

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
3rd Legislative Day
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Jamie Dickson, Kingdom Life Church, Oakland.

National Anthem by Michele Gonya, Winslow.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Dawn LeVasseur, FNP-C, Fairfield.

The Journal of Thursday, March 27, 2025 was read and approved.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 269) (L.D. 586) Bill "An Act to Provide a Court Authority to Issue Proximity Restrictions in Protection from Abuse Orders" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 4) (L.D. 40) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area License Transfer Process" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 385) (L.D. 617) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Waterboro the Waterboro Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 448) (L.D. 709) Bill "An Act to Establish the Respite for ME Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 493) (L.D. 751) Bill "An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs and Open Training Seasons" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 523) (L.D. 816) Bill "An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 548) (L.D. 862) Resolve, to Honor Scarborough Veterans by Renaming the Pine Point Crossing Bridge the Scarborough Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 582) (L.D. 917) Bill "An Act Regarding Charges to Uninsured Patients for COVID-19 Vaccines" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 626) (L.D. 966) Bill "An Act Allowing Access by State Agencies and Hospitals to Certain Confidential Probate Court Records If the Access Is in the Public Interest" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-35)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence and the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** or **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Extend the Law Governing Electric Power and Service Residential Rates for Military Veterans' Organizations (S.P. 201) (L.D. 466)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 124 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you. Have we had a quorum call yet?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the negative.

Acts

An Act to Designate the Spring Peeper as the Official State Amphibian

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

An Act to Designate the Wood Turtle as the Official State Reptile

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

An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline

(H.P. 38) (L.D. 74)

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority

(H.P. 79) (L.D. 114)

An Act to Designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

(S.P. 120) (L.D. 254)

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

(H.P. 310) (L.D. 481)

An Act to Clarify the Law Governing the Minimum Indirect Financial Interest Disclosure Requirement for Liquor Licenses

(S.P. 299) (L.D. 683)

An Act to Amend the Procedure for Filing a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and Responsibilities

(H.P. 587) (L.D. 922)

Were reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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. My objections were before, they still remain, that I don't think we should be in the posture of just awarding contracts to friends and neighbors without going through a formal bidding process. The idea to raise the limit so that we don't have to go out to bid is actually counterproductive to saving the taxpayers money. In light of that, I still object to enactment of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm just reminding again that this is not about awarding bids to our friends and neighbors; this is about a current process that we have and Department coming forward to let us know that, what they're running into with issues as far as the limit, raising that limit to make it a more tenable process and in line with other bidding process that we go out for. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 64

YEA - 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, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, 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, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Macias, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Carlow, Cooper, Hall, Lanigan, Lyman, Mathieson, O'Halloran, Rana, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 72; No, 68; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could clarify when a quorum call is done, and when it's required and when it's not, because we still haven't had it yet and I know we're voting. I know emergency measures; I guess you don't have to have the quorum call in an emergency? But I'm just wondering when we do the quorum call. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair suspended the Rules for the purpose of taking a series of matters out of order, which is why the quorum call was not done in the normal order today during session. Typically, it would come after we finish items two on the Calendar, which are Communications.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 319)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

WHEREAS, March 25, 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the 3rd of 3 marches from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama in support of the voting rights movement, which in turn contributed to the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark achievement of the civil rights movement in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965 approximately 600 civil rights marchers, led by John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who later became a member of the United States House of Representatives, and Reverend Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed east out of Selma, Alabama to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the civil rights activists sought to nonviolently protest discriminatory voter registration practices and the shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was shot after protecting his mother and grandfather in a civil rights demonstration on February 18, 1965 in a restaurant in Marion, Alabama and who died 8 days later on February 26, 1965; and

WHEREAS, the nonviolent marchers were met and attacked with clubs, whips, police dogs and tear gas by state troopers, local law enforcement officers and townspeople at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they were leaving Selma; and

WHEREAS, dozens of peaceful marchers were injured by state troopers, local law enforcement officers and townspeople in the forced retreat; and

WHEREAS, images of innocent protestors brutally beaten and severely injured on March 7, 1965, remembered as "Bloody Sunday," were depicted on television screens and in newspaper articles across the country; and

WHEREAS, Bloody Sunday galvanized a generation of nonviolent civil rights activists and heightened support and awareness for the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 1965, 2 days later, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a nonviolent protest of reportedly as many as 2,500 people before turning around after crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge due to a barricade of state troopers; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 1965, despite pressure from political figures, United States District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., issued an injunction allowing the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery to proceed, overturning Governor George Wallace's prohibition of the protest; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1965, with the protection of United States Army troops, the Alabama National Guard under federal command, the FBI and federal marshals, more than 3,000 people, led by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., set out from Selma to Montgomery, a 54-mile journey, marching an average of 10 miles a day along Route 80 and sleeping in fields; and

WHEREAS, the nonviolent protestors safely reached the steps of the State Capitol building on March 25, 1965, by which point their numbers had grown to 25,000, including many religious and community leaders of all denominations, races and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 1965, with the Selma protestors at the forefront of the news, President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, calling for federal voting rights legislation to dismantle the barriers that prevented African Americans from voting; and

WHEREAS, with the country captivated by the courage and conviction displayed by the civil rights marchers and activists, the United States Congress passed and President Lyndon B. Johnson enacted into law the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 on August 6, 1965; and

WHEREAS, many people from Maine, of all races and religions, were involved in not only the march from Selma to Montgomery, but the civil rights struggle as well; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery and to honor all those who struggled in search of equality and the freedom to participate in our democracy.

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

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Sayre.

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask that the Resolution be read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that the dispensing of the reading has already occurred. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Sayre.

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak to the Resolution.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SAYRE**: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution recounts painful history. I know that some people do not like to hear painful history. Some would like to make it illegal to teach painful history. They believe we shouldn't dwell on our nation's unhappy memories, that we shouldn't hurt peoples' feelings by recounting events that reflect poorly on us as a nation. I disagree. I believe we cannot learn from our history if we do not tell the truth about it. I believe nations are in some ways like people; we cannot grow, we cannot improve, if we aren't honest about what we've done in the past.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share two things, if I may. The first is a bit more about why Selma happened, why we are observing its 60th anniversary today, and the second is to share

a bit of what Selma was actually like, as recounted to me by someone who was there; my uncle, the Reverend George Wells.

Selma was about voting rights. It was about ending the systematic denial of access to the right to vote, the right that secures all others, to a large number of Americans. A denial that was systematically based on race. A denial that was continued for a full century after a Civil War and Constitutional Amendments were enacted in order to settle this question. A denial that continued in full effect into my lifetime. In my lifetime, it was common practice for the descendants of enslavers to deny voting rights to their fellow citizens who were descendants of the people they had enslaved. This denial was enforced through a combination of bureaucratic interference, threats, intimidation, economic harm and physical violence. This program was so effective across several generations that in Dallas County, Alabama, of which Selma is the county seat, in which most voting-age citizens were Black, less than one percent of registered voters were from the majority group. This is not ancient history; this is a fact about our country in my lifetime.

In the early 1960s, African-Americans in Selma made repeated organized attempts to register to vote. In February 1965, an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King, James Orange, was imprisoned after one such protest, and when protesters gathered to pray where he was jailed, they were violently dispersed by state troopers. Some of these citizens fled to a restaurant, where they were attacked by troopers with night sticks, and when Jimmie Lee Jackson, one of the protestors, tried to protect his mother from the beating she was receiving from armed troopers, a trooper fatally shot Mr. Jackson in the stomach. It was to protest the killing of Jimmie Lee Jackson, as well as to resume the effort to register citizens to vote, that touched off the marches in Selma described in the Resolution.

The first of those marches, as we heard; or we would've heard in the Sentiment, as we can read in the Sentiment; was attacked by armed state troopers, some on horseback, and backed by a posse of deputized citizens charging, teargassing and clubbing a group of about 600 unarmed and nonviolent protestors. March leader John Lewis and several others suffered fractured skulls. Dozens were seriously injured. But this time, the violence was televised, and the violence shocked the nation. It was called Bloody Sunday. The next day, Dr. Martin Luther King sent out a telegram to religious leaders across the country, which I will quote in part: "In the vicious maltreatment of defenseless citizens of Selma, where old women and young children were gassed and clubbed at random ... we have witnessed an eruption of the disease of racism which seeks to destroy all of America." No American is without responsibility.

Dr. King called specifically for White clergy from the north to come to Selma. My uncle, the Reverend George Wells, then in Washington, D.C.; who had participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which Dr. King had led two years before; heard the call. He knew that participating could be dangerous, so, he called home to ask his wife; my Aunt Annie, the late Annie Murphy Wells; and even though she was busy looking after two young children and very pregnant with her third, she had her answer ready. She told my Uncle George, 'I've already packed your bag.' So, off he went. When he arrived in Alabama, he was picked up by a volunteer driving a van that had broken windows and still smelled of teargas from Sunday's attack. His first stop was field training. And I mean he was literally taken out to a field and trained in one of the techniques of nonviolent protest, how to survive being beaten by a club. He joined a crowd of high school students and elderly men and

women, as well as young men like himself, dropping to the ground, curling up in a fetal position and wrapping their skulls in their arms to protect their brain from permanent damage. As my Uncle George recently told me, 'we weren't that great in number, we were far outnumbered by the mob at the end of the bridge with baseball bats and other implements for beating people. The intimidation was intense. The intention to repeat on Tuesday the violence of Bloody Sunday was apparent. When we reached the end of the bridge, the crowd in front of us moved aside to create a lane for us to pass. Some of us saw an invitation to proceed, some perceived a trap. Dr. King stopped us and had us kneel in prayer. And then we turned around.' Participants were confused; and I'm no longer quoting. Some felt the peaceful protest had made its point, others were frustrated that the march didn't proceed, others were relieved to avoid being beaten, arrested or worse.

As many learned later, Dr. King was negotiating for a legal ruling to permit the march to proceed, which was ultimately granted. The march proceeded about a week later, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was successfully passed a few months later. But back to that Tuesday night. My Uncle George was driven back to the airport along a circuitous route to evade Klan patrols. The Klan, you may recall, was a paramilitary organization that operated without interference and perhaps with cooperation from state and local law enforcement. They were the very fine people in their community fighting to protect common sense and traditional values. Uncle George's driver managed to elude the Klan and made it safely to the airport. Another vehicle carrying three White northern clergy was not so lucky. They were intercepted, pulled from their vehicle and beaten. One of them, James Reeb, a Presbyterian minister from Boston, died from his injuries. And let us remember that, unlike the northern White clergy who could fly in for an overnight, millions of people of color remained in the south and carried on the fight for this most basic civil right at continuing great risk to their jobs, their bodies and their lives.

I share all this because history matters. That the past informs the present. That suppressing discussion of the past, even the hard parts, diminishes us as a people and hinders rather than helps our effort to work together as one. I share this because, even with the passage of the Voting Rights Act, many Americans still face obstacles to voting. Efforts to erect new obstacles to voting continue to this day across our country. These efforts have accelerated since the Roberts Supreme Court blocked enforcement of important provisions of that Voting Rights Act of 1965. And finally, I share this so that when we pause in this Chamber to remember people who have given their lives for freedom, we might include in our memory the names Jimmie Lee Jackson and James Reeb. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels

(S.P. 527) (L.D. 1297)

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

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the New Markets Tax Credit and the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program"
(S.P. 506) (L.D. 1217)

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 897)

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

March 28, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On March 28, 2025, 23 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 28, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of the Drug Laws Related to Cocaine Base" (H.P. 889) (L.D. 1366) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill) (Cosponsored by Representative: LOOKNER of Portland)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Create Alternative Pathways for Certification or Endorsement of Industrial Arts Teachers" (H.P. 880) (L.D. 1357) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CARUSO of Caratunk, CIMINO of Bridgton, FLYNN of Albion, OLSEN of Raymond, POIRIER of Skowhegan, Senator: MOORE of Washington)

Bill "An Act to Provide Emergency Medical Services Training Through the Maine Community College System" (H.P. 892) (L.D. 1369) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Reduce Electricity Rates by Removing Limitations on the Ownership of Generation by an Affiliate of an Investor-owned Transmission and Distribution Utility" (H.P. 881) (L.D. 1358) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, SMITH of Palermo, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Establish Parity in Funding Between Recovery Community Centers and Peer-run Recovery Centers" (H.P. 885) (L.D. 1362) (Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, FROST of Belgrade, GEIGER of Rockland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Resolve, to Study Methods of Gradually Transitioning Individuals from Government Assistance Programs to the Workforce (H.P. 890) (L.D. 1367) (Sponsored by Representative LANIGAN of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: LIBBY of Auburn, STROUT of Harrington)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Require Insurance Coverage for Covered Dental Services Provided by Licensed Dental Hygienists and to Authorize Licensed Dental Hygienists to Bill Commercial Dental Insurance" (H.P. 884) (L.D. 1361) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Resolve, Authorizing a Study on the Impacts and Risks of Lead-based Ammunition (H.P. 887) (L.D. 1364) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DILL of Old Town, ROBERTS of South Berwick)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Require Antisemitism to Be Considered as Motivation When Determining a Violation of a Criminal or Civil Law" (H.P. 874) (L.D. 1351) (Sponsored by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant)

Resolve, Requiring the Judicial Branch to Report on the Implementation and Operation of Its Electronic Filing System (H.P. 893) (L.D. 1370) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport)

Bill "An Act to Tie Judicial Salaries to the Average Judicial Salaries of Other New England States" (H.P. 894) (L.D. 1371) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Amend Provisions Regarding the Scallop Fishery License Apprentice Program, Licensing and Limited Access Areas" (H.P. 875) (L.D. 1352) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: FARRIN of Jefferson, HEPLER of Woolwich, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, THORNE of Carmel)

Bill "An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery" (H.P. 876) (L.D. 1353) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: FARRIN of Jefferson, GOLEK of Harpswell, RIELLY of Westbrook, THORNE of Carmel)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Establish a Special Committee to Review Routine Technical Rules" (H.P. 895) (L.D. 1372) (Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips) (Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, FREDERICKS of Sanford, LAVIGNE of Berwick, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec)

Taxation

Resolve, to Require the Office of Tax Policy to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure (H.P. 878) (L.D. 1355) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Resident Minors' Income from Income Tax" (H.P. 886) (L.D. 1363) (Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CHAPMAN of Auburn, PLUECKER of Warren, SMITH of Palermo, TERRY of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption for Allowing Shellfish Harvester Access to the Intertidal Zone" (H.P. 891) (L.D. 1368) (Sponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook) (Cosponsored by Representative: ANKELES of Brunswick)

Transportation

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Develop Practices Regarding Public Transit (H.P. 882) (L.D. 1359) (Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, MONTELL of Gardiner, RAY of Lincolnville, Senator: NANGLE of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Preserve Traditional Driver's Licenses and NonDriver Identification Cards" (H.P. 883) (L.D. 1360) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland) (Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, LEE of Auburn, MASON of Lisbon, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, PARRY of Arundel, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, WHITE of Guilford)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act Regarding Liquor Licensing in Outdoor Stadiums and Exclusivity in Licensee Agreements" (H.P. 877) (L.D. 1354) (Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Change the State's Method of Allocating Electoral Votes from a Congressional District Method to a Winner-take-all Method Contingent on the State of Nebraska Changing its Method of Allocating Electoral Votes" (H.P. 879) (L.D. 1356) (Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DILL of Old Town, LAJOIE of Lewiston, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, RANA of Bangor, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: BEEBECENTER of Knox)

Bill "An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges" (H.P. 888) (L.D. 1365) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland) (Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, EDER of Waterboro, HYMES of Waldo, MINGO of Calais, MORRIS of Turner, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, WOOD of Greene, WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the National Popular Vote Compact" (H.P. 896) (L.D. 1373) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MINGO of Calais, MORRIS of Turner, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, POIRIER of Skowhegan, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 899)

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

March 24, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Enclosed please find my official certification to the 132nd Legislature of the citizen initiative petition entitled "An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act".

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

**STATE OF MAINE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that written petitions bearing valid signatures of 74,888 electors of this State were addressed to the Legislature of the State of Maine and were filed in the office of the Secretary of State on January 23, 2025, requesting that the Legislature consider an act entitled, "An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act".

I further certify that the number of signatures submitted is in excess of ten percent of the total votes cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petitions, as required by Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, that number being 67,682.

I further certify this initiative petition to be valid and attach herewith the text of the legislation circulated on the petition's behalf.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta on the twenty-fourth day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-five.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

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

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the accompanying Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act"

(I.B. 2) (L.D. 1378)

Was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 107)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 26, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under 22 MRSA, Subtitle 3, Part 3, Ch. 1058 (2) (B), I have appointed the Assistant Majority Leader Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach to the Board of the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated, effective immediately.

Representative Gramlich will serve on this board as the member of the House of Representative.

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 108)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Stacy Brenner of Cumberland County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;

Senator Bruce Bickford of Androscoggin County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 109)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Chip Curry of Waldo County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;
Senator Richard Bradstreet of Kennebec County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.
If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 110)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Cameron Reny of Lincoln County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;
Senator Marianne Moore of Washington County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 111)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Community Resilience, Planning, Public Health, and Emergency Management Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Craig Hickman of Kennebec County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;
Senator Marianne Moore of Washington County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 112)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Energy Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Mark Lawrence D-York County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;

Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 113)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Natural and Working Lands Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Rachel Talbot Ross of Cumberland County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;
Senator Russell Black of Franklin County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 114)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Nicole Grohoski of Hancock County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;
 Senator Matt Harrington of York County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.
 If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
 S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
 President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 115)

**SENATE OF MAINE
 132ND LEGISLATURE
 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 27, 2025
 Honorable Robert B. Hunt
 Clerk of the House
 2 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
 Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Transportation Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

Senator Tim Nangle of Cumberland County, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate;
 Senator Brad Farrin of Somerset County, representing the party holding the second most seats in the Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
 S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
 President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 116)

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

April 1, 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":

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 L.D. 183 An Act to Cap Publicly Owned Land Area at No More than 50 Percent of Any County

Education and Cultural Affairs
 L.D. 181 An Act to Modify the Calculation of Pupil Counts Used for Determination of School Administrative Unit Operating Costs
 L.D. 927 An Act to Require Chaplains in School Administrative Units

Environment and Natural Resources
 L.D. 479 An Act to Facilitate Expansion of the State's Recycling Efforts Under the Beverage Container Redemption Program

Judiciary
 L.D. 986 An Act to Eliminate the Crime of Felony Murder
 Taxation
 L.D. 223 An Act to Amend the Mining Excise Tax Laws
 L.D. 399 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Retention of Proceeds from Municipal Foreclosures
 L.D. 565 An Act to Amend the Definition of "Homestead" Under the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Laws
 L.D. 892 An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Surviving Spouses, Minor Children and Parents
 L.D. 909 An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors
 Transportation
 L.D. 2 An Act to Allow Military Vehicles Purchased for Civilian Use to Be Registered and Operated on Maine Roads
 L.D. 478 An Act to Reduce Maximum Speeds on Roads Close to Residences
 Sincerely,
 S/Robert B. Hunt
 Clerk of the House
READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 117)

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

April 1, 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 Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government has approved the requests for "Leave to Withdraw" by the following sponsors:

Senator Martin of Oxford
 L.D. 991 An Act to Prevent Conflicts of Interest When Voting on Municipal Employee Compensation
 Representative Ardell of Monticello
 L.D. 804 An Act to Encourage Election Involvement by Making Election Day a State Holiday in Even-numbered Years
 Sincerely,
 S/Robert B. Hunt
 Clerk of the House
READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 118)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

April 1, 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 28, 2025

Kelly O'Connor of Camden for appointment to the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services.

Pursuant to Title 4, MRSA §1803, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 184)

MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 27, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

- Michael A. Duguay of Waterville for appointment, as the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary:

- Amy Dieterich, Esq. of Auburn for appointment, as a District Court Judge,
- The Honorable Matthew G. Tice of Scarborough for reappointment, as a District Court Judge.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools"

(H.P. 917) (L.D. 1395)

Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport.

Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BISHOP of Bucksport, HAGGAN of Hampden, JAVNER of Chester, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Ellsworth.

Bill "An Act Regarding Behavioral Health Support for Students in Public Schools"

(H.P. 920) (L.D. 1398)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York.

Resolve, to Create a Working Group on the Status of School Libraries and on Public Libraries in Maine

(H.P. 926) (L.D. 1404)

Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, CARLOW of Buxton, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, MITCHELL of Cumberland, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

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 Amend Laws Governing the Public Utilities Commission Concerning Participant Funding"

(H.P. 927) (L.D. 1405)

Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, MCINTYRE of Lowell, Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

Bill "An Act to Increase Contingency Reserves for Maine's Consumer-owned Electric Transmission and Distribution Utilities"

(H.P. 934) (L.D. 1412)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, FOSTER of Dexter, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SWALLOW of Houlton, Senators: RAFFERTY of York, STEWART of Aroostook.

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 Regarding Dam Repair"

(H.P. 904) (L.D. 1382)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representative: BISHOP of Bucksport, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, Establishing the Study Group on Solutions to Address Maine's Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage

(H.P. 902) (L.D. 1380)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CRAFTS of Newcastle, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MCCABE of Lewiston, ROEDER of Bangor, STROUT of Harrington.

Bill "An Act to Create the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program"

(H.P. 911) (L.D. 1389)

Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston. Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Fund Community-based Organizations to Prevent and Reduce the Risk of Children's Involvement in the Child Welfare System"

(H.P. 919) (L.D. 1397)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 928) (L.D. 1406)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Cosponsored by Representative: BRENNAN of Portland.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Rights of Foster Parents"

(H.P. 931) (L.D. 1409)

Sponsored by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, JAVNER of Chester.

Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 935) (L.D. 1426)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MOONEN of Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: RENY of Lincoln, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

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.

Resolve, to Increase the Emergency Medical Workforce by Allowing Military Medical Personnel to Become Eligible for Licensure as Emergency Medical Services Persons

(H.P. 909) (L.D. 1387)

Sponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, FREDETTE of Newport, LEE of Auburn, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SUPICA of Bangor, WEBB of Durham.

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Provisions of Law Requiring Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Cover the Cost of Towing and Storing Certain Vehicles"

(H.P. 923) (L.D. 1401)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FOLEY of Wells, SWALLOW of Houlton, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Determine Methods of Ensuring the Long-term Solvency of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association"

(H.P. 924) (L.D. 1402)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

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.

Bill "An Act to Consider Municipalities Meeting Regional Housing Goals in Awarding Transportation Grants"

(H.P. 907) (L.D. 1385)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DOUDERA of Camden, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GOLEK of Harpswell, MINGO of Calais, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

Bill "An Act to Update the Maine Self-service Storage Act"

(H.P. 913) (L.D. 1391)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, FOSTER of Dexter, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, PARRY of Arundel, ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Bill "An Act to Support Maine's Electric Vehicle Adoption Goals by Providing an Exclusion for Electric Vehicles from Certain Requirements of the Right to Repair Law"

(H.P. 916) (L.D. 1394)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Representative: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Municipal Subdivision Standards to Increase the Number of Dwelling Units on or Divisions of a Tract of Land Before the Tract is Considered a Subdivision"

(H.P. 918) (L.D. 1396)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, HASENFUS of Readfield, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MORRIS of Turner, SACHS of Freeport.

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.

Bill "An Act to Limit the Applicability of the Laws Regulating Payroll Processors to Services Provided by Payroll Processors to Employers with a Legal Address in the State" (EMERGENCY)
(H.P. 914) (L.D. 1392)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Continuing Education for Licensed Architects"
(H.P. 915) (L.D. 1393)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, GEIGER of Rockland, ROEDER of Bangor.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand the Hunter Safety Course Exemption for Certain Individuals with Firearm Training"
(H.P. 925) (L.D. 1403)

Sponsored by Representative CRAY of Palmyra. (BY REQUEST)

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 Require Public Health Warnings to Be Posted and Provided by Firearm Dealers and Gunsmiths"
(H.P. 901) (L.D. 1379)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BRENNAN of Portland, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, KUHN of Falmouth, MEYER of Eliot, MOONEN of Portland, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Allow Action Against a Person Violating the Confidentiality of an Executive Session of a Public Body or Agency"
(H.P. 921) (L.D. 1399)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, HAGGAN of Hampden, MURPHY of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act to Codify Judicial Deference to Agency Interpretations"
(H.P. 930) (L.D. 1408)

Sponsored by Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Provide Due Process in Confiscation and Destruction of Personal Items of Unhoused Persons"
(H.P. 932) (L.D. 1410)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: GOLEK of Harpswell, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking"
(H.P. 936) (L.D. 1427)

Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.
Cosponsored by Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SATO of Gorham.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Public School Districts and Their Employees from the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"
(H.P. 922) (L.D. 1400)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.
Cosponsored by Representatives: HAGGAN of Hampden, MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Direct the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to Develop Indoor Air Quality Standards for Buildings in the State in Which Public Sector Workers Work"
(H.P. 929) (L.D. 1407)

Sponsored by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SKOLD of Portland, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations"
(H.P. 905) (L.D. 1383)

Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, PUGH of Portland, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Replace the Participation Threshold in Votes to Adopt or Alter a Municipal Charter with a Lower Approval Threshold"
(H.P. 910) (L.D. 1388)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representative: ROLLINS of Augusta.

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 Provide Emergency One-time Relief from the Wild Blueberry Tax for Sellers in Maine and Partial Relief for Processors and Shippers" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 908) (L.D. 1386)

Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, LIBBY of Auburn, MINGO of Calais, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: MARTIN of Oxford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to Examine Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Pedestrians

(H.P. 906) (L.D. 1384)

Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.

Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Develop a Plan for a Multiyear Registration System for National Car Rental Companies

(H.P. 912) (L.D. 1390)

Sponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel.

Cosponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland and Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, MASON of Lisbon, WHITE of Guilford.

Bill "An Act to Modify the Laws Regarding Driver's License Applications"

(H.P. 933) (L.D. 1411)

Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Representatives: LEE of Auburn, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Designate Law Enforcement Officers Employed by the Department of the Secretary of State to Investigate Alleged Violations of Election Laws"

(H.P. 903) (L.D. 1381)

Sponsored by Representative 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.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 898) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, child abuse is a community problem, and finding solutions depends on recognizing that the effects of child abuse and neglect are felt by whole communities and that those effects need to be addressed by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse and neglect prevention programs succeed because partnerships are created among government agencies, policymakers, nonprofit organizations, health care providers, schools, faith communities, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, when families lack access to adequate financial resources, stable living conditions, nutritious food, affordable health care, quality child care and education, a child's development is at risk; and

WHEREAS, all Maine citizens should become more aware of child abuse and neglect and its prevention and become involved in the raising of children in a safe, secure, nurturing environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, to recognize that we all have a role to play in strengthening families so as to ensure healthy child development and have a duty to help others recognize that role and to celebrate the positive community connections available to our families and caregivers to promote the health and well-being of Maine children and help prevent child abuse and neglect.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative MEYER: Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, recognizing the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention services and supports developed by this collaboration can help parents, other caregivers and communities protect children and strengthen families.

Parenting is hard, and that's true for everyone. Yet, there is still so much stigma and fear associated with parents reaching out for help. We can encourage help-seeking by building up capacity in community-based supports and services to provide it in familiar and comfortable settings. Maine Children's Trust hosts two key programs that provide that capacity in communities statewide: Maine Families Home Visiting and the Maine Prevention Councils that provide free supports to families in every county of Maine. Home Visiting provides support for new parents in a home or community-based setting. This is an essential program that supports new parents during a critical time of transition for themselves and their baby. From understanding child development to connecting to resources to meet basic needs, every new parent should have access to this kind of support; a person who is there to walk alongside them and support them as they navigate their new role as parent.

The Maine Prevention Councils are the lead entity for community-based child abuse and neglect prevention efforts in every county in Maine. Importantly, the Maine Prevention Councils provide universal parent support, from tangible efforts to meet families' needs through concrete goods like diapers to

hosting support groups like Circle of Parents, where parents can gather and provide support to each other as they navigate the various challenges of parenting.

Child abuse prevention is possible by strengthening communities with trusted resources. When families can rely on their community for help in times of need without judgment, more families ask for help and children can be nurtured. Maine children deserve no less than our urgent and ongoing commitment to make sure every child in Maine has the opportunity to experience safety and stability in a healthy, loving home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 900) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DOUDERA of Camden, MCCABE of Lewiston, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SAYRE of Kennebunk, ZAGER of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 6, 2025 TO APRIL 12, 2025 AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

WHEREAS, across the State, Maine's school, academic, special and public libraries are cornerstones in their communities, connecting the public to information and resources critical to advancing education, employment, entrepreneurship and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the library ecosystem in Maine includes over 600 school libraries in 174 districts and 150 certified school librarians serving the State's students; 33 academic libraries, including those of the University of Maine System, community colleges and private 4-year institutions; special libraries, including government, nonprofit, correctional institution and health science libraries; and 257 public libraries; and

WHEREAS, each year Maine libraries welcome over 3,000,000 visitors who use library services to attend enrichment programs, receive a state park pass and snowshoes, book space for community meetings, receive one-on-one tutoring and practice for general education development tests, manage a small business or find a job, use a computer and build digital skills, learn English, apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency benefits, make a telehealth appointment and check out books; and

WHEREAS, research shows that school libraries and library staff positively affect student achievement, transform learning and support the development of all literacy skills while providing safe spaces for children to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, academic libraries are essential to higher education, supporting student success, faculty research and lifelong learning by providing access to scholarly resources, research assistance and information literacy instruction; and

WHEREAS, Maine's libraries provide a safe place during severe weather events when they serve as heating and cooling centers and offer a place of security for families in need, including through the provision of free summer meals through the United States Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program or the management of a community pantry; and

WHEREAS, Maine's libraries ensure Maine's children are ready to learn when they enter school and welcome new Mainers and asylum seekers, connecting them to services to help them relocate successfully to their adopted state; and

WHEREAS, Maine's libraries provide invaluable social connections for older adults, contributing to their healthy aging and their ability to age in place; and

WHEREAS, Maine's public libraries provide free wireless Internet connection, laptops and tablets, computer classes and access to robust digital resources, often surpassing what is available in many residents' homes; and

WHEREAS, using their library cards, Mainers have access to e-books and audiobooks, streaming videos, local and national newspapers and digital resources for learning that teach subjects such as how to fix a car, update professional certifications and research homework assignments; and

WHEREAS, eligible Maine residents have access to Braille and audio materials and specially formatted digital books, and Mainers who are not served by a local library have access to books by mail via the United States Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, National Library Week is a time to recognize the importance of these institutions and acknowledge their contributions to our State, from the smallest island communities to our urban centers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 6, 2025 to April 12, 2025 as National Library Week and to express our appreciation and gratitude to libraries and their support staff.

READ.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe libraries are an important part of our society and have no problem with the majority of this Resolution.

What I object to here is making this political with political terms. The last Whereas on page 36 of the Calendar, if it had simply read, 'Whereas, Maine libraries ensure Maine children are ready to learn when they enter school' and left it at that, I would have no objection to this Resolution. However, using the term 'new Mainers' and 'asylum seekers' makes this political, because we all know the reference is to illegals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in objection to the very last part of that, that Whereas at the very bottom of page 36. This is a Joint Resolution that is supposed to be affecting Maine children, I understand; but again, we should've ended it where Representative Rudnicki had said. There's a political statement here regarding asylum seekers, which, to my knowledge, we don't have any asylum seekers in Maine at the moment, and then, also, new Mainers has that connotation of being for illegal aliens. So, I am in opposition to that very last paragraph. Thank you.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to mention, too, that; how would you like to change the color of your district from either blue to red or red to blue? Move a bunch of these illegals into your district, and that could happen awful easy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Malon.

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to remind my colleagues that new Mainers and asylum seekers are individuals who are legally present in our State, and that this is a Joint Resolution about libraries and I support it. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Brian Cummings, of Freeport, a sergeant with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, on his retirement after 25 years of service. Beginning his career with the office as a Corrections Officer, Sergeant Cummings later served as a Field Training Officer, Instructor and Transport Officer before serving as a Sergeant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 159)

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SACHS of Freeport, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Recognizing:

the Rotary Club of Kennebunk, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on March 26, 2025. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 157)

Presented by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Sayre.

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I just rise briefly to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Kennebunk, the club in which I serve; full disclosure, for which I am currently President-elect; and I'll dispense with any prepared remarks and just share with the Membership the value I see in Rotary.

It's an organization where we put aside political, sectarian and other differences and come together and put placing service above self, which I know is a calling to which all of us in this Chamber also respond. And I would like to share what Rotary regards as its determination of what we do and how we act, that's called the four-way test, which is a set of four questions that we ask before we do or say anything. First, is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial for all concerned? Four ideas I wish to share with this Body today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Rachel Eastman Feeley, of Auburn, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on March 3, 2025. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 160)

Presented by Representative LIBBY of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn, Representative LEE of Auburn.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SMITH of Palermo, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections"

(H.P. 149) (L.D. 226)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden
ANKELES of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEON of Augusta
CAMPBELL of Orrington
OSHER of Orono
RIELLY of Westbrook
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford
Representative:
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

Representative DOUDERA of Camden moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative PAUL of Winterport **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 Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

This bill would put the entirety of Sears Island into a conservation easement, ending decades of division and strife for the people of Penobscot Bay region, protecting an irreplaceable

natural resource and maintaining the economic benefit the island provides to the area. In addition, I would like to remind this Body that this bill is not about offshore wind; it's about protecting Sears Island. Throughout the public hearing, it became evident the bill's true focus was either misunderstood or deliberately reframed by opponents to the detriment of the discussion.

Let me introduce you to Sears Island, which is in my district, a place where Maine's wild beauty and rich history come together unspoiled and full of possibility. Nestled off the coast of Searsport, this 940-acre island remains one of the last undeveloped gems on the eastern seaboard, a rare sanctuary of towering forests, winding trails and quiet shores, where the rhythm of the tide and the natural surroundings help keep life in balance for many. But Sears Island is more than just a beautiful landscape. It's a place that has long stood at the heart of a deep and ongoing conversation. For decades, its fate has been debated. Should it be developed into a deep-water port, or should it remain a haven for nature and for those who seek solace in its wild spaces? Today, as you step onto its shores, you step into a story still being written. One of preservation, possibility and a delicate balance between progress and the land that we cherish. For decades, the Maine DOT has pushed for an industrial port on Sears Island, wasting millions in taxpayer money and causing deep divisions within the community. This current effort is just the latest chapter in the island's long, sordid history of attempted development that has met failure time and time again.

Since the Baldacci Administration, the push for a port has gone nowhere, and recent years have only reinforced its utility. Since 2023 alone, the federal government has rejected four major grant requests under the Biden Administration, including an \$8 million Port Development Infrastructure Program request; a PIDP; a \$130 million EPA request, a staggering \$456 million DOT request and, most recently, another \$16 million PIDP request. Clear evidence that even the federal government does not see a need for this project.

Over the decades, various other industrial projects have been proposed for Sears Island, including a cargo port, an aluminum smelter, an oil refinery, a nuclear power plant and a coal-fired power plant, all of which have ultimately failed. The repeated rejection of these proposals underscores the island's long track record of failed industrial ambition and the need to move on from this misguided pursuit. Worse still, the MDOT has already burned through almost \$4 million of Maine taxpayer money just since 2020, chasing this dead-end project. How much more are we willing to waste? It is time for the Chief Executive to cut our losses and do what is right; place the entire island into a conservation easement.

Sears Island is not just an untouched natural resource, it's a major economic driver for our region, attracting 10s of thousands of visitors every year from across the world. Hikers, birdwatchers, kayakers and nature enthusiasts bring steady tourism dollars into local businesses. Paving over this irreplaceable asset for an industrial port, one that the federal government won't even fund, is reckless and shortsighted.

For those who don't know the region, there's already a State-owned port 400 yards across the channel from Sears Island called Mack Point. As a matter of fact, if you drive on the causeway to Sears Island, the State-owned crane, the docks and 32 acres of State-owned land, including a railway, is staring you in the face. For those who desire a three-port solution that is yet to materialize after decades of discussion; congratulations, this bill does not inhibit that. As I said, Mack Point is State-owned. For those who want offshore wind in

Maine; congratulations, this bill does not inhibit that, either, because Mack Point can be retrofitted to accomplish that goal as well; much to my own chagrin. Let me repeat; this bill simply protects an irreplaceable natural resource.

The opponents of this bill did their very best to shroud the future of Sears Island in a fog of misdirection, waving offshore wind as a false flag to derail the true aim of this bill. Let me be very clear; this legislation is about protecting Sears Island and anchoring stability for Searsport and the surrounding communities, who have been worn thin by decades of uncertainty. Industry experts, including Chris Wissemann of Diamond Offshore Wind, have already urged the State to scale back and focus on Mack Point, where modest improvements could still support offshore wind research without sacrificing Sears Island. Even Sprague Energy has acknowledged that Mack Point could handle future commercial scale projects. And yet, the MDOT refuses to face reality, doubling down on failure and proving that this is not about offshore wind; it is about pushing industrial development at any cost. And as the saying goes, insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results.

Maine taxpayers should not have to bankroll millions of dollars for this dead-end quest any longer. By preserving Sears Island, we're not closing doors; we're protecting and preserving the heart of a community and fueling its economy through trails and tourism and keeping Mack Point open and available for sustainable growth. This is our chance to honor Searsport, both its past and its promise for the future. It's time to protect our economy, our environment and our community. I still believe it's okay to have special places, and I'm asking you all in this room to help me protect one. Let's conserve Sears Island once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sidney, Representative Collins.

Representative COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen and Ladies of the House. I'm rising to express my opposition to the Committee's recommendation. Mr. Speaker, the Committee's recommendation is wrong.

I bet many here have visited Baxter State Park, Acadia National Park or traveled the Appalachian Trail. Those places are only special because of the foresight of men who worked to preserve these treasures for future generations. For us. Baxter, McKay, Roosevelt; they did something wonderful. We in the 132nd can do something wonderful. Maine's farmlands, hayfields and small and large wood lots are being consumed by solar array after solar array. We can do something wonderful. Our mountaintops are peppered with wind farms. We can do something wonderful. We can vote today to preserve a piece of coastal Maine, an undeveloped 900-acre island preserve. I urge you to vote against the Committee's recommendation. For our children, and for generations to come, let us all do something wonderful here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative Dana.

Representative DANA: [Greetings in Passamaquoddy]. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. [Introduction in Passamaquoddy]. I am Aaron Dana and the Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative. I rise today and ask for all of your support on LD 226; a bill that affirms our responsibility to protect one of Maine's most ecologically and culturally significant places, Sears Island.

In the past, there has been many attempts to commercialize Sears Island, and all the attempts have failed, Mr. Speaker. I would like to define that the State of Maine's motto, *Dirigo*; *Dirigo* means "I lead." And I think that we should

show that leadership here today. Let's lead the rest of the United States by building a stronghold, by protecting our uncommercialized lands and forests and islands and not follow other states by destroying the beauty in which our State is known for.

Sears Island is one of the last undeveloped, publicly owned islands on our Maine coast. It is not just a place of natural beauty, it is a sacred place for the Wabanaki Tribes, including the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the Mi'kmaq Nation. For generations, this island has held cultural, spiritual and historical significance for [Passamaquoddy word] which means all of my relations; which means our ancestors and the current living citizens here in the State of Maine. *Wassumkeag* is part of our ancestral homeland, a place tied to stories, to sustenance and to ceremony. Let's not rewrite these stories with a commercialized port and the destruction of sacred and the significance of the island. Protecting Sears Island is not only about land protection, but it is also about honoring a living heritage. Our people only give place names to an area of great significance, and *Wassumkeag* is a shared neutral hub to all of the Wabanaki people.

Please let me be clear, though; the Wabanaki are not opposed to progress. In fact, we have consistently expressed support for the expansion of renewable energy in the State of Maine and also have been searching for our own pathways to more affordable energies. We understand, perhaps better than most, the importance of living in balance with the natural world. We understand that climate change is a concern and a threat, and we understand the need for energy expansion, but let's do it in a good way, without upsetting the balance of our State's natural and ecological areas. Maine must lead the way with sustainable, well researched and responsible energy development. And I emphasize again; well researched. But we are also asking you; actually, we are imploring you to find a path forward that does not destroy a place of irreplaceable cultural value.

LD 226 recognizes that we can expand renewable energy without sacrificing sacred lands. It calls on us to do the hard, necessary work of planning responsibly, engaging communities and listening to the original stewards of this land. The Tribes are not saying no to clean energy, they are saying let's do it the right way. That's a message that we should all be able to get behind. Let us not make the false choice between clean energy and cultural preservation. We can and we must do both. By supporting and moving to pass LD 226, we show that Maine is capable of leading on climate, while also honoring its commitments to justice, equity and indigenous rights. I urge this Body to stand with me and also with the Wabanaki peoples and stand for the conservation and vote yes and support LD 226. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Dodge.

Representative **DODGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to utter words I hoped I never would say in this Body; I did not intend to rise and speak on this issue. But I do rise because I have been contacted by constituent after constituent, probably because House District 39; Belfast, Northport and Belmont; abuts the district that contains Sears Island. So, I rise today to encourage anyone who has sand dunes and birds and trees and alternative sites for this project in your mind and heart to please vote accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sears Island is a 941-acre island accessible from Searsport and by a causeway that was built in the 1980s. You will hear it described as undeveloped, but, in fact, there is the causeway, a paved road, a rock jetty, a communications tower, an old gravel road and, actually, also cellar holes from long-ago owners, way in the past.

Decades ago, in the 1970s, Sears Island was acquired by the Maine Department of Transportation to support marine transportation as part of the State's three-port strategy. In 2007, a consensus agreement was reached after years and years of stakeholder work, calling for 600 acres; that's two-thirds of the island; to be permanently conserved, with the other 330 acres remaining available for future marine transportation needs. Maine Coast Heritage Trust became the conservation easement holder of the 600 acres in 2009, ensuring public access to the land and protection of its ecological benefits. I myself hike there quite often, Mr. Speaker, and it's a beautiful spot.

In 2024, the Chief Executive announced that Sears Island would be the preferred location for an offshore wind hub to facilitate deep-water ocean wind energy development in the Gulf of Maine. This is to achieve our climate goals and protect our environment. But LD 226 would place the entirety of Sears Island under a conservation easement by directing the DOT to forfeit ownership of the small one-third transportation parcel. This flies in the face of the agreement that was struck by multiple stakeholders, including the town of Searsport, in 2007. It prevents the State from utilizing the preferred site for a floating offshore wind port, a development that would not only be a tremendous boon to the region's economy, but will help our State tackle the climate crisis and preserve iconic species here in Maine, such as common loons, American lobsters and Atlantic puffins, with a just transition to renewable energy. Mr. Speaker, it also denies the town of Searsport the ability to have economic development on this transportation parcel, thus preventing them from tax revenue and jobs that are sorely needed in this part of Maine.

I wanted to say that speaking in opposition to LD 226 were many, many environmental groups, including Maine Audubon; Maine Conservation Voters; the Governor's Energy Office; Searsport's Town Manager, James Gillway; Maine State Chamber of Commerce; Maine Youth for Climate Justice; Ironworkers Local 7; the Natural Resources Council of Maine and the Nature Conservancy; and those are just a few. We also consulted with the Wabanaki Alliance; they were neither for nor against and they were not consulted in the drafting of this bill.

I want to end with a statement made by a constituent of mine who was actually a party to that 2007 consent agreement, and he says, 'whether or not floating offshore wind has a future in Maine, it would be shortsighted to assume that no marine transportation need will arise in the next 10, 50 or 100 years that would require anything more than a handful of acres for development on Mack Point. The State acted in good faith when they placed two-thirds of Sears Island under permanent conservation protection in exchange for the ability to develop the remaining 330 acres for future marine transportation needs. Passage of the proposed legislation would make a mockery of that agreement and would be an affront to taxpayers throughout Maine, who have repeatedly voted to support the State's ability to expand future marine transportation opportunities through port development on Sears Island.' Mr. Speaker, I urge you to follow Ought Not to Pass on this legislation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrington, Representative Strout.

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just would like to remind people of saving the environment and the importance of that. And I know that we want to have the opportunity for continuation of green energy and new research, but I can assure you that Mack Point can handle the wind turbines, because I now have 43 of them in my backyard, in a barren land that consisted of nothing but animal paths and habitat, and they all came in through Mack Point. So, saving Sears Island does not go against the opportunity to continue green energy. It does go with the fact that we want to save the environment and give these species the homes that are not interfered by human destruction. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bucksport, Representative Bishop.

Representative **BISHOP**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm representing the Eastern Channel and the towns across the bay from Sears Island. I, too, have been contacted by my constituents, and the people of the region support the preservation of Sears Island. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEJO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. Not to belabor this, but having served on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for the last three years, I want to assure you that this matter has received deep and sincere consideration. Members of both sides of the aisle on our Committee have deliberated on this, have heard hours and hours of testimony, have, I think, thoughtfully come to a reasonable place on the policy.

I'm one of the old people here in this Chamber, and I can go back personally to taking my first City Manager's job in Calais in 1979, and just down the road; or up the road, if you will; from Eastport and at a time when the State's three-port strategy was being developed and being pursued. In the intervening 40 years, that policy has been supported and invested in by Democratic and Republican administrations, and it continues to be a valued asset for statewide maritime economic development.

In the last Legislature, we took great pains to protect sand dunes statewide and on Sears Island. In fact, we expanded by significant acreage the amount of preserved land that would remain on the island in order to address those sand dune concerns. I really do passionately believe that the State has been eminently fair in this process to all of its constituencies, and that it is important for us to preserve the strategy that we have followed for all these years, and I would hope that my colleagues would see the wisdom in that and follow the bipartisan recommendation of the ENR Committee on this matter. Thank you.

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. 65

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Doudera, Drinkwater, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Ray, Rielly,

Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Dodge, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Kessler, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Macias, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rana, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Abdi, Lanigan, Lyman, Mathieson, Pugh, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

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

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act Allowing Access by State Agencies and Hospitals to Certain Confidential Probate Court Records

(H.P. 626) (L.D. 966)

(C. "A" H-35)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 120 voted in favor of the same and 4 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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 to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Designate the Seppala Siberian Sleddog as the Maine State Dog"

(H.P. 44) (L.D. 80)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Representative:

TUELL of East Machias

READ.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, 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.

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:

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish 'Welcome Home' as the Official State Anthem"

(S.P. 165) (L.D. 373)

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

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

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

READ.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to speak about the proposal before us that we establish a State anthem. I like the idea, but I propose that "The King of Maine" by the one and only Spouse be that anthem.

We could all vote today to make "Welcome Home" the State anthem. It is a sweet song with an upbeat tune. But I strongly feel that what this State and most states need is a little more hip-hop. And who better to provide us with a decent hip-hop song about our amazing State than Maine's most famous hip-hop artist?

Spouse is a Maine legend. His lyrics paint an accurate and deeply moving portrait of the daily lives that we each live. He raps about real struggles like the heartbreak of running out of Moxie, the tragedy of getting stuck behind a Massachusetts driver on Route 1 and the relentless commitment Mainers have to rocking flannel, even when it's 90 degrees outside. And think about the benefits. Imagine school kids standing in unison each morning, rapping along proudly to lyrics like, "I got moose blood in my goblet, lobsters in my optics / I'm live on the map where the dudes don't rap in the Altima black / when I do go past, come hop in, whoo! Find me chillin' in Rockland."

Colleagues, the time for change is now. Let us step boldly into the future with a State anthem that truly represents all of us. Let us raise our Moxie cans and toast to progress. And if you don't approve of this lighthearted suggestion, perhaps we could at least demand that Spouse be added to our State flag, perhaps in the background just behind the moose. Happy April Fool's Day, everybody.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. The writer of "Welcome Home" is from Winter Harbor, so, I would be very proud to have the State official anthem come from Winter Harbor.

I just wanted to read a few passages from it. "From the Allagash to the Androscoggin, / Fishin' boats and timber loggin', / Maine's the way life's supposed to be. / Lobster rolls and cans of Moxie, / Downland of the Wabanaki, / Mount Katahdin to the rocky sea, / We've got Paris. We've got Rome. / Welcome home." "Cadillac and tourmaline, / Lighthouses and L.L. Bean, / Hardest workin' folks you'll ever know. / There's Acadia and Caribou. / Presque Isle's not an isle, that's true, / But we're the first to see God's sunrise glow. / Only heaven has a better view, you know."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Lookner.

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we're on the topic, I would really like this Body to consider adopting the song "Toddy" by Bill Mayo, which is about a bar fight in Waterville. The majority of the song's lyrics, I cannot repeat in this Chamber, but it celebrates a different side of Maine's culture and our heritage, and Happy April Fool's Day.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm curious, the "State of Maine Song," which was made official in, I believe, 1937, which we already have and we probably learned as schoolchildren, those of us who grew up here; I'm wondering if this anthem replaces that as the State of Maine song, if anybody knows?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, this would not. This is the State anthem, not the State song. We'll still have a State song, and I believe we also have a State ballad.

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully rise in opposition to this pending motion, and I do so for reasons which I explained last week; we will not revisit those; but in addition to the fact that this is sort of, in a way, superfluous, I would argue that we also do, as the Good Representative from Westbrook stated, have no less than three or four different State songs, ballads, anthems; whatever synonym you would like to use. And I have no doubt that, as Members have jokingly stated here today, there are any number of more proposals forthcoming after this one.

Having said all that, I certainly think the gentleman who presented this song in Committee did a wonderful job, and as a country/bluegrass fan, I thought it was a great song. But again, we do have priorities that we need to be reminded of, and I would oppose the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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: 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. 66

YEA - Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Chapman, Cloutier, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Mingo, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Ray, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, White R, Yusuf, Zager.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Crockett, Daigle, Ducharme, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Mason, Milliken, Mitchell, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Rudnicki, Sato, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Abdi, Lanigan, Lyman, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Rielly, Sargent.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 91; No, 52; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

91 having voted in the affirmative and 52 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** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Investment in Workforce Housing and Raise Certain Income Eligibility Limits in the Affordable Homeownership Program"

(S.P. 580) (L.D. 1424)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce

(S.P. 576) (L.D. 1420)

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 Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging"

(S.P. 579) (L.D. 1423)

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 Support and Sustain Maine's Child Care Workforce"

(S.P. 554) (L.D. 1414)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Parental Notifications Regarding Child Care Facility Investigations"

(S.P. 577) (L.D. 1421)

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services"

(S.P. 581) (L.D. 1425)

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 Laws Governing Hearing Aid Dealers and Health Insurance to Allow an Exception to Certain Hearing Examination Requirements"

(S.P. 552) (L.D. 1413)

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 Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Immediately Take Custody of Persons Sentenced to Mental Health Facilities That May Not Include County or Regional Jails"

(S.P. 562) (L.D. 1416)

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

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 Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care, Including Fertility Treatments and Contraceptives"

(S.P. 573) (L.D. 1418)

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

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 Strengthen the Authority of Local Officials to Enforce Provisions Regarding Dangerous and Nuisance Properties that Constitute a Threat to Public Health and Safety"

(S.P. 571) (L.D. 1417)

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.

Bill "An Act to Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Housing Constructed Off-site Similar to That for On-site Construction"

(S.P. 575) (L.D. 1419)

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Open Primary Elections and Ranked-choice Voting"

(S.P. 578) (L.D. 1422)

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**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 574)

MAINE SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 28, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On March 28, 2025, 16 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 28, 2025, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act Regarding the Supply of Water to the Town of New Sharon" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 563) (L.D. 1346) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senator: MARTIN of Oxford, Representatives: NUTTING of Oakland, FROST of Belgrade)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Require Legislative Approval for a Contract to Operate the Juniper Ridge Landfill" (S.P. 566) (L.D. 1349) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: BOYER of Poland, DILL of Old Town)

Health and Human Services

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Timely Provide Interim Settlement Payments to Long-term Care Facilities (S.P. 561) (L.D. 1345) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: MOORE of Washington, GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representative: JAVNER of Chester)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Regulate Virtual Currency Kiosks" (S.P. 553) (L.D. 1339) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Establish Additional Requirements for Dentists to Administer Botulinum Toxin and Dermal Fillers" (S.P. 568) (L.D. 1374) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Housing and Economic Development

Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction (S.P. 569) (L.D. 1375) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec, PIERCE of Cumberland, BAILEY of York, Representative: GERE of Kennebunkport)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife" (S.P. 559) (L.D. 1343) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: HARRINGTON of York, STEWART of Aroostook, BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: WOOD of Greene, ROBERTS of South Berwick, HASENFUS of Readfield, FREDERICKS of Sanford, DILL of Old Town)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Improve the Response Time to Tenant Mold Complaints" (S.P. 560) (L.D. 1344) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Cap on Liability for Governmental Entities Under the Maine Tort Claims Act" (S.P. 564) (L.D. 1347) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Cosponsored by Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LEE of Auburn, KUHN of Falmouth)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Limit on Damages Under the Maine Tort Claims Act for Negligence Involving School Field Trips" (S.P. 565) (L.D. 1348) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LEE of Auburn)

Marine Resources

Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobsters or Scallops from a Single Vessel (S.P. 556) (L.D. 1341) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock) (Cosponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle and Senators: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, MOORE of Washington, CURRY of Waldo, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, HEPLER of Woolwich, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GOLEK of Harpswell)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Establish the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund" (S.P. 555) (L.D. 1340) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle and Senators: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, FARRIN of Somerset, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act Regarding Vehicle Inspection and Registration" (S.P. 557) (L.D. 1342) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Evaluate Potential Regulation of the Vehicle Towing Industry and the Impact on State Agencies and Industries (S.P. 572) (L.D. 1377) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Ban Corporate Contributions to Candidates" (S.P. 567) (L.D. 1350) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham and Senators: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, DUSON of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, ROEDER of Bangor, SKOLD of Portland, BECK of South Portland)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Acceptable Level of Alcohol in a Low-alcohol Spirits Product and to Increase Availability of Those Products" (S.P. 570) (L.D. 1376) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE** 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. Permission to speak on the record?

The SPEAKER: The Member 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**: For those that may not know, I spent 21 of my years in the United States Air Force, and today is Founder's Day at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado. It was founded in 1954.

On April 1st, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 325 establishing the Academy. The core value of the Air Force of which I've lived over 40 of my years, because I continue to, are integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Integrity in the simplest form means being honest, having strong moral principles, adhering to ethical standards and doing what is right, even when it is difficult.

I would also like to address the Representative from St. George, who, following my Medal of Honor tribute, expressed concern for some Black military; and female who have had their Medal of Honors stripped. That was the case back in 1917. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, who was a surgeon on the battlefield, was captured by Confederate soldiers and, long story short, she had her Medal of Honor stripped. But good news, all those have been restored. So, I would just like to say long live the Medal of Honor winners and bless them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative BRIDGEON of Augusta, the House adjourned at 11:48 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 3, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to May Ross Coffin of Augusta.