)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Change of Committee

Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program"

(S.P. 264) (L.D. 581)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

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

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request permission to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, we honor the courage, sacrifice and indomitable spirit of the brave men and women who have received the highest military decoration our nation can bestow, the Medal of Honor.

It is with deep gratitude and respect that we observe National Medal of Honor Day.

Since its creation during the Civil War in 1861 to honor six brave soldiers on the battlefield during the Civil War, more than 3,500 men and women have earned the Medal of Honor, including 66 from here in our great State of Maine. Each one has a story that resonates with the very best of who we are as a people. From the battlefields of the Civil War to the mountains of Afghanistan, Medal of Honor recipients have shown unparalleled bravery in the face of overwhelming odds.

On the National Medal of Honor Day, we remember the sacrifice and bravery of those who have worn the uniform and have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We also reflect on the sacrifices of their families, who bear the heavy weight of their loved ones' service. These families, too, deserve our deep respect, admiration, and recognition. Their support and love are crucial to the strength and resilience of our military. To the Medal of Honor recipients and all the men and women who serve in our armed forces, we owe you an indomitable debt of gratitude. You inspire us all and we promise to continue to support you, honor your sacrifices and stand united in defense of the principles that make our nation great. May God bless the State of Maine, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to the Representative from Carmel's words just now, I would ask that he also include those who have now been deleted from that website under the new DEI rules, where Black generals are no longer considered Medal of Honor winners and other people of color and women are being deleted because they don't align with the white male figure that apparently has come to represent the United States. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Permission to speak on the record?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham, has requested unanimous consent to speak on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, "Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, United States Army, distinguished himself by action above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1993, while serving as a Sniper Team Leader, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. Master Sergeant Gordon's sniper team provided precision fires from the lead helicopter during an assault, and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. When Master Sergeant Gordon learned that ground forces were not immediately available to secure the crash site, he and another sniper unhesitatingly volunteered to be inserted to protect the four critically wounded personnel, despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on the site. After his third request to be inserted, Master Sergeant Gordon received permission to perform his volunteer mission. When debris and enemy ground fires at the crash site caused him to abort the first attempt, Master Sergeant Gordon was inserted 100 meters south of the crash site. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon and his fellow sniper, while under intense small arms fire from the enemy, fought their way through a

dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. Master Sergeant Gordon immediately pulled the pilot and other crew members from the aircraft, establishing a perimeter which placed him and his fellow sniper in the most vulnerable position. Master Sergeant Gordon used his long range rifle and side arm to kill an undetermined number of attackers until he depleted his ammunition. Master Sergeant Gordon then went back to the wreckage, recovering some of the crew's weapons and ammunition. Despite the fact that he was critically low on ammunition he provided some of it to the dazed pilot and then radioed for help. Master Sergeant Gordon continued to travel the perimeter, protecting the downed crew. After his team member was fatally wounded, and his own rifle ammunition exhausted, Master Sergeant Gordon returned to the wreckage, recovering a rifle with the last five rounds of ammunition and gave it to the pilot with the words, 'good luck.' Then, armed only with his pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon continued to fight until he was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Master Sergeant Gordon's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit and the United States Army."

That is the Medal of Honor citation of Gary Gordon of Lincoln, Maine. And yes, amen to men like that, brave men that keep our country free. And on National Medal of Honor Day, Mr. Speaker, of all days, I would hope that we can keep it solemn and not political and honor those men. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members announcements are not for the purpose of debate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

On motion of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, the House adjourned at 1:06 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 27, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to William E. Haggett of West Bath.