

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
2nd Legislative Day
Thursday, March 27, 2025

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Honorable Paul R. Flynn, Albion.

National Anthem by Nathan Henderson, Rumford.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Garrett Fontaine, M.D., Winslow.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 25, 2025 was read and approved.

At this point, the Chair recognized the Representative from Naples, Representative WALKER, the Representative from Waterboro, Representative EDER and the Representative from Raymond, Representative OSLEN, and they were added to the roll call of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 501 for the purpose of taking a series of items out of order.

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 Suspension of House Rule 501. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne, and inquires as to why he rises during a Roll Call.

Representative **THORNE**: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker. Suspension of House Rule 501; in my booklet, I have 501 as being conducting business after nine.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would clarify that that is one part of House Rule 501. The purpose of suspension of the Rule was for the purpose of taking a series of matters out of order.

Representative **THORNE**: All fall under that same 501?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood, and inquires to why he rises during an open Roll Call.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Clarification as to a yes vote and a no vote; is a yes vote to suspend the rules and allow to take things out of order?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Suspension of House Rule 501. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 60

YEA - Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bell, Bishop, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Underwood, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Eder, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Morris, Olsen, Paul, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Beck, Blier, Bunker, Campbell, Collamore, Eaton, Lanigan, Lyman, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 111; No, 29; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

111 having voted in the affirmative and 29 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly House Rule 501 was **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of taking a series of items out of order.

The following items were taken up out of order:

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds"

(H.P. 858) (L.D. 1323)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FROST of Belgrade, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HEPLER of Woolwich, PLUECKER of Warren, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

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 Prohibit Life Sentences"

(H.P. 870) (L.D. 1335)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, WARREN of Scarborough.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved to **REFER** the Bill to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending **REFERENCE** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **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**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Table the Bill until later in today's session pending Reference to the Committee on Judiciary. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 61

YEA - Carlow, Wadsworth.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Bishop, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Abdi, Beck, Blier, Bunker, Campbell, Collamore, Eaton, Hasenfus, Lanigan, Lyman, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 2; No, 137; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

2 having voted in the affirmative and 137 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **REFERENCE** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** **FAILED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in Maine by Compensating Student Teaching"

(H.P. 862) (L.D. 1327)

Sponsored by Representative **SARGENT** of York.

Cosponsored by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York and Representatives: **ANKELES** of Brunswick, **BRENNAN** of Portland, **CROCKETT** of Portland, **DODGE** of Belfast, **MITCHELL** of Cumberland, **MURPHY** of Scarborough, **ROEDER** of Bangor, **WARREN** of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs"

(H.P. 867) (L.D. 1332)

Sponsored by Representative **MURPHY** of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin and Representatives: **CLOUTIER** of Lewiston, **CRAFTS** of Newcastle, **DHALAC** of South Portland, **DODGE** of Belfast, **KUHN** of Falmouth, **LEE** of Auburn, Senators: **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **RAFFERTY** of York.

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.

Bill "An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation"

(H.P. 856) (L.D. 1321)

Sponsored by Representative **FOSTER** of Dexter.

Cosponsored by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook and Representatives: **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor, **MCINTYRE** of Lowell, **PAUL** of Winterport, **WADSWORTH** of Hiram, Senators: **BRADSTREET** of Kennebec, **HARRINGTON** 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 Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"

(H.P. 861) (L.D. 1326)

Sponsored by Representative **SHAGOURY** of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford and Representatives: **ANKELES** of Brunswick, **ARFORD** of Brunswick, **FLYNN** of Albion, **GRAMLICH** of Old Orchard Beach, **PLUECKER** of Warren, Senators: President **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **INGWERSEN** of York.

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 Protect Maine Consumers Shopping for Electric Vehicles from Deceptive Advertising and Marketing Practices"

(H.P. 859) (L.D. 1324)

Sponsored by Representative **BECK** of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford and Representatives: **ANKELES** of Brunswick, **FAIRCLOTH** of Bangor, **FRIEDMANN** of Bar Harbor, **KUHN** of Falmouth, **LEE** of Auburn, **PUGH** of Portland, **SATO** of Gorham, Senator: **CARNEY** of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Create Housing and Recovery Services for LGBTQIA+ Individuals"

(H.P. 863) (L.D. 1328)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: GOLEK of Harpswell, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MOONEN of Portland, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, TIPPING of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council"

(H.P. 871) (L.D. 1336)

Sponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, EATON of Deer Isle, Speaker FECTION of Biddeford, HEPLER of Woolwich, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

Resolve, Directing State Agencies and Semiautonomous State Agencies to Provide a List of Surplus Properties and Properties Eligible for Redevelopment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority

(H.P. 873) (L.D. 1338)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: Speaker FECTION of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, ROBERTS of South Berwick, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: BAILEY of York.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Enhance Youth Hunting Participation

(H.P. 857) (L.D. 1322)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DILL of Old Town, JULIA of Waterville, MASON of Lisbon, MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

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 Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters"

(H.P. 872) (L.D. 1337)

Sponsored by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HAGGAN of Hampden, JAVNER of Chester, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MCINTYRE of Lowell, Senators: BLACK of Franklin, LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"

(H.P. 868) (L.D. 1333)

Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, DUCHARME of Madison, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOLEY of Wells, FREDETTE of Newport, HAGGAN of Hampden, MORRIS of Turner, RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding When the Governor May Call the Legislature into Session

(H.P. 866) (L.D. 1331)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FLYNN of Albion, GREENWOOD of Wales, LIBBY of Auburn, SMITH of Palermo, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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 Create Clarity in the Laws Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals"

(H.P. 860) (L.D. 1325)

Sponsored by Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, GUERRETTE of Caribou, SWALLOW of Houlton.

Bill "An Act to Clarify That a Business's License or Subscription to Use Software Is Not Considered a Lease for the Purposes of Sales and Use Tax"

(H.P. 865) (L.D. 1330)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.
Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOSTER of Dexter, PARRY of Arundel, ROBERTS of South Berwick, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: BERNARD of Aroostook.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Identify United States Citizenship Status on Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards"
(H.P. 864) (L.D. 1329)

Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.
Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, CYRWAY of Kennebec.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Retailers to Place Any Liquor That Is Accessible to Customers at Least 48 Inches from the Payment Terminal"

(H.P. 869) (L.D. 1334)

Sponsored by Representative BISHOP of Bucksport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MCINTYRE of Lowell, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, WHITE of Ellsworth.

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.

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 item:

In Memory of:

Maxwell Leland McCormack, Jr., of Orono. Dr. McCormack was a veteran of the United States Army Active Reserve. An accomplished graphic artist and a scholar of World War II, he taught at Southern Illinois University, the University of Maine, the former Maritime Forest Ranger School in Fredericton, New Brunswick and the University of Vermont. He was a guest professor in German universities in Gottingen from 1972 to 1973 and in Freiburg im Breisgau in 1991. In 1997 Dr. McCormack retired from the University of Maine as research professor emeritus of forest resources. He was a fellow in the Society of American Foresters, a distinguished member of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and an honorary lifetime member of the University of Maine Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, the Maine Hardwood Association and the New Hampshire-Vermont and the Maine Christmas Tree Associations. He received many recognitions and awards, including the Humboldt Prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany and the 2023 Peter Lawrence Award for Outstanding Service to Maine Woodland Owners. Dr. McCormack will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(SLS 295)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative CROCKETT of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.
READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Crockett.

Representative **CROCKETT**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I first met Mr. McCormack in the fall of 1981, when I was pledging at the Sigma Nu fraternity at the University of Maine. Max was a proud graduate of UMO and a dedicated brother of Sigma Nu, and he served as our faculty advisor.

In a moment, I will list a few of his many accomplishments, but first, I wanted to share my personal connection. Due to our house's struggling GPA, we all got to know Max fairly well, but it was my senior year when initiating new members that I met Max's son, Pat, our latest pledge. I was honored to be asked by Pat to be his big brother, which is a very big deal in fraternity life. From there, I enjoyed many good times with the McCormacks and can attest to the wonderful men they were and became.

Another brother forwarded me Max's obit just a few weeks ago. I've never read a more impressive obit. I'm just going to highlight the accolades associated with the State of Maine today, but be aware; this man was decorated across the globe. In 1956, Dr. McCormack earned forestry degrees from the University of Maine and was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity in Orono. "He coached youth ice hockey, including the Orono Bantams in the first game on the Alford Arena ice sheet in 1977. He contributed to a variety of community efforts and responsibilities in the towns that he resided." Dr. McCormack taught at the University of Maine, retiring in 1997. I'm kind of jumping back and forth to his obit, so, I apologize for that. He was a distinguished member, "an honorary lifetime member of the University of Maine Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, the Maine Hardwood Association, the New Hampshire, Vermont, and the Maine Christmas Tree Associations. During his career, he received many recognitions and awards, including the Albert D. Nutting Award from the Maine Forest Products Council, the Austin H. Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award and, in 2023, the Peter Lawrence Award for Outstanding Service to Maine Woodland Owners. The Wilkins Award citation credited McCormack for leading the vibrant recovery of over one million acres of Maine spruce-fir forests after a cataclysmic 1975-'85 spruce budworm epidemic."

Dr. McCormack was; I just said that, so, I'm going to end with rest in peace, Dr. McCormack.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Governor from Relocating Illegal Immigrants to This State"

(S.P. 168) (L.D. 387)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

MATLACK of St. George

POMERLEAU of Standish

ROLLINS of Augusta

TUELL of East Machias

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

Signed:

Representative:

ADAMS of Lebanon

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do rise in support of the pending motion and just briefly wanted to explain. Trying to be as efficient as possible, the sponsor had requested that we Ought Not to Pass on this bill, because there is another bill that has been submitted and heard by the Committee of the same subject matter. So, my agreement to the Ought Not to Pass is not on the subject matter, but on the procedure and trying to be efficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 120) (L.D. 254) Bill "An Act to Designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 201) (L.D. 466) Bill "An Act to Extend the Law Governing Electric Power and Service Residential Rates for Military Veterans' Organizations" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 299) (L.D. 683) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Law Governing the Minimum Indirect Financial Interest Disclosure Requirement for Liquor Licenses" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

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

Pursuant to House Rule 201.1.H, the Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland to serve as Speaker Pro Tem.

Representative MOONEN of Portland assumed the Chair. The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 20)

ORDERED, that Representative Sheila A. Lyman of Livermore Falls be excused Mar 20 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Richard G. Mason of Lisbon be excused Mar 20 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Kristi Michele Mathieson of Kittery be excused Mar 4, 11, 18 and 20 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Robert W. Nutting of Oakland be excused Mar 20 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Rolf A. Olsen Jr. of Raymond be excused Mar 25 for personal reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

On motion of Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield, the following House Order: (H.O. 21)

WHEREAS, House Rule 501 states that "Business may not be transacted in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m." and House Rule 523 states that "A rule or order of the House may not be dispensed with unless two thirds of the members present consent to the dispensation"; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2025, Speaker Ryan Fecteau transacted business in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m. after having been asked by numerous members of the House to stop transacting business in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m. and to comply with House Rule 501; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Fecteau failed to receive the consent of two thirds of the members present as required by House Rule 523 to dispense with House Rule 501; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Speaker of the House to call for a two thirds vote to continue to transact any business in the House any time business is to be transacted after 9:00 p.m. It is incumbent upon and the duty and responsibility of the Presiding Officer of the House to follow the rules of the House. It is a dereliction of duty and breach of procedure for the Presiding Officer of the House to conduct business after 9:00 p.m. in violation of House Rule 501 without a two thirds vote of the members of the House present to do so; and

WHEREAS, the failure to adhere to House Rules 501 and 523 creates procedural irregularities, undermines legislative integrity and compromises the legitimacy and fairness of House proceedings; and

WHEREAS, this violation contradicts the principles of fairness, transparency and adherence to established legislative rules, as is expected from all members of this body; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives must hold its members accountable for upholding the rules and procedures that govern the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 4 empowers the House of Representatives to discipline a member for misconduct; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, that Speaker Fecteau is hereby censured for violating House Rules 501 and 523 by failing to call for a two thirds vote before continuing proceedings in the House after 9:00 p.m. after being requested by members of the House to do so; and be it further

ORDERED, that Speaker Fecteau shall publicly apologize to the House and that the Speaker or Speaker pro tempore shall ensure that all members of the House are reminded of the necessity of adherence to procedural rules to maintain the integrity of House proceedings and operations; and be it further

ORDERED, that this order must be entered on the journal of the House of Representatives.

READ.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield moved to **SUSPEND** House Rule 524 for the purpose of voting on this House Order without tabling it for one legislative day.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach **OBJECTED** to **SUSPENDING** House Rule 524 for the purpose of voting on this House Order without tabling it for one legislative day.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **SUSPENDING** House Rule 524 for the purpose of voting on this House Order without tabling it for one legislative day.

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, I would like you to clarify, so that folks realize on both sides of the aisle what we're actually voting on, please.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: Thank you. The Chair would be happy to clarify. If you are in favor of suspending House Rule 524 in order to vote on this Order today, you will vote yes. If you are opposed to suspending House Rule 524, and therefore requiring this Order to be Tabled for one legislative day, you will vote no.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I pose a question to the Chair?

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: For clarification, the only comments that are currently in order are comments related to whether the Rule should be suspended, or on the merits of the measure before us?

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair would answer the comments at this point need to be limited to whether or not we are suspending the Rule in order to vote on this today. Thank you.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, I just find it ironic that we're voting to suspend this Rule, so that we can't do it, but we had no problem on prior motions like this to let them; I just wanted to put that on the record that, you know; we seem to obviously pick and choose what we want to do and, you know, it is at the will of the majority party, so, here we go again.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Suspension of House Rule 524 for the purpose of voting on this House Order without tabling it for one legislative day. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 62

YEA - Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Bishop, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Abdi, Beck, Blier, Bunker, Campbell, Eaton, Lanigan, Lyman, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 141; No, 0; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

141 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly House Rule 524 was **SUSPENDED**.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'm a little disappointed that the House Order didn't get read in its entirety, which I could do, but I really don't want to tick off a lot of Members. So, I'm going to read instead what I did.

I brought this censure forward because this Body was totally disrespected and put in possible deadly harm by the Speaker, at the time with the direction of the Clerk. Many of our Members on both sides of the aisle drive home at night, or early in the morning as we go late. Since I have been in office, we have had a few Members who have been in accidents driving home. What is it going to take for us to take this issue seriously? Is someone going to have to die before you understand the gravity of the situation? Members driving home exhausted is not beneficial to anyone, except to push through the bills that the majority wants if people give up and leave. This Rule was put in place for a reason, and if you want to change it, then you need a two-thirds vote of this Body.

Now, reading Rule 501, I'm going to skip to the last two lines, because the first part of it does basically just show the order of business. The final two lines say, "a paper may not be taken up out of its regular order," and "business may not be transacted in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m." Mr. Speaker, House Rule 501 exists and governs House operations. It is a hard and binding Rule of the House. It does not need to be invoked at the exact time that your wristwatch strikes 9:01 p.m.; that's just lunacy and a false interpretation of House Rule 501. The Chair cannot infer a Ruling when the Rule is explicit and binding on the Body.

It is incumbent upon the Chamber's Presiding Officer to adhere and enforce all rules of the House as they are written. It is, was and has been incumbent upon you to call for a two-thirds to suspend the Rules to continue House business every time work goes past 9:00 p.m. You have failed to do that, and willfully disregarded House Rule 501 at every opportunity. That is a dereliction of duty by the Presiding Officer, and it is why we must censure Speaker Fecteau today; so that this abusive and lawless pattern of behavior does not continue in this Body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I appreciate the frustration of the Good Representative from Fairfield. However, the people have sent us here to get serious work done, and elections have consequences, and the Speaker has been duly elected and has certain responsibilities and I think, frankly, we need to focus on our work and not focus on censures, which I think has been a huge distraction of this Body for the last three months. And while I share the frustration of the Good Representative from Fairfield, I don't think it's appropriate, and I don't think it's appropriate at this time, I don't think it's appropriate for this institution and I will be voting no on the motion.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also share the frustration, but I share the frustration with all of it. The stuff that's gone on over the last few weeks; this censure, the last censure, too, the Good Representative from Auburn.

We have House Rules; I think everybody agrees we should go by them. If we're not going to go by them, why have the House Rule? This is my seventh term. We have not gone by this House Rule. Why do we have the House Rule? If we're not going to go by it, if we're going to pick and choose which House Rules we go by, that makes us all look foolish. I think if we're going to go past 9:00 regularly, like we do, and we've done it over my seven terms, this part of the House Rule 501 should not be there. And if it's going to be there, have a whole bunch of steps into it. I have no problem going after 9:00 if going after 9:00 means we have half an hour more to go or we have an hour more to go. But that should be in the House Rule. I don't think that we should; I'll use an older term; willy-nilly go by the rules we like and the ones we don't like. But I think that business conducted in this House, we should at least go by those rules. Stuff that's conducted here. And I think if we're not going to go by a House Rule, then we should remove that House Rule. And if we're going to keep the current House Rule, put in some guidelines. I have no problem, I think most Members don't have a problem if it's going an extra half-hour or it looks like we're at the end of a debate or whatever it might be. Not knowing if you're going to be here until one, two, three o'clock in the morning at 9:00 is ridiculous. And it should be ridiculous to all of us, not just the minority party or not just the majority party.

So, I think if we're going to keep this Rule into effect, then we should go by it or put something in there that has some teeth in it that we can use this Rule, or if we want to go by it, we go by it. But I think if we're going to have House Rules, we should go by them, and if we're not going to, then we should remove them from the House Rules.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach **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 PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues of the House, I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

Today, we have before us a censure Order to a Member of this Body, the Speaker of the House, for an alleged violation of House Rule 501, commonly known as the, quote, 'Nine O'Clock Rule,' and subsequently, House Rule 523, which requires a two-thirds vote to dispense with Rule 501. This Order alleges that the Speaker of the House, quote, "transacted business in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m., after having been asked by numerous Members of the House to stop transacting business," end-quote. Further, Mr. Speaker, it states that, quote, "this violation contradicts the principles of fairness, transparency, and adherence to established legislative rules", end-quote.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this censure Order fails to recognize decades of established precedent and rulings on numerous occasions, by both Democrat and Republican Speakers, that have allowed the House to work past 9:00 p.m. and to suspend the rules by implication. In the 1970s and 1980s, the House Record indicates that this Body worked past 9:00 p.m. with some regularity, including at least 20 instances. In half of them, no vote or motion to suspend the rule was offered or did it take place, and the House continued its business by suspending the rule by implication of unanimous consent. More recently, Mr. Speaker, the House Record shows instances in each of the last 10 sessions in which the House continued to work past 9:00 p.m. and no motion to suspend the rule was offered, meaning that each time, the House simply kept working by implication and voted to continue. Objections have been raised occasionally, Mr. Speaker. There are at least five instances where a Member had raised an objection regarding the 9:00 p.m. rule after nine o'clock and the Speaker ruled this suspension by implication, including 1986, 1989, 1995, 2008 and 2018. On the contrary, there are no records of when a Member has raised an objection past 9:00 p.m. and the Ruling of the Chair was not that the House had voted to continue working by implication. There's also precedent for a Member raising the 9:00 p.m. rule before nine o'clock and the Speaker ruled that the Member could not make the motion before the top of the hour. This scenario happened as far back as 1997. The Speaker at that time ruled that a Member could not make the motion before 9:00. The House then continued conducting its business.

This is not a partisan issue, Mr. Speaker. In the 125th Legislature, under the leadership of Republican Speaker Bob Nutting, the House worked past 9:00 p.m., having suspended the rule by implication on at least five occasions, including June 7, 2011; June 8, 2011; April 13, 2012; May 15, 2012; and May 16, 2012. Democrats did not attempt to censure Speaker Nutting on any of those occasions.

This overwhelming evidence of collective precedent unequivocally demonstrates that Speaker Fecteau was not in violation of either House Rule 501 or House Rule 523 on March 20. Any arguments that suggest otherwise fail, either willingly or unwillingly, to acknowledge the precedent that has played a critical role in governing the proceedings of the House of Representatives for decades. It also fails to acknowledge that the Chair's Ruling was challenged, and his Ruling was upheld by a vote of the House.

The censure of a Member of this Body should not be taken lightly, Mr. Speaker, nor should it be wielded frivolously or vindictively. This attempt to punish Speaker Fecteau for adhering to precedent does not constitute legitimate grounds for censure; it only serves to distract from the important work that the people of Maine sent us here to do. For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound disappointment.

I am disappointed that your party, Mr. Speaker, has made a mockery of the censure process. There have been four censures in the history of the Maine Legislature; all four of them have been Republicans, the last three of which have been within the last year and a half. The most notable of which was the most recent censure and what I would refer to as expulsion of Representative Libby. It's made a mockery out of the process. And that's disappointing, Mr. Speaker, that it's got to this point, and I think it's out of frustration that we see this censure Order today.

The Representative from Biddeford, in my opinion, did violate House Rule 501. It was clear that the Representative from Poland brought the point before 9:00 p.m. and then immediately after, when we returned, that the Representative from Fairfield tried to invoke the Rule again. But the Chair ruled by implication that we had moved forward. I think there's some serious problems, as the Representative from Arundel brought up, that we need to figure out does this Rule matter or not. But for me, this does not rise to the level of a censure.

But Mr. Speaker, I hold you personally responsible through your leadership that these censures have become a mockery, and it's disappointing that we're here today debating another censure when we should be working for the Maine people, trying to accomplish productive things; not be censuring each other over our perceptions of certain rules. Because, let's be fair, the Rule that was broken by the Representative from Auburn is a matter of perception and opinion, and obviously, nobody on this side of the aisle felt that a Rule was broken there and we voted accordingly, and we refuse to make a mockery of the censure process. And I have been consistent in that. Now, some Members of my side will vote out of frustration, because a Rule was broken by a person that is in charge of enforcing it, and I don't think they're wrong in that opinion that the person enforcing the Rule should not be breaking the Rule. But I'll be voting no, because I am not going to vote to make a mockery of the censure process. I won't own that; I won't own that with your side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with confusion and concern. As a first-year Representative, I'm committed to learning and growing in this role to serve effectively. Understanding legislative procedures

and rules has been a top priority for me, yet I found our sessions to be, at times, unclear and inconsistent. Based on my experience so far, I'm unsure which rules are to be followed and which are not. While I'm not convinced a censure is the best method to ensure consistency, I have yet to learn of a better alternative. Therefore, given the circumstances, I feel compelled to support this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot has been said here today, and I must say I agree with the Representative from Winter Harbor about much of what he said. Censure shouldn't be a mockery, and many of us believe that it has been.

That being said, we do need to move forward. And to the Good Representative from Hampden's point of what we might do to move forward, I would suggest that we reject this censure, rescind the previous censure this session and moreover, take a look at the Rule whereby censure can be enacted by a majority vote and increase that to two-thirds. Because it should have a high threshold, and that should be something that is done in the spirit of bipartisanship and universal or near-universal recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I rise not to ask any of my colleagues in this House to follow my light on this vote.

Last week, this week, we debated many things that many of us thought were better off not taking up the time. Votes, floor debates on amphibians and turtles. But here we are, talking about a very serious issue; censorship. And I will not have it belittled because of where it's coming from. Our decision is whether or not to bring this forward. It's already been brought forward. The Representative from Fairfield has brought the House Order forward, our job is to vote on it one way or the other. Whether we decide censorship is too severe or not severe enough is not in debate here. It's whether or not you choose to agree with the fact that a rule has been broken.

There was a movie, *A Few Good Men*, and the line was, "we follow orders or people die, it's that simple." This Body is far from the United States Marine Corps, but we do follow rules. A number of years ago, as a freshman, I chose not to follow a Presiding Officer rule of wearing my mask in this State House after it was deemed unnecessary everywhere else in the State, except this building. Was I talked to? No. I was taken off Committee, along with six other Members, and we were replaced with Democrats just like that. I requested a face-to-face in the office with the then-Speaker from Biddeford. It was attempted to get a phone call, it was attempted to get a Zoom call and I said, no, I want to meet *mano y mano*, man on man with the Speaker, look him in the eye and ask him why he did what he did. He was very cordial, he did agree to the meeting and we talked in his office. And he told me then it's my job to enforce order and enforce rules as Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, the Representative from Old Orchard Beach cited precedent. She cited all the times that we worked after 9:00; therefore, a precedent has been set. I wonder if that would work with the police department, if I said, I've run all kind of stop signs before, why are you stopping me now and giving me a ticket? Or, I've sped all kinds of times on the roads, why are you stopping me now and giving me a speeding ticket? I've gotten away with it before, I've set a precedent, you should let me go, no punishment. We all know that's absurd.

It's been said before that in this House its filled with hypocrisy, inconsistencies and double standards. Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, my question to this Body is, are we going to enforce a breaching of the rules or not? That's the question before us today on this vote. I would just say we have two choices to make; either we choose to enforce the rules the way that the Speaker from Biddeford has done in the past, or we choose to ignore him and let it go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I rise because I have heard about precedent. And while precedent is important, I don't believe that, in the past when this was done, that anybody asked the question about; if there were going to be debate about whether or not the hour should be extended past 9:00. So, just because something wasn't challenged in the past, and it was accepted, does not mean that we don't have the opportunity to be able to challenge something the way we have done this time.

We had Representatives on our side that requested information and about the Ruling, and we were blatantly lied to about the fact that it had to be a 9:01 time; which it did not have to be, there's nothing in the Rules that say that. So, this is probably the first time that this has ever happened, that it's been challenged and it's been questioned. And just because it's never been questioned in the past and everybody was amenable to proceeding forward after 9:00, doesn't mean that we don't have the right to be able to request or to debate the fact that this is happening this time.

The other problem that I have is that the Speaker is the person who's supposed to be safeguarding these Rules and leading by example. And not only did he lie, but he didn't request a two-thirds majority, even though he was pressed about it. So, to me, if you've got the Keeper of the Rules and the Keeper of the Rules is not enforcing those Rules, then what do the Rules matter? And for me, as a freshman, what does that mean? Is the message that we don't have to follow rules unless the majority party says that the rules have to be followed? And I have to say that doesn't bode well, because the current majority party may not always be in the majority, and is that setting the precedent for the next majority to be able to just do whatever they choose to do? Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: 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. 63

YEA - Adams, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Drinkwater, Haggan, Lance, Lavigne, Morris, Paul, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Soboleski, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

NAY - Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs,

Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Abdi, Beck, Bunker, Eaton, Lanigan, Lyman, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 24; No, 119; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

24 having voted in the affirmative and 119 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the House Order **FAILED PASSAGE**.

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

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 104)

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

March 25, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Piscataquis County Commissioners on March 18, 2025:

Jenny L. Ward of Greenville Jct.

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on May 22, 2025, which is scheduled to be filled by Piscataquis County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser

Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 105)

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

March 25, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Aroostook County Commissioners on March 19, 2025:

Donald A. Tardie of Ashland

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that is scheduled to be filled by Aroostook County, and is currently vacant.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser

Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 106)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 27, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 469 An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 476 An Act to Ban the Sale of Polystyrene Packing Peanuts in the State

Health and Human Services

L.D. 116 An Act to Prohibit the Use of Piercing Guns

L.D. 134 An Act to Require Certain Individuals Who Instruct Children Under 18 Years of Age in Dance or Creative Movement to Undergo a Criminal Background Check

L.D. 258 Resolve, to Establish a Program to Recruit and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians

L.D. 327 An Act to Provide Additional Funding to Support In-home Personal Support Services for Qualified Senior Citizens

L.D. 514 Resolve, to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

L.D. 518 Resolve, Increasing Access to Maternal and Child Health Care (EMERGENCY)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 314 An Act to Establish Consumer Protections Regarding Small Dollar Loans

L.D. 805 Resolve, to Direct the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure to Conduct a Study Regarding the Feasibility of Combining Those Boards

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

L.D. 153 An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Mooring of Watercraft

L.D. 205 An Act to Amend the Bag Limit for Turkey

L.D. 716 An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes

L.D. 728 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Smelt Fishing

State and Local Government

L.D. 50 An Act to Provide the Right of First Refusal to Towns in Which the University of Maine System and Similar Quasi-independent State Entities Are Selling Property

L.D. 216 An Act to Change the Statutory Adjournment Date for the Second Regular Session of the Legislature

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 551)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

Came from the Senate, **READ and PASSED.**

READ and PASSED in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund"

(S.P. 542) (L.D. 1312)

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 Increase the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission to 5 Members"

(S.P. 539) (L.D. 1309)

Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible, Cost-effective Energy in Maine by Amending the Tariff Rates Applicable to the Commercial and Institutional Net Energy Billing Program"

(S.P. 547) (L.D. 1317)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Continue the Exemption for Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Containers Prepackaged at Wholesale" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 536) (L.D. 1306)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities"

(S.P. 541) (L.D. 1311)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Mandated Reporter Laws Regarding Medical Records, Additional Information and Immunity"

(S.P. 546) (L.D. 1316)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Insurance Coverage of Preventive and Primary Health Services"

(S.P. 540) (L.D. 1310)

Bill "An Act to Protect Cannabis Industry Workers' Access to Personal Credit"

(S.P. 544) (L.D. 1314)

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.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Working Group to Explore Opportunities to Maintain Public Access of Land

(S.P. 538) (L.D. 1308)

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 Enhance Data Collection Requirements Related to Immigration Status and Asylum Seekers to Safeguard Services for Legal Residents"

(S.P. 548) (L.D. 1318)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Suspend the Remittance Obligation for Paid Family and Medical Leave Private Plan Users" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 537) (L.D. 1307)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Suspension of Licenses Issued by the Department of Marine Resources for Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements"

(S.P. 549) (L.D. 1319)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Promote Equity in the Forest Products Industry by Allowing Commercial Wood Haulers to Be Eligible for Certain Sales Tax Exemptions and Refunds"

(S.P. 543) (L.D. 1313)

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 Authorize the Display of an Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal Decal on a Special Veterans Commemorative License Plate"

(S.P. 545) (L.D. 1315)

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 Prevent Illicit Cultivation and Trafficking Within Maine's Regulated Cannabis Industry"

(S.P. 550) (L.D. 1320)

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.

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

On motion of Representative CROCKETT of Portland, the House adjourned at 12:15 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 551).