

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Volume II**

**First Regular Session**

June 6, 2007 – June 21, 2007

**Second Regular Session**

January 2, 2008 - March 31, 2008

Pages 682-1357

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
10th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, January 29, 2008

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

Prayer by The Reverend Doctor E. Scott Dow, Augusta.

National Anthem by Maranacook Community High School Concert Chorus and Show Chorus, Readfield.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, January 24, 2008 was read and approved.

**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining To Storm Water Management and To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Drinking Water Management"

(S.P. 830) (L.D. 2169)

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

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

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

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

Resolve, To Ensure Appropriate Personal Needs Allowances for Persons Residing in Long-term Care Facilities

(H.P. 501) (L.D. 652)

Majority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on January 15, 2008.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (3) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-645)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative PINGREE of North Haven, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 429)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

January 17, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1963 An Act Regarding the Training of Applicants for a Limited Radiographer License by Licensed Practitioners

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Lynn Bromley  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Nancy E. Smith  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 430)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

January 24, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 2031 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Whitewater Rafting Allocation System

L.D. 2045 An Act To Enact Guidelines for the Operation of Motorboats by Minors

L.D. 2065 An Act To Clarify the Filing Requirements for Noncommercial Whitewater Rafting Organizations

L.D. 2090 An Act To Impose a Horsepower Restriction for Boat Motors on Long Lake and Brandy Pond

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Bruce Bryant  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Troy D. Jackson  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 431)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

January 23, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1524 An Act To Increase Judicial Salaries (EMERGENCY)

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Barry J. Hobbins  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Deborah Simpson  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 432)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

January 23, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":  
L.D. 1950 An Act To Repeal the Premium Imposed on  
Motor Vehicle Oil Changes

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. John L. Martin  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Theodore S. Koffman  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 433)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

January 23, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 276 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to  
the Constitution of Maine To Require the  
Legislature To Freeze the Valuation of Maine  
Primary Residence Land

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Joseph C. Perry  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. John F. Piotti  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 434)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

January 23, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":  
L.D. 2103 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities  
Commission To Study Existing Barriers to  
Digital Telephone Service Access in Rural  
Areas of the State

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Philip L. Bartlett II  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Lawrence Bliss  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (S.P. 832)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

January 15, 2008

Honorable Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate  
Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House  
123rd Maine Legislature  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Edmonds and Speaker Cummings:  
Pursuant to the Government Evaluation Act, Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, chapter 35, we submit the findings and recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy with respect to the Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency (MMRECA).  
We find that while the MMRECA has yet to exercise its statutory authorities, it may have occasion to benefit from exercising them in the future. Consequently, we recommend that the MMRECA enabling law remain in place. We are recommending no changes to the law.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Philip L. Bartlett, II  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Lawrence Bliss  
House Chair

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

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

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The Following Communication: (S.P. 833)

**STATE OF MAINE  
123RD MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 22, 2008  
Sen. Barry Hobbins  
Senate Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Deborah Simpson  
House Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
123rd Legislature  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Hobbins and Representative Simpson:  
Please be advised that Governor John E. Baldacci has nominated the following as a Maine Superior Court Justice: Donald Marden of Oakland for appointment, Active-Retired William Anderson of Morrill for appointment Robert Crowley of Kennebunk for reappointment Roland Cole of Wells for reappointment Pursuant to Article 5, Part 1, §8, of the Constitution of Maine these nominations will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,  
S/Beth Edmonds  
President of the Senate  
S/Glenn Cummings  
Speaker of the House

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

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

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The Following Communication: (S.P. 834)

**STATE OF MAINE  
123RD MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 22, 2008  
Sen. Barry Hobbins  
Senate Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Deborah Simpson  
House Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
123rd Legislature  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Hobbins and Representative Simpson:  
Please be advised that Governor John E. Baldacci has nominated the following as a Maine District Court Judge: Jeff Moskowitz of Saco for appointment Susan Sparaco of Farmingdale for appointment Andre Janelle of Saco for reappointment Paul Cote of Auburn for reappointment Pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5 MRSA §157-1, these nominations will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,  
S/Beth Edmonds  
President of the Senate  
S/Glenn Cummings  
Speaker of the House

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

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

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The Following Communication: (S.P. 835)

**STATE OF MAINE  
123RD MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 22, 2008  
Sen. Barry Hobbins  
Senate Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Deborah Simpson  
House Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
123rd Legislature  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Hobbins and Representative Simpson:  
Please be advised that Governor John E. Baldacci has nominated Jane Bradley of Freeport for appointment as an Active-Retired Judge to the Maine District Court. Pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5 MRSA §157-B, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,  
S/Beth Edmonds  
President of the Senate  
S/Glenn Cummings  
Speaker of the House

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

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

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 612)

**MAINE SENATE  
123RD MAINE LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

January 24, 2008  
Honorable Glenn Cummings  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Cummings:  
In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 123rd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations: Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, the nomination of Honorable Robert W. Clifford of Lewiston for reappointment as a Supreme Judicial Court Justice. Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, the nomination of Honorable Paul A. Fritzsche of Kennebunk for reappointment as a Superior Court Justice.

Sincerely,  
S/Joy J. O'Brien  
Secretary of the Senate

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING  
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1547) (L.D. 2173)

Sponsored by Representative FISCHER of Presque Isle. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representative: MILLETT of Waterford, Senator: TURNER of Cumberland.

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.  
Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Regarding Curriculum Requirements and Standards for Awarding a High School Diploma"

(H.P. 1548) (L.D. 2174)

Sponsored by Representative NORTON of Bangor.  
(GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Cosponsored by Senator BOWMAN of York and Representatives: EDGECOMB of Caribou, FARRINGTON of Gorham, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, SUTHERLAND of Chapman, TREAT of Hallowell, Senator: MILLS of Somerset.

Resolve, To Ensure Support for a Model of Consolidated and Integrated Secondary and Postsecondary Education

(H.P. 1549) (L.D. 2175)

Sponsored by Representative RECTOR of Thomaston.

Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Kennebec and Representatives: CAIN of Orono, MAZUREK of Rockland, MIRAMANT of Camden, PINGREE of North Haven, TARDY of Newport, Senators: BOWMAN of York, MILLS of Somerset, WESTON of Waldo.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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.

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Bill "An Act To Protect Children from Lead Poisoning"  
(EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1546) (L.D. 2172)

Sponsored by Representative CONNOR of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative WEBSTER of Freeport, Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland, KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor, PINGREE of North Haven, SILSBY of Augusta, Senator: MARRACHÉ of Kennebec.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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.

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

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### SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

**Recognizing:**

Mark Gay, of York, longtime captain of the York Beach Fire Department, who was named as the 2007 Firefighter of the Year by the Maine State Federation of Firefighters. Captain Gay has been a member of the fire department for 35 years, beginning as a volunteer, and later serving as a trustee, lieutenant and captain. We acknowledge Captain Gay's exceptional firefighting career and we congratulate him on his receiving this high honor;

(HLS 970)

Presented by Representative HILL of York.

Cosponsored by Senator BOWMAN of York, Representative WEAVER of York.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HILL of York, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Hill.

Representative **HILL**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Good morning. I would like to point out to you that Captain Mark Gay is in the Gallery joining us today and, as you heard, he received the 2007 Firefighter Award of the Year. I am proud to have him here, and I would like to tell you a little bit about him.

Mark has been fighting fires since he was 18. People in York say to me that he was born to fight fires. When he is not fighting fires, he is volunteering at the town, county, and state level for all sorts of projects for firemen. He is a busy person, and he is very dedicated to the cause. Also, he has chaired twice at York Beach Fire Department, the State Convention, which is unusual in itself that he has put all that effort in to bringing that to the Town of York.

Also, today with Mark is the York Beach Fire Chief David Bridges. He is here to honor him. I said, "Can you tell me something about Mark? How would you sum it up?" He said, "Well, if somebody said to me, 'What is a firefighter?', I would say go the dictionary, look up the word firefighter and when you turn to that page you will see a picture of Mark." That says a lot.

Also, accompanying Mark is the York Chief of Police Doug Bracey. Doug grew up with Mark and was also a volunteer firefighter with him many years ago. Of course, today Mark is a fulltime firefighter; I want to make that clear. I said to Doug: "Do you have any special memories?" He said to me: "Well, you know, there are endless accounts of Mark's bravery and dedication, but there is one thing that I always fondly remember in my heart and I would like to share it with you." He said, "Mark was in full gear and we were called to a fire and, as usual, Mark did not hesitate, he was the first to run through the door into the burning building." Right in front of him he saw Mark start to fall through the floor, and he reached out and grabbed him and held onto him for life. Mark looked up at him and said, "You can let me go." Doug Bracey looked back at him and said, "Why?" Mark looked back at him and said, "Because I am standing up." It turned out he only fell into half a basement, so praise the Lord he was saved, and they could go on with their life and continue to fight more fires. I would ask you to welcome and congratulate my guest, Mark Gay, Firefighter of the Year 2007.

Subsequently, the Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

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### REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

#### Change of Committee

Representative JACKSON from the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Resolve, To Study the Feasibility of a Public Dock on Mooselookmeguntic Lake

(H.P. 1473) (L.D. 2087)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**.

Sent for concurrence.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(H.P. 1398) (L.D. 2014) Resolve, To Extend the Deadline To Adopt a Rule by the Department of Health and Human Services Regarding Smoking in the Workplace (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

There being no objections, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar tomorrow under the listing of Second Day.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Second Day**

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

(S.P. 482) (L.D. 1394) Bill "An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure by Political Action Committees" (C. "A" S-402)

(S.P. 577) (L.D. 1672) Bill "An Act Relating to Retirement and Death Benefits for Certain Law Enforcement Officers" (C. "B" S-394)

(H.P. 1444) (L.D. 2060) Bill "An Act To Create Consistency in the Authority of the Public Utilities Commission To Provide Tariff Exemptions"

(H.P. 1460) (L.D. 2076) Bill "An Act To Amend the Charter of the Norway Water District" (EMERGENCY)

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence and the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

**BILLS IN THE SECOND READING**

**Senate as Amended in Non-Concurrence**

Bill "An Act To Improve Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Maine"

(S.P. 349) (L.D. 1032)  
(C. "B" S-395)

Reported by the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**, read the second time, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in non-concurrence and sent for concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

**ENACTORS**

**Acts**

An Act To Increase Reimbursement for Jury Duty

(S.P. 11) (L.D. 1)  
(C. "A" S-401)

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Criminal Law Advisory Commission

(H.P. 882) (L.D. 1240)  
(C. "B" H-651)

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.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, January 24, 2008, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-644)** - Minority (4) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act To Establish a Single-payor Health Care System"

(H.P. 790) (L.D. 1072)

TABLED - January 15, 2008 (Till Later Today) by Representative BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth.

PENDING - Motion of same Representative to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Brautigam.

Representative **BRAUTIGAM**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. As amended by the Committee, this Majority Report converts the bill to a resolve, to conduct an updated study of the feasibility of establishing a single-payor health care system in the State of Maine.

This takes us back to 2001, when the Legislature authorized a study of the impact that a single-payor health care system might have on the State of Maine, on the access to health care, on premiums, on availability of health care, on employment, and the total spending on health care in the State of Maine. What is most remarkable about that study is that the result of the study was unanimously approved by the 19-member board that was established by that early legislation, a board which included representative business groups, labor groups, hospitals, insurers, and both major political parties of the Legislature at that time. That study is out of date at this time and needs to be updated if we are going to have any sense of what might happen in this state, if we were to be able to move forward with a more flexible approach to health care, given what is currently being considered at the federal level. If Congress is poised to give the states more flexibility, more freedom, we may indeed be in a position to consider something more fundamental in our health care system than we have had the freedom of being able to do up to this point, to again access what we might be able to do, what we might be able to afford to do, or what all the implications are, good and bad, of moving in a direction like this.

I would like to thank Representative Beaudoin for helping to continue to focus our attention on this issue and to help the need to keep working on health care in Maine. This bill just simply provides us with information; it just prepares us for one way to address what is indisputably a national crisis. Maybe it is not the only way, maybe it is not the best possible way, but only time will tell. We owe it to our constituents, I think, to keep pushing for a solution, and part of that effort is to gather information and analyze options. This bill does exactly that and for that reason it deserves our support. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **BEAUDOIN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I appreciate all the hard work that Insurance and Financial Services Committee put into my bill, LD 1072. I thank them for their support on this very important issue. I hope that all of you will join me in supporting responsible spending for affordable health care for all Mainers; affordable health care is a right.

We already spend billions of dollars on health care; we are not talking about spending more, we are talking about spending smarter. If and when the Federal Government chooses to take up this issue, which is certainly being talked about by the Democratic Presidential hopefuls, we need to know that the smartest move is for Mainers. The majority of funds are private. I urge you to vote yes on this bill in support of the right to health care and responsible health care spending. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newcastle, Representative McKane.

Representative **McKANE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This issue has been studied and studied again and the conclusion every time is that a single state cannot have a single-payor program. It is simply, and especially a state as poor as Maine, it is simply too expensive. It would cost billions of dollars. This study would use general fund money and other special revenue money, and I would submit to you that that money could be better spent in any number of different ways: oil assistance, education, and real health care. But to spend this money on something that has been studied and studied over and over again and that we know the answer already, would be a waste in my opinion. Mr. Speaker, I request a roll call on this.

Representative McKANE of Newcastle **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Oakland, Representative Conover.

Representative **CONOVER**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would like to speak to the need of this study, but first just a little fact check. Actually, the bill that Representative Beaudoin has before us, there is interest in folks providing some grant money to do this study, and, in fact, the study in the past is showing that it is cost effective. But I would like to speak to the need of this, because this is an important issue to our working families in Maine.

Eighty percent of those without health insurance in our state are working people. This is wrong. People who work hard and play by the rules deserve their fair share of health security. We are tired of paying more for less or nothing. We deserve health care that is there when we need it. There are steps that we can take in Maine and having factual information to inform our policy decisions is a must. Friends, we need to do more than put a Band-Aid on our broken health care system. We know that preventive care saves lives and dollars, and yet the business of health care has become a complicated expensive system of denying care.

The people of Maine and across the country are charged record high premiums for less coverage, all while health insurance companies' profits soar. We can and must do better, but until we address the underlying fundamental flaw of a system that awards the most expensive type of care, such as emergency room visits and hospitalization, and discourages needed care, our people, our businesses, and our economy will continue to suffer. We should not, friends, we should not fall for the myth of the free market, that our current private insurance industry driven system will solve all of our problems; it has not and will not. The status quo has resulted in the US spending more than twice that of what other major industrialized countries spend, while remaining the only one among them not to achieve universal coverage, all while placing average to below average in key health care quality outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, when the market is failing to serve the values of our people and has instead resulted in our people serving the market, all too often through their own pain and suffering, it is time for change. Every state, whether more or less regulated, is faced with the problem of rising health care costs, and Maine cannot afford to wait for a national solution that may never come. We need to explore other alternatives. Informing ourselves of an alternative that may provide a cost effective way is an investment worth making and is the right thing to do, because it will lead the policy choices that help folks keep healthier businesses to benefit from a healthier and more secure and more productive workforce, and healthy families and businesses make a healthier Maine economy.

Our health care crisis is forcing choices that our working families should not have to make as they balance their necessity checkbooks, decisions between seeking appropriate health care, keeping up with mortgage payments, putting food on the table, or warming homes. Mr. Speaker, just two nights ago I heard from a constituent who spent \$5,000 to have an operation on his ear so that he could hear. Mr. Speaker, he is a working person, he and his family are perennial farmers, and he could not afford even the \$15,000 deductible plan, so he said, "Jill, this was cheaper for me to actually spend \$5,000 out of my pocket, which I cannot afford. We are having a hard time keeping up with home heating oil, but it was cheaper for me than to try to get a policy." So he had to spend \$5,000 of his working family budget to do so. Our health care crisis is forcing these unfortunate decisions that our working families have to make. We can and must do better, and having the data to inform our policy decisions is a must. Facts matter; please join me in voting Majority Ought to Pass as Amended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative MOORE of Standish **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Faircloth.

Representative **FAIRCLOTH**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in support of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. Mr. Speaker, almost 63 years ago, long before the Representative from Biddeford was born, Harry S. Truman, on November 19, 1945, addressed a joint session of Congress. He said: "We should resolve now that the health of this nation is a national concern; that financial barriers in the way of attaining health shall be removed; that the health of all its citizens deserves the help of all the nation." Harry Truman then proposed, almost 63 years ago, the creation of a national health insurance fund, and when he did so, the response from some was that Harry Truman was one of the "followers of the Moscow party line."

But Harry Truman had a saying that "when they stop telling lies about us, we'll stop telling the truth about them." I believe that however many years it takes, we are going to get there with regards to this policy, and that none, it seems to me, looking at this rationally and reasonably, can do but to follow the excellent leadership of the Chair of this committee, because what are we looking at? We are looking at getting information and we are getting it without taxpayer money, to provide an objective analysis; what could be wrong with that? If the objective analysis says something else that is fine; let's just get the information so that we can have the truth and make a fundamental decision.

You know, when Harry Truman called for the Marshall Plan, people said no but he was successful and it transformed the world for the better. Had we listened to Harry Truman almost 63 years ago, many millions of Americans would have lived healthier and more productive lives. This study is our part, our role, in



providing hope and a possibility for information. I very strongly support the excellent Majority Report of this committee; I thank the Men and Women of the House.

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

Representative **GILES**: Mr. Speaker, may I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose her question.

Representative **GILES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fiscal Note on this bill shows that there is a \$235,100 grant that would be applied for to pay for this study. My question is: What is the source of that funding and why wouldn't this grant not study all options for health care, rather than just a universal single-payor system? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Belfast, Representative Giles has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Brautigam.

Representative **BRAUTIGAM**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I am pleased to be able to address that question. The funding will come from private foundation sources; it will not come from the General Fund to pay for that study. It is an update of an existing study and it will be much less than \$250,000, but the existing study that was approved by the Legislature several years ago, had certain parameters in it and that is what is going to be updated. If there are other studies to be updated, perhaps that can be done as well, but this is an update of something that already exists, it is going to cost a lot less than the original study because it really is just plugging more data into an existing framework of analysis. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hallowell, Representative Treat.

Representative **TREAT**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Just to add to the response to that question, the fact is the Fiscal Note has been modified to be \$60,000, the most recent Fiscal Note on your desk. That is money that is coming through foundations that have expressed an interest in looking at single-payor, as well as other potential ways of expanding health care in this state. I would suggest that really the only reason to vote against this bill is if you really have sort of a don't ask, don't tell attitude about legislating. That is to say we really ought to ask all of the questions, and we have been asking questions about market reform and other ways of expanding health care access in our committee.

The fact is that we have a study, which is out of date, yet very well done. It was done by the Mathematica Corporation, which is not one of these lefty public interest groups that go out and talk about single-payor all the time. They are people that are hired by organizations, by governments on all sides of the political spectrum; they are very well respected; and, in fact, they came back several years ago and said that the State of Maine could, in fact, do a single-payor system. I think it is in all of our constituents' interests to pay attention to that and to at least have that on the table as one of the options as we move forward.

I cannot imagine anyone in this state saying that the insurance program and the health care programs in this state are not broken. We have had double-digit increases in health insurance costs over the last several years, annually, and we are seeing losses and expansion of health care throughout this country, including in this state, where more and more businesses are finding it very difficult, if not impossible, to continue to expand and to continue to pay for health insurance in this state. I think it is really up to all of us, and our constituents will thank us, for

keeping our options open and for doing it in a way which does not rely on state money.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newfield, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Now look at the health care system in the text of a 12-inch ruler, and break that 12-inch ruler into three different parts: a third, a third, a third. We have the bottom four; we'll call that Mainecaid, Medicaid, whatever you want to call it. These people have a health care card for you to see the doctor and to go to the hospital, and it is funded by the taxpayers of the State of Maine.

We'll skip the middle of the ruler and we will go to the top four; we'll call them State Representatives, we'll call them Senators, we'll call them administration, Cross Office Building, truck drivers. If you work for the state, you pick up a card that entitles you to health care with your doctors and your hospital.

We'll go the middle four now; it is the gentleman who works two jobs to support his family, to put food on the table for his children, to put a roof over their heads, and he works these two jobs and comes home and takes care of these kids on the weekend so his wife can work a part-time job. They are not eligible for anything. They are paying the freight for the bottom four, the top four and they have no insurance themselves, and it is about time we thought of them.

We also have twelve Republican Governors in this great country, who are out fighting to get health care to the people of their state. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Cain.

Representative **CAIN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in support of the pending motion, and I will admit this is not my usual area to speak on when it comes to speaking on the floor of the House. But I had an experience this past fall that really opened my eyes to the progress that we have to make and continue to make in Maine and in this country: I traveled to Europe for a month on a trip with the German Marshall Fund, to learn about the Marshall Plan and the work that was done there. I was an American Marshall Memorial Fellow. I traveled with fifteen people from around the country; different political parties, different backgrounds; public sector, private sector; I was the only elected official in the group. I had the privilege to go to Brussels, Belgium; Copenhagen, Denmark; Marseille, France; Budapest, Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Berlin, Germany.

These countries were amazing and every single country talked to me about how they admire the US, and they admire us for a lot of things: For our economic structure, they admire us for our immigration policies, they think we are ahead of them on everything with one major exception, which is health care, which is providing that basic health care right to people in the United States, by extension, here in the State of Maine. The number one question I was asked was: Why can't you get that together, what can't you provide what we provide here to people, because healthy people mean healthy communities, which mean productive societies.

While I was in France, one of my colleagues on the trip came down with a pretty serious case of bronchitis. The next day, she was on some medication and she slipped and fell and split her knee wide open. The course of three days, my colleague visited the pharmacy for prescription medicine; the doctor, a regular primary care doctor; and an emergency room. With three days, with all of those visits, two trips to the doctor, the emergency room visit and all of the prescription drugs that they gave her for the pain and for her knee and also for her bronchitis, her entire

bill was about \$50 that she spent on that trip. That was it, and she was traveling from out of the country. She did not have her own private health insurance, it would not work there. The entire bill was \$50. The care was incredible. She was fixed up and ready to go in no time and back with us on the trip.

So, I guess that is really kind of almost a world away example of why I believe we need to update this study, of why we cannot continue to wait, and of why, even though it might seem silly to go back and study it again, why it is yet another step in the right direction because the more we stand still, is really a step backwards. That is why I rise in support of the pending motion, and I hope you will join me on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **RAND**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I hope that you can join me in supporting this bill. As a small business owner, I have seen who supplies or who pays for the health insurance for my employees. I have seen the costs spiral out of control since 2002, when this study that we are referring to, the Mathematics Study, was completed. Things have not gotten any better, they have gotten tremendously worse.

Just this past December, we experienced another double-digit increase in our health insurance premiums: 12 percent. We are a very small company; we only have seven employees plus my husband, so there is eight working in the shop. That twelve percent represents any raises that my employees would have earned this coming year. There is no money left for those types of things when you are paying that much for health insurance. If it were just 12 percent this year, we had not seen any rise in the premium since 2002, the year of this study that we wish to update, I could live with that. But unfortunately, the 12 percentages is one of the lowest percentage increases that we have seen; they have been as high as 27 percent. What in your life goes up 27 percent in one year and continues the next year at maybe 18 percent, the next year 21? I mean this is a growing massive problem; it is a huge strain on employers who try to do the right thing by offering health insurance to their employees.

This bill would simply update information that was gathered in a 2002 report. Certainly a lot has gone on and deteriorated in our health care scene in Maine since 2002. I know I am certainly paying thousands and thousands of dollars more a year in health insurance. An update on this Mathematica Report maybe could give me an answer as to why I am seeing these huge increases. Maybe it would give us information so that State Representatives could get a handle on this and find a solution to the problem, because, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we have to find a solution and we have to find it quickly. Information is the key.

I really find it hard to imagine why anyone—anyone—no matter where you stand on the health care issue and health insurance issue, would vote against having a little more knowledge about what is going on out there and suggesting ways, one way universal single-payor access in the State of Maine, suggesting one way that the state could possibly take that problem on and take care of it. In the interest of all the small business owners out there who are struggling to keep their health insurance policies in place with their employees, I ask you: Please, just vote for this to get the information. If you do not like single-payor, or what the updated report says at the end, fine, do not support it, do not vote for it, but let us get the information that we need to move forward on this most serious problems that faces not only Maine, but this entire country. Thank you.

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

Representative **GILES**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I agree that health insurance in this state needs to be fixed and it needs to be fixed desperately. I recently had a constituent tell me that she is now paying \$1,000 a month, as a single parent with one daughter, under DirigoChoice. Her comment to me was: Does this state consider this affordable health insurance? I do not think any of us do.

I support fixing health insurance but I cannot support an expensive study, even if the money is coming from some private foundations, I cannot support it if it is only looking at one solution. The title of this is to look at establishing a single-payor health care system. I think if we are going to have studies such as this, it should be looking at more than one solution, and I will be voting against this. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Savage.

Representative **SAVAGE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. While I believe that a good deal of work has gone into this bill, I believe that single-payor is not the way to go at this time; I see neither the infrastructure nor the funds to support it.

However, if this study is to go forward, it should be a balanced study, not just for a single-payor system. It should also bring in market reforms and competition. If we are going to do a study that is going to tell us a direction, or guide us as to how to go forward, that should be factored into it. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Prescott.

Representative **PRESCOTT**: Mr. Speaker, may I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose her question.

Representative **PRESCOTT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is: I would like to know how many states in this nation are currently using a single-payor system right now?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Topsham, Representative Prescott has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Harlow.

Representative **HARLOW**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am not going to try to answer the question, except to say the City of Portland is single-payor right now. What I would like to do is to talk about single-payor and why we should look into it, to make sure everything is what we really want and not just get into it in a hurry. The statistics that I have seen are really incredible. When you consider that the average cost for insurance in Canada is \$3,500, in the United States it is \$5,400, and the United States has the most expensive health insurance in the world.

Also, the difference in buying drugs: Top selling drugs in Canada would be 72 percent of what they are in America. To say the quality in Canada is not as good, infant mortality deaths for a thousand in Canada are five; in the United States it is seven. Life expectancy in Canada is 79.8; in the United States it is 73. Is it because we work too hard to pay for our health insurance?

Also, in Canada they pay six-tenths of one percent for their health care; in the United States we pay eight percent of our salaries for health care. To say that Canada is falling behind us in medical care; actually, in Canada, there are 5.5 applicants for medical school placement in Canada and only 2.4 in the United States, so that is why we should look at this. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Farmington, Representative Mills.

Representative **MILLS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I concur with the good gentleman from Newfield and applaud his comments, because, this, despite the Committee Report, is not a partisan issue.

I come from a district with the majority of independent voters, unenrolled voters, who are fairly conservative bent. Many of them are small business owners; many of them work for certain larger businesses. To a person, they complain to me about the high costs of health care and health insurance in this state. To a person, they complain that employers increasingly have to take on the burden of paying for health care for employees. The United States, as I understand it, is basically the only country in the civilized world that puts the burden on employers, members of the Chamber of Commerce, businesses in our area, all across the nation, to provide health insurance as the primary source of health insurance, other than Medicare and Medicaid. It is a burden that the middle class in this country calls out, screams out, for a solution. It is a burden that we need to address, not necessarily in this legislation, but down the road, providing information that the Federal Government can then use to address this serious concern.

Employers in this state, every day, complain about the burdens, the regulation of financial burdens, licensing, and the like, but the main thing that they complain to me about in my district, which has more Republicans than Democrats, is the cost of health care and health insurance. This bill may not go a long way to addressing that problem. I do not know and I do not pretend to know what form of single-payor the nonpartisan study will look at, perhaps the number of different single-payor, as there are many different forms as I understand it. We are not simply talking about government payment for health insurance; I think we are talking about the possibility of pooling resources, a variety of sources, as one proposal.

When I first ran for office in 2002, I was pleased to pick up this study and learn an awful lot about the sources of health care and health insurance in this state—what Medicare pays for, what Medicaid pays for, what private health insurance pays for, the variety of rates and what not. I learned a tremendous amount from that report. I have also learned, being on Appropriations for three years, the great changes that the Federal Government has now made in Medicare, Medicare Part D enactment, things of that sort, changes in Medicaid, the FMAP rates and the different programs for which Medicaid people are eligible, and the things that the State of Maine has done with Maine Medicaid or MaineCare dollars.

In the last six years, a tremendous number of changes have been made at the federal and state level. I think it defies common sense not to at least update information, so that people of both parties, businesses and labor, employers, employees, middle class, the poor and the wealthy, can all understand the sources of health finances in this state. It is not a partisan issue. I agree with the gentleman from Newfield: We must look at this issue, must simply update this report, it is a simple measure to take, and I urge you to vote yes.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Boland.

Representative **BOLAND**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As many of you are aware, I put a lot of stress on prevention and wellness as our first line of defense in health care, but we really have to look at the costs and look at what other people are doing. We cannot really be provincial. This is a global economy that we operate in; we look to compete in education, commerce, and we really need to look at what other countries are doing, too, and why things are working for them better than they are for us, and health care is

one of those issues.

I see this study as really just a start, it is not an endpoint. We know what we have today; we do not know what it would cost to make a change. One thing that we do know and I hear it repeated at seminars for legislators, as well as elsewhere, that really the big cost for our health care today is in claims. Just recently at the Streamlining Government Conference, 85 percent of the cost of health care is the claims, so that is why I really always stress the need for us to also look at our own opportunities, personally, to be involved in, in improving our own health status. I, as you know, believe there is more to look at than just how we finance health care, but think that this is an important piece and I hope you will support this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Warren, Representative Richardson.

Representative **RICHARDSON**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Just a couple of quick points: First of all, I do concur with Representative Savage and Representative Giles on expanding; if we had an expanded report, I think that would certainly work. But as we talk about funding, as we talked about our biennial budget, I would like everybody to keep in mind that Maine spends \$8 billion per year in health care. Our budget, I believe, is \$6.3 billion for the state. So how we can suddenly take this over; again, I think the study is complete on those numbers alone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **MIRAMANT**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I think that when we are elected as Representatives, we came here with certain ideas about what we would have to do. But as I have been here, I have come to realize that we are not getting much leadership from Washington, and that we have a bigger task than we even thought we would face.

Part of being able to deal with that increased responsibility is having the information to make changes and find out how we can take the lead from Washington in its void. I think that this study would go a long way in that regard. There are plenty other studies about different methods of health care. There is the active study of finding the insurance company taking 25 to 30 percent of every health care dollar; that is pretty evident with its results daily, so I would like to have the information to have from this study, so that when it is done, we can step out, take a lead, find the sources of the money that we need and manage it in a little better way than it is being done now, so, I encourage you to vote for this.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative Burns.

Representative **BURNS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I, also, encourage you to vote for this. I would like to thank the good Representative from Biddeford for bringing this to us. I, for a long time, have been an advocate, as many of you know, for single-payor universal health care. I recently heard the good Representative Paulette Beaudoin referred to as the Mother Teresa of the health care crisis in America, because this is not a Maine problem, it is a national problem. While there may be no other states in this Union that offers single-payor universal health care, the federal employees receive single-payor universal health care; state employees receive single-payor universal health care; the poor among us, who we all care about whether we are Republicans or Democrats, receive single-payor universal health care.

The good Representative from Newfield is absolutely correct: It is the middle class, the middle four inches of his symbolic ruler that pay for every single-payor universal health care system in

America. We may not be a nation that has states that offer single-payor universal health care, but we are among one nation in a series of nations that presume to be civilized, and those other nations offer single-payor universal health care and that includes South Africa, a fairly new democratic nation, yet we lag behind. It is true: We spend \$8 billion a year in this Maine market on health care costs and who pays the bill? The middle class, the middle four inches. They already pay, let them also be the beneficiaries of this health care system, let them be on the receiving end on what they rightfully deserve.

I also recently heard the health care crisis in America referred to as the civil rights issue of this day. I have heard it referred to as the moral issue of this day. I am disturbed that we talk about this, here in this Chamber, we talk about it amongst ourselves and we talk about it in our committee rooms, but the public—the public—are shut out of the discussion.

Our Insurance and Financial Services Committee held 14, 16-hour sessions of debate on single-payor universal health care. They went right into work session and killed all but this bill, because this bill makes sense, it encourages us to think—to think—about this. We have had the opportunity to think about it in the first Mathematica Report and the insurance industry, as powerful as it is, stifled that discussion. They said, Mathematica, that we could save money, that we could do this and we failed to follow through, and now we need to update that because between the last Mathematica Report and this one, insurance has cost us more than 80 percent. It is not just that 12 percent this year and the 16 percent last year and the 25 percent the year before; it has gone up more than 80 percent since that last report.

Now, what are we talking about? We are talking about, and let's be honest about this, a market based approach. There is not a business in America that does not recognize that buying in volume saves money. The State of Maine, the Federal Government, and many corporations in America use a single-payor model because it makes sense. If we do it—if we do it—then other states will do it, too. If we do it, the Federal Government will act appropriately and do what needs to be done. Please forgive me; this is a very emotional issue for me, as I presume it is for all of you. I see too many people in my district, in my state and in my nation, that go without health care and it is about time that we did something about it. Market based insurance has been available to us since forever. It has been provided to us by our employers to employees.

You all know that we live in the age of global economics. Our jobs no longer belong to America, they exist in China. They call this labor arbitrage, a term that emerged from Wall Street, where brokers would buy stocks for, let's say, Mobil Exxon, in the London market because it is cheaper than the American market, and they would gain a profit from that. We do the same thing with labor now; we move our jobs to China because we can make ever-greater profits, regardless of the fact that our economy and our social and political structures are threatened by it. We need to start paying attention to what we are doing.

Health care is the civil rights issue of this day; it is the moral issue of this day. We are asking you in this bill to think deeper about something that we have hardly thought about. Those market based issues, we have been looking at them, we have been using them, and they have failed us. The middle four inches are paying the price; the middle class is paying the price. I thank you all for thinking about this; I thank you all for being willing to continue to think about this; and I thank the Mother Teresa of health care, Representative Beaudoin, for bringing this to us with the force that she does. Thank you, Men and Women of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative

from Newcastle, Representative McKane.

Representative **McKANE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I apologize for prolonging this debate any longer. A couple of things to remember: Maine people pay some of the highest rates in the country now and we pay, on average, seven times the deductible amount than the rest of the country pays. Why is that? It is because we have failed to enact the market reforms that the Prosperity Committee has unanimously voted on, the Executive Office has promised, and that we have been talking about for eight years. The biggest reason that I oppose this study is that it will give one more excuse to not enact the market reforms that we want and so desperately need.

We could swap horror stories all day long about the Canadian system, about the British system, the European systems in general and I just want to share one: I have a friend who lives in Italy for 11 months of the year, and she comes over here to Maine and enjoys our beautiful Maine summers. She is self-proclaimed socialist. I said, "Victoria, you live under a socialist health care system. What do you think of it?" She said, "It works great for me. I had a cold or a flu thing, and they gave me some pills and it took care of it." I said "Great." She said, "I had a growth on my foot and it didn't cost me a cent." I said, "Fantastic, more power to you, fair enough." She said, "I do buy some supplemental insurance; it doesn't cost much." I said, "Well, how much does it cost?" Eight thousand Euros a year; that's \$12,000 she pays on top of her high taxes to be in this system.

I, again, the reason I do not want the study is because it will simply give an excuse to postpone the very necessary market reforms that we need here in Maine. Thank you.

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

Representative **HINCK**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise to offer further response to the question from the good Representative from Topsham. I think the question was answered in its short form. There is no state in the United States that I know of that currently has a single-payor system. There is, however, in the United States, a single-payor system that has been operating for some time: It is the Veterans Administration.

A couple of years ago there was a scandal over care at the Walter Reed Army Hospital; that hospital is not in the Veterans Administration system. The Veterans Administration system may not be perfect, but it delivers care, it delivers care relatively efficiently, relatively inexpensively. We have demonstrated in the United States that we can run a single-payor system. I am not sure that we have demonstrated that we can run one as well as some other countries have. I hold open the possibility that maybe the United States simply cannot do it for some reason. Maybe for some reason, in a country that sometimes uses the expression "close enough for government work," we simply cannot do a single-payor system. I actually do not believe that. I believe that this country can do anything that any other country can do, I think we can make improvements on the type of single-payor system we have run successively, but this bill does not get to it.

This bill is merely for the State of Maine to learn a little bit more about the subject and remarkably to do it without cost to us or to our budget. I do not see why it would result in a delay to do anything else that is reasonable. We can do reforms to our current system while we are studying a single-payor system. I do feel that no matter what reforms we do, the best we could do is replicate what other states are doing in this country, which quite frankly is not adequate. We need a better health care system. I am not sure that this bill will show us the better health care

system. It will provide us with more information, it will be useful so that this discussion can go forward until we get it right, I am entirely in favor of it and hope you will be as well. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newfield, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As far as the free market is concerned, I have to agree on that, too. I will go back to when we voted in Dirigo Health: I went home to find out that Anthem was going to run this. My feeling was that it was like buying a lot, building a general store, and walking across the street and ask Hannaford to run it for you. More upsetting was that I found out that we invested \$52 million of taxpayers' money and Anthem gave their CEO a \$42.5 million bonus shortly after that.

When we speak to Representative McKane's comment about a free market, we do and we will have a free market, I think, now, because we have another insurance company that is coming into this state, Harvard Pilgrim, and they happen to be not for profit like the old Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Hopefully, we can get the Senators and Representatives on their insurance plan, and the administration, the state workers, and get a better deal than what we have from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. They are not for profit. Their CEO met with the Republican caucus the other morning; he is the former Commissioner of Health and Human Services of Massachusetts. I spoke with him alone after and he told me that he can guarantee me that he will never get a \$42 million bonus, so maybe we can go with the free market and go with Harvard Pilgrim and save the taxpayers of this state a lot of money. Thank you.

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

Representative **CROCKETT**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I have to agree with my good friend, Representative McKane: Health care in Maine is too expensive; health care everywhere is too expensive. I know that the constituents in my district tell me that health care is too expensive and I have to believe that in your district as well.

We, in our committee, have worked hard to try to come up with a way to lower health care costs, but the motion before us today is not final enactment of the single-payor health care system. The motion before us today is simply to provide us with more information. I know that I can use more information before I do that final enactment on anything, so I strongly suggest that you support the Majority motion of the Committee and allow us to receive more information—that is all that we are trying to do today. Please vote Ought to Pass.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Calais, Representative Perry.

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The issue is to study, and I am not sure that it is really about single-payor. It is really about the cost of health care and who pays for it. We have a health care system right now that is the most expensive in the world, as of recent statistics. As of recent statistics from the World Health Organization, we came in dead last of 19 industrial nations of preventable mortality. Is that a well run health care system? I really question as to whether we have a health care system. We do need to look at that and we need to look at the cost of that system. We have a system that is essentially paid for by employers, so we have an employer financed system, not an insurance company finance system, but an employer financed system with some help from the government.

It is time for us to look at this as an economic development tool. We have businesses choosing not to expand in the United

States because of the cost of health care, and we really need to get a handle on this. This study may well help us, and people looking at this and the rest of the nation, get a handle on what might be driving the costs, what we might be able to do, not all of the answers but some of them, to really gain some control on this and help the United States, as well as the State of Maine, become more competitive in the world, because this is a primary economic issue, especially as we are going into a recession and we are losing more and more people, middle class people, who drive our economy to the rest of the world. I would ask that you vote for this.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monmouth, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I just want to make a correction to remarks that were made during this debate earlier. As an active and perhaps hyperactive member of the Prosperity Committee, let me clarify for you: The Prosperity Committee had a recommendation and request for the Insurance and Financial Services Committee to study, to look at market reforms, among other options. The Prosperity Committee did not endorse markets reforms, only asked the Committee to study them. We are, with this motion, asking for a study of another alternative. I will be voting for the pending motion.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative Pilon.

Representative **PILON**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am not opposed to this bill, I think it is a good bill; however, I think that we should keep all of our options open. I think that there are obviously some other programs that we should look at.

In Canada, for example, their cost for universal health care which everyone thinks is a wonderful program, the cost for their program is 45 percent of their budget, so if something like that is possibly a program that you might want to implement here, think about what part of your program, or what part of your budget you are going to want to eliminate—20 percent of education, 20 percent of DHHS? I mean, it is very expensive to deliver the kinds of services that Canada has, to maintain that kind of a program. Everyone loves the idea of single-payor, but it is very, very, very expensive. But to have this study, I am not opposed to having the study, as long as private funds or a grant is obtained to run the study. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Savage.

Representative **SAVAGE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. An answer to an earlier question, if any state currently has a single-payor system, I do not believe so, not to my knowledge. Thirty-three states do have high-risk pools, and I would add that all 33 of those states have a lot lower rates than we have here in Maine. I am not afraid of this study or any other study. The only thing I am concerned about is the time; we need to get relief as soon as possible in state. We do not want to drag out a study, it needs to be done and done promptly if it is going to be done, and it needs to be done in an unbiased light so that both sides of this issue are considered, not just one. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oakland, Representative Conover.

Representative **CONOVER**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I will be brief; I just do want to respond to a couple of things that have come forward. Never has it been more evident to me the inconvenient truth on health care, as it has today, having people rise, and being afraid of information. I just want to remind people that this

is a study.

As far as the argument that we want to study all different kinds of things, we all know how this process works. There are all different types of things that come before our committees all of the time, which we vote on, and others will come before to vote. This is the one that we are voting on today, and I would add that as far as looking at market and market reforms, many of the market reforms are raising taxes to be funded with high-risk pools and reinsurances. I do not think our taxpayers really want to subsidize the insurance industry anymore with their taxpayer money; however, those options have come before our committee and we will vote for them and have their day and talk about them. But I would add that if you need to study that, you need to look no further than several decades in market reform. It is the best pilot program there; it is several decades of what has left us with 47 million people uninsured, so look no further than your neighbors and you have your answer to those other options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative Burns.

Representative **BURNS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I would just like to point out that we already spend \$8 billion and we have already talked about whose pockets that comes from. Single-payor, based on examples of business models, can only save us money. Buying as a large group, buying in volume gets you the best bang for your buck.

There is one other analogy that has not been mentioned here and I feel that it is important to bring it up, because somebody mentioned the bad word socialism. Socialism—here we are a body social and we are scared of socialism. But the United States Army of which I was once a member and I know many of you were as well, they engage in what we called socialized medicine. Doctors receive their educations from the Federal Government, they wear a uniform, and they serve their troops well I might add. We have a model of socialized medicine within our body, social, as well as the one referred to earlier in the Veterans Administration, and then we have all of those large corporations that engage in a single-payor system, so again, this bill is asking us to think about something that we have given very little thought to. It can never harm us to think deeply about all of the solutions that are available to us, especially the one like this that other nations have implemented and we have failed to even think about or discuss. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Durham, Representative Vaughan.

Representative **VAUGHAN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am not going to speak very long on this, because as you can hear, I can barely speak.

One of the reasons or several in fact, that health care in the State of Maine costs so much is because of this body. The State of Maine has caused most of the problems that cause health care to be so expensive, as has been evident by the comments of several members of this body. We have not had a free market system for a decade. What has happened in this state? The government has interceded and destroyed its concept of health insurance. It is not a matter of health medical insurance anymore; it is a matter of health insurance, which is like if it was car insurance, using your automotive insurance to buy new tires, to get your oil changed. Not only have they destroyed the market, we had good company. Eight states, back in 1993, destroyed their health insurance markets, several of them have seen the evil of their ways and turned themselves around, but the northeast, New England, is probably one of the worst places in

the United States to buy health insurance.

Not only that, governments, both national and state, have mandated that hospitals provide care to all comers, which is basically putting some teeth in the Hippocratic oath; however, they did not volunteer to pay for that health care, so what happens is called cost shifting, bad debt and charity care. Right now, I am taking a pretty hard look at what is going on this state. The State of Maine mandates that the hospitals cover individual, free care, up to 100 percent of federal poverty level. Since that mandate, most hospitals have gone to 200 percent of the federal poverty level and some have gone up to 250 percent. Now it is bad enough that the taxpayers are expected to pay for this, but not only that, those costs have shifted over to the people that pay cash, those that use their health insurance to pay for their bills. That would explain why an aspirin can cost \$21. So there is a lot that needs to be studied here and I think that is has a larger scope than just this particular study of the only caveat, in my mind, is that the private study may well in fact be predetermined as to what its results are going to be before the study is even conducted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Priest.

Representative **PRIEST**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. We need to put health care costs, which are rising twice the rate of inflation, into perspective here. We have a group, the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development, which is studying why health care costs in Maine are rising so fast and why they are greater than in some other states. You have to understand one fact that we have found so far and that is, 25 percent of the increase in health care costs is due to the administration of health care; 75 percent of the increase in health care costs is due to the supply of medical services we have in this state, variation in medical practice and efficiency and the health status of the people in this state. So market reforms, high-risk pools, reinsurance, single-payor will only cover about 25 percent of the costs; the other 75 percent are something else that we are going to have to deal with. The Advisory Council will report to the Legislature in March about this issue and show ways of starting to control these costs.

The Insurance and Financial Services Committee has looked again and again at market reforms, and we will continue to look at market reforms. We expect to report out a bill having some market reforms this session, like we reported one last session. It is an issue that has received a lot of study and many hours. This study, which looks at health care reforms or single-payor, is only one option. It is not a determinative, it is only an option.

Again, even if it were to be adopted, it can only control about 25 percent of health care costs. It is not a panacea; market reform is not a panacea. It is only one method of getting health care costs under control, so I urge you to look at this and support this study, just as we are supporting all the study in IFS we are doing for market reform. Do not expect miracles out of it, because, frankly, you are not going to get them. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative Canavan.

Representative **CANAVAN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just want to very briefly add my voice in support of the Mathematica Study. All across the country, we see states struggling with the issue of health care, trying to find ways to fix our broken and very costly health care system. In fact, it is the costliest system in the world, despite the so-called market reforms implemented in so many states that have been mentioned here today. Maine is not alone in experiencing rising health insurance premiums; therefore, I think we need to examine every single option available to us



across the spectrum of ideas, to find what the best possible solution is to improving access to health care for Maine people, and that is why I am urging you to support this bill. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 205**

YEA - Adams, Ayotte, Babbidge, Barstow, Beaudoin, Berry, Blanchard, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Briggs, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Canavan, Carey, Carter, Casavant, Clark, Cleary, Conover, Craven, Crockett, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dunn, Eaton, Eberle, Faircloth, Finch, Fischer, Fisher, Gerzofsky, Grose, Hanley S, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Hogan, Jackson, Jones, Kaenrath, Koffman, Lundeen, MacDonald, Makas, Marley, Mazurek, McDonough, Miller, Mills, Miramant, Moore, Norton, Patrick, Pendleton, Peoples, Percy, Perry, Pieh, Pilon, Pingree, Piotti, Pratt, Priest, Rand, Rector, Richardson D, Rines, Samson, Schatz, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Sutherland, Theriault, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Wagner, Watson, Webster, Weddell, Wheeler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Annis, Austin, Beaudette, Beaulieu, Browne W, Cebra, Chase, Cotta, Cray, Curtis, Duprey, Edgecomb, Emery, Finley, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gifford, Giles, Gould, Greeley, Hamper, Jacobsen, Johnson, Joy, Knight, Lansley, Lewin, Marean, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Millett, Nass, Pinkham, Plummer, Prescott, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Sarty, Savage, Saviello, Strang Burgess, Sykes, Tardy, Thibodeau, Thomas, Tibbetts, Vaughan, Weaver, Woodbury.

ABSENT - Berube, Blanchette, Connor, Crosthwaite, Farrington, Muse, Pineau, Silsby, Walker.

Yes, 90; No, 52; Absent, 9; Excused, 0.

90 having voted in the affirmative and 52 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-644)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-662) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-644)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Brautigam.

Representative **BRAUTIGAM**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Just very briefly, it was stated in debate that the amount of money that was supposed to be allocated for the study was \$60,000; this amendment just brings it in line. Again, that is privately funded and privately raised money, it brings it into line with that figure. Thank you very much.

**House Amendment "A" (H-662) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-644)** was **ADOPTED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-644) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-662)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-644) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-662)** thereto and sent for concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-659)** - Minority (5)

**Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act To Dedicate 20 Percent of the Sales Tax on Motor Vehicles to the Highway Fund"

(H.P. 604) (L.D. 788)

TABLED - January 24, 2008 (Till Later Today) by Representative PIOTTI of Unity.

**PENDING - ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

Representative PIOTTI of Unity moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Unity, Representative Piotti.

Representative **PIOTTI**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I do not need to detail the crisis that the roads in this state face. If we drive them, we know it. If you are like me and read some of those reports that have been prepared by the professionals, it is scary, and so this bill has a certain attraction until you look at it further. If you look at it in detail, you will see that the proposed remedy is to take funds that would have flowed into the General Fund and earmark them for improvements to roads and bridges.

At this point in time, with the state looking at a \$95 million shortfall, a shortfall that could very well grow, I am positive this is not where we should be going with our policy. If this was coming to us in a time of revenue surplus, I would support it. If the proposal was for a bond issue to invest new money in roads and bridges, I would be for it. But in the form it is presented and at this time, I do not believe that this is good public policy, so I urge you to support this motion which will defeat the bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Ripley, Representative Thomas.

Representative **THOMAS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. You have probably noticed that our roads are not getting any better, and you have probably heard that we have over 300 bridges in Maine with a problem. It is true. What are we going to do about it? We can continue to neglect the roads and bridges, and hope and pray that not too many people get hurt in the accidents that bad roads can cause. We can raise taxes on people that are having a hard time making ends meet already. We can borrow the money to fix the roads and send the bill to our kids and grandkids, but haven't we asked them to pay enough of our bills already? I think the best alternative is to find a way to fund some of these repairs from current revenues.

This bill would take a small part of the sales tax that we pay when we buy a car and it would send it to the Highway Fund. Some of you must be thinking that I haven't heard that there is a shortfall in revenues to the General Fund. I have heard that, but I think that what gets lost in this whole discussion is we are still going to spend more, hundreds of millions of dollars more, in this budget than we spent in the last budget. Let's make our roads and bridges the priority they ought to be. Let's take a few of those extra dollars that we are going to spend in this budget and let's send them to the roads and bridges to fix them. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a roll call.

Representative THOMAS of Ripley **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **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 Vassalboro, Representative Browne.

Representative **BROWNE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Due to the obvious reasons of high petroleum costs and related items, the improvement of our roads and bridges needs a dependable,

sustainable source of revenue. This bill as amended, the amendment is reducing that to 10 percent than 20 percent, would help fill this need. I urge you to support the Majority Report as Amended and defeat the current motion. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 206**

YEA - Adams, Babbidge, Barstow, Beaudette, Beaudoin, Bliss, Boland, Brautigam, Briggs, Bryant, Burns, Cain, Campbell, Carey, Carter, Casavant, Cleary, Conover, Craven, Crockett, Dill, Driscoll, Duchesne, Dunn, Eberle, Faircloth, Fischer, Gerzofsky, Giles, Grose, Hanley S, Harlow, Haskell, Hayes, Hill, Hinck, Jackson, Jones, Koffman, Lundeen, Makas, Miller, Millett, Mills, Norton, Patrick, Pendleton, Percy, Perry, Pilon, Pingree, Piotti, Pratt, Priest, Rand, Rines, Samson, Schatz, Simpson, Sirois, Smith N, Sutherland, Treat, Trinward, Tuttle, Valentino, Wagner, Watson, Webster, Weddell, Wheeler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Annis, Austin, Ayotte, Beaulieu, Berry, Blanchard, Browne W, Cebra, Chase, Clark, Cotta, Cray, Curtis, Eaton, Edgecomb, Emery, Finch, Finley, Fisher, Fitts, Fletcher, Flood, Gifford, Gould, Greeley, Hamper, Hogan, Jacobsen, Johnson, Joy, Kaenrath, Knight, Lansley, Lewin, MacDonald, Marean, Marley, Mazurek, McDonough, McFadden, McKane, McLeod, Miramant, Moore, Nass, Peoples, Pieh, Pinkham, Plummer, Prescott, Rector, Richardson D, Richardson W, Robinson, Rosen, Sarty, Savage, Saviello, Strang Burgess, Sykes, Tardy, Theriault, Thibodeau, Thomas, Tibbetts, Vaughan, Weaver, Woodbury.

ABSENT - Berube, Blanchette, Canavan, Connor, Crosthwaite, Duprey, Farrington, Muse, Pineau, Silsby, Walker.

Yes, 72; No, 68; Absent, 11; Excused, 0.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act To Correct the Law Regarding Portability of Pension Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters" (S.P. 837) (L.D. 2177)

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

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

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Bill "An Act To Increase Public Confidence in Government by Expanding Public Disclosure"

(S.P. 838) (L.D. 2178)

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

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

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Bill "An Act Relating to Studded Tires"

(S.P. 836) (L.D. 2176)

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

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 828) (L.D. 2161) Bill "An Act To Clarify Confidentiality in Child Protective Proceedings" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-406)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

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At this point, the Members of the House stood and joined in a moment of silence in honor of Pamela A. Morrill, of Gardiner.

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

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On motion of Representative WHEELER of Kittery, the House adjourned at 12:07 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., January 31, 2008 in honor and lasting tribute to Elmer M. O'Brien, of Kittery.