

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session  
beginning January 6, 2016

beginning at Page 1434

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber  
Tuesday  
February 9, 2016

Senate called to order by President Michael D. Thibodeau of  
Waldo County.

Prayer by Senator Roger J. Katz of Kennebec County.

**SENATOR KATZ:** Recently I had an opportunity to attend an  
NCSL event and Rabbi David Weiner of Seattle gave the  
invocation. I was moved by it and I asked him for permission to  
share with all of you today. Let us pray.

Our God and the God of our ancestors, we gather this day as  
leaders in government at a time in which faith in government is  
often tested. How simple it is for cynics, skeptics, and easy-chair  
critics to thoughtlessly deride the sacrifice that brought all of you  
to public service and so let us remind ourselves of tasks, our goal,  
and our responsibilities, for they are sacred, they are precious,  
and they are at the very heart of our exceptional democracy. To  
share the blessings of liberty with all, regardless of income,  
influence, or intellect; to aspire to a greatness that is yet to be  
while inspiring the greatness that lies within each of us; to rise  
above partisanship and rancor and recrimination while embracing  
constructive debate as the inevitable synthetic process from  
which ultimate truth and good emerges. Help us to know, to  
understand, and to appreciate the critical challenge that compels  
us, the unique privilege bequeath to us, and the lofty expectations  
that encumber us. As the sages of my tradition admonish, it is  
not ours to finish the task but neither are free to desist from it, and  
so we pray for a renewal of strength to forge ahead, a refreshed  
perspective to see anew, and an expansive vision to encompass  
the dreams of our children and our grandchildren. God, may this  
be Your will, may this be our way. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator James M. Hamper of Oxford  
County.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, February 4, 2016.

Doctor of the day, Robert G. Carpenter, MD of Kennebunk.

Off Record Remarks

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: S.C. 718

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate of Maine  
127th Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule  
505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on  
Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the  
nomination of Michelle S. Ames of Portland, for appointment to  
the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

|        |                 |   |  |
|--------|-----------------|---|--|
| YEAS   | Senators        | 2 | Langley of Hancock, Millett of<br>Cumberland   |
|        | Representatives | 9 | Kornfield of Bangor, Daughtry<br>of Brunswick, Farnsworth of<br>Portland, Hubbell of Bar<br>Harbor, Maker of Calais,<br>McClellan of Raymond,<br>Pierce of Falmouth, Stearns<br>of Guilford, Tipping-Spitz of<br>Orono |
| NAYS   |                 | 0 |  |
| ABSENT |                 | 2 | Sen. Edgecomb of<br>Aroostook, Rep. Pouliot of<br>Augusta  |

Eleven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative  
and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the  
nomination of Michelle S. Ames of Portland, for appointment to  
the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be  
confirmed.

Signed,

S/Brian D. Langley  
Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **WILLETTE**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#486)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Michelle S. Ames** of Portland for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 719

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate of Maine  
127th Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Samantha J. Hebert of Windham, for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

|        |                 |   |  |
|--------|-----------------|---|--|
| YEAS   | Senators        | 2 | Langley of Hancock, Millett of Cumberland  |
|        | Representatives | 8 | Kornfield of Bangor, Farnsworth of Portland, Hubbell of Bar Harbor, Maker of Calais, McClellan of Raymond, Pierce of Falmouth, Stearns of Guilford, Tipping-Spitz of Orono |
| NAYS   |                 | 0 |  |
| ABSENT |                 | 3 | Sen. Edgecomb of Aroostook, Rep. Daughtry of Brunswick, Rep. Pouliot of Augusta  |

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Samantha J. Hebert of Windham, for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Brian D. Langley  
Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#487)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

Representatives 8 Kornfield of Bangor, Farnsworth of Portland, Hubbell of Bar Harbor, Maker of Calais, McClellan of Raymond, Pierce of Falmouth, Stearns of Guilford, Tipping-Spitz of Orono

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

NAYS 0

ABSENT 3 Sen. Edgecomb of Aroostook, Rep. Daughtry of Brunswick, Rep. Pouliot of Augusta

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Samantha J. Hebert** of Windham for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Frances R. Frost of Portland, for reappointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

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

Signed,

S/Brian D. Langley  
Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield  
House Chair

The Following Communication: S.C. 720

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate of Maine  
127th Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

Dear Mr. President:

**ROLL CALL (#488)**

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Frances R. Frost of Portland, for reappointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

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

YEAS Senators 2 Langley of Hancock, Millett of Cumberland

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Frances R. Frost** of Portland for reappointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 721

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate of Maine  
127th Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Roxanne Baker of Cape Elizabeth, for reappointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

|        |                 |   |   |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| YEAS   | Senators        | 2 | Langley of Hancock, Millett of Cumberland   |
|        | Representatives | 9 | Kornfield of Bangor, Daughtry of Brunswick, Farnsworth of Portland, Hubbell of Bar Harbor, Maker of Calais, McClellan of Raymond, Pierce of Falmouth, Stearns of Guilford, Tipping-Spitz of Orono |
| NAYS   |                 | 0 |   |
| ABSENT |                 | 2 | Sen. Edgecomb of Aroostook, Rep. Pouliot of Augusta   |

Eleven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Roxanne Baker of Cape Elizabeth, for reappointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Brian D. Langley  
Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#489)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Roxanne Baker** of Cape Elizabeth for reappointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 722

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
 President of the Senate of Maine  
 127th Maine State Legislature  
 State House  
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of John G. Shattuck of New Castle, for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

|        |                 |   |   |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| YEAS   | Senators        | 2 | Langley of Hancock, Millett of Cumberland   |
|        | Representatives | 9 | Kornfield of Bangor, Daughtry of Brunswick, Farnsworth of Portland, Hubbell of Bar Harbor, Maker of Calais, McClellan of Raymond, Pierce of Falmouth, Stearns of Guilford, Tipping-Spitz of Orono |
| NAYS   |                 | 0 |   |
| ABSENT |                 | 2 | Sen. Edgcomb of Aroostook, Rep. Pouliot of Augusta  |

Eleven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of John G. Shattuck of New Castle, for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Brian D. Langley  
 Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield  
 House Chair

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

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#490)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **John G. Shattuck** of Newcastle for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

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

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The Following Communication: S.C. 723

#### **STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
 President of the Senate of Maine  
 127th Maine State Legislature  
 State House  
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Laurel A. Kelly of Dixmont, for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

|      |          |   |   |
|------|----------|---|---|
| YEAS | Senators | 2 | Langley of Hancock, Millett of Cumberland |
|------|----------|---|---|

Representatives 9 Kornfield of Bangor, Daughtry of Brunswick, Farnsworth of Portland, Hubbell of Bar Harbor, Maker of Calais, McClellan of Raymond, Pierce of Falmouth, Stearns of Guilford, Tipping-Spitz of Orono

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Laurel A. Kelly** of Dixmont for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

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

NAYS 0

ABSENT 2 Sen. Edgecomb of Aroostook, Rep. Pouliot of Augusta

The Following Communication: S.C. 724

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate of Maine  
127th Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003  
Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development has had under consideration the nomination of Larry G. Mitchell of Winslow, for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine.

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

|        |                 |   |   |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| YEAS   | Senators        | 2 | Volk of Cumberland, Cushing of Penobscot  |
|        | Representatives | 7 | Herbig of Belfast, Austin of Gray, Bates of Westbrook, Fecteau of Biddeford, Gilbert of Jay, Mastraccio of Sanford, Stetkis of Canaan |
| NAYS   |                 | 0 |   |
| ABSENT |                 | 4 | Sen. Patrick of Oxford, Rep. Campbell of Newfield, Rep. Lockman of Amherst, Rep. Ward of Dedham                                       |

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Larry G. Mitchell of Winslow, for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine be confirmed.

Eleven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Laurel A. Kelly of Dixmont, for appointment to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Brian D. Langley  
Senate Chair

S/Victoria P. Kornfield  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#491)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGECOMB, GERZOFKY, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

Signed,

S/Amy F. Volk  
Senate Chair

S/Erin D. Herbig  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#492)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Larry G. Mitchell** of Winslow for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 725

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate of Maine  
127th Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development has had under consideration the nomination of Jonathan A. Block, Esq. of Portland, for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine.

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

|        |                 |   |   |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| YEAS   | Senators        | 2 | Volk of Cumberland, Patrick of Oxford   |
|        | Representatives | 7 | Herbig of Belfast, Austin of Gray, Bates of Westbrook, Fecteau of Biddeford, Gilbert of Jay, Mastraccio of Sanford, Stetkis of Canaan |
| NAYS   |                 | 0 |   |
| ABSENT |                 | 4 | Sen. Cushing of Penobscot, Rep. Campbell of Newfield, Rep. Lockman of Amherst, Rep. Ward of Dedham                                    |

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Jonathan A. Block, Esq. of Portland, for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Amy F. Volk  
Senate Chair

S/Erin D. Herbig  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#493)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, EDGECOMB, GERZOFISKY, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

Sincerely,

S/Senator Peter E. Edgecomb  
Senate Chair

S/Representative Craig V. Hickman  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

EXCUSED: Senator: WILLETTE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Jonathan A. Block**, Esq. of Portland for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 727

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
127th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Maine Milk Commission under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The Committee received a completed program evaluation report on December 28, 2015. Following this submission, the Committee reviewed the report and received a presentation from Tim Drake, Executive Director of the Maine Milk Commission.

After conducting this review, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry finds that the Maine Milk Commission is currently operating within its statutory authority and recommends no statutory changes at this time.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Peter E. Edgecomb  
Senate Chair

S/Representative Craig V. Hickman  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: S.C. 726

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
127th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Land for Maine's Future Board under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The Committee received a completed program evaluation report on December 21, 2015. Following this submission, the Committee reviewed the report and received a presentation from Jonathan LaBonte, Director of the Maine Office of Policy and Management.

After conducting this review, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry finds that the Land for Maine's Future Board is currently operating within its statutory authority and recommends no statutory changes at this time.

The Following Communication: S.C. 728

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
127th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The Committee received a completed program evaluation report on October 27, 2015. Following this submission, the Committee reviewed the report and received a presentation from Cheryl Beyeler, Executive Director of the Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council.

After conducting this review, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry finds that the Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council is currently operating within its statutory authority and recommends no statutory changes at this time.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Peter E. Edgecomb  
Senate Chair

S/Representative Craig V. Hickman  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

---

The Following Communication: S.C. 729

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
127th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Maine Dairy Promotion Board under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The Committee received a completed program evaluation report on October 27, 2015. Following this submission, the Committee reviewed the report and received a presentation from Cheryl Beyeler, Executive Director of the Maine Dairy Promotion Board.

After conducting this review, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry finds that the Maine Dairy Promotion Board is currently operating within its statutory authority and recommends no statutory changes at this time.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Peter E. Edgecomb  
Senate Chair

S/Representative Craig V. Hickman  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

---

The Following Communication: S.C. 733

**STATE OF MAINE  
127TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 25, 2016

Honorable Paul R. LePage  
Governor of Maine  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor LePage:

On behalf of the 127th Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver or present your State of the State address. At your direction, we will call for a Joint Convention of the Legislature on either Tuesday, February 9th or Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. Should you be unable to attend those dates, please advise us if you would be available on another date.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that your address is received by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate

S/Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

---

The Following Communication: S.C. 734

**STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

February 8, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Speaker Eves, Senate President Thibodeau and Members of the  
127th Legislature:

As you know, I have chosen to forego the pomp and  
circumstance of a live speech so we can spend our time and  
energy on what truly matters: getting work done for the Maine  
people.

The Legislature has already wasted so much time over the past  
year-and with Mainers dying every day from the drug crisis-now is  
not the time to let pageantry distract you from your important  
work.

Legislators claim they come to Augusta to work for the Maine  
people, but far too many have come to play political games that  
have nothing to do with the Maine people and everything to do  
with their next election.

For the past year, socialist politicians in Augusta have been  
dragging my Administration's employees before a kangaroo court  
and plotting meaningless impeachment proceedings. While your  
colleagues were engaged in these silly public relations stunts,  
Mainers were literally dying on the streets.

Socialists, career politicians and their allies in media have  
criticized my Administration every single day for the past five  
years, but the Maine people are tired of the games. They're not  
interested in sound bites and photo ops. They want to hear what  
we're doing to make our state prosper.

That's why I'm holding town hall meetings around the state until  
Election Day in November. The Maine people need to know that  
for five years we've been trying to convince the Legislature to  
move our state from poverty to prosperity. This is what our state  
deserves-the Maine people deserve it.

We know our proposals and reforms will stimulate the economy.  
We've seen similar initiatives work all over the country. In the  
past 45 years, I've implemented similar reforms in many  
businesses, large and small, and they do work.

The Top 10 most prosperous states in the nation have embraced  
these common-sense policies. The Top 10 least prosperous  
states-including Maine-have absolutely refused them. It's not  
about good policy. It's about ideology.

First, it was liberal ideology. Now it's socialism. The steadfast  
adherence to ideology above all else, including prosperity for the  
Maine people, has prevented opportunities for our state to  
succeed and grow.

The current ideology is far out of the mainstream and has failed  
miserably in countries around the world. The efforts by Maine  
socialists to turn our state into Greece, Cuba, Venezuela or the  
former Soviet Union are moving us backwards at a rapid pace.  
Socialism is blockading our path to prosperity. It's time to put it  
aside and work toward prosperity for all Mainers.

I've talked to thousands of Maine people in the past five years.  
They want us to work to reduce their tax burden, reform welfare  
so it benefits the truly needy, lower electricity rates so employers  
can create jobs, find ways to keep our young people here and  
eradicate the drug crisis that is ravaging our state.

The Maine people know I'm in my office every day, working hard  
to keep them safe and to move this state from poverty to  
prosperity. Way too much effort in Augusta is spent taking  
properties off the local tax rolls, which only raises local property  
taxes.

If you stop the gamesmanship, we can work together to  
accomplish great things. We know what the problems are, and  
we have solutions for them. But we need to work together to get  
it done. If you join me in moving Maine forward, you can take all  
the credit and do the photo ops. I just want what's right for the  
Maine people.

**Welfare Reform**

We have been working on common-sense welfare reform for five  
years, but liberal-and now socialist-politicians still refuse to finish  
the job. Despite their opposition, we have reigned in the state's  
formerly out-of-control Medicaid spending. No longer is there a  
budget-wrecking crisis every year because of runaway Medicaid  
spending. The Legislature and the media have purposely ignored  
just how significant this achievement has been to the state's  
budget.

We now adhere to federal law when providing TANF and SNAP  
benefits. No longer can you spend a lifetime on TANF, and no  
longer can you get food stamps without working, volunteering or  
going to school. However, we need to either pay the federal

government \$29 million in fines or change our laws to comply with federal statutes. The days of ignoring federal law are over. Even President Obama has lost patience with the Maine socialists.

We put photos on EBT cards and cracked down on where you can use them. They no longer show up at drug busts. We now drug test welfare recipients who are suspected of or who have admitted to prior drug use. You use, you lose. If you need help, we will be there to assist you. But if you want to keep using, taxpayers are not going to pay for your out-of-control habit.

In 2015, the welfare fraud unit at DHHS sent 105 cases to the Attorney General's Office for prosecution, totaling \$1.2 million in theft of welfare benefits. The Maine people know welfare fraud is not anecdotal. It is real, and it is costing hard-working Mainers millions of their tax dollars.

However, the Attorney General only prosecuted 36 cases. She is ignoring the desire of the Maine people to eliminate welfare fraud. Instead, she tries to run the state through legal machinations from her partisan position.

Despite our success, Maine has fallen from the Number 1 welfare state in the nation only to the Number 3 slot. We need to be in the middle of the pack, not in the top tier. There is much more work to be done, and we cannot do it without your help.

However, the Legislature has been resistant to enacting meaningful welfare reform. So we will continue to push to completely reform Maine's welfare system once and for all. We will not provide welfare benefits that go over and above those allowed by federal law.

The Maine people demand it. These common-sense reforms are:

- Able-bodied adults must seek work before qualifying for welfare benefits.
- No TANF spending on tobacco, liquor, gambling, lotteries, tattoos, bail, travel services or sending money to foreign nations using services like Western Union.
- Alternative aid limited to 60 months, like TANF is.
- No use of EBT cards at smoke shops.
- No General Assistance, TANF, SNAP and SSI for non-citizens.
- No broad exemptions for federal work requirements in TANF. *(The domestic violence exemption will remain.)*
- A waiver to eliminate junk food from SNAP.
- No TANF and SNAP for felons convicted of drug-trafficking.
- Drug testing for all welfare recipients, not just those suspected of or who admitted to prior drug use.

These reforms will free up resources for Maine to create a safety net for our most vulnerable: the mentally and physically disabled and, most importantly, our elderly who have worked so hard their whole lives and now need our help to live out their final years in safety and comfort. **The current wait list must be eliminated.**

At my town halls, I urge all Mainers to tell you to support these common-sense welfare reforms. And remember, elections have consequences. Make sure your rhetoric on welfare reform matches your voting record.

### Lowering the Income Tax

I've been saying it for five years: Maine's tax structure is outdated, it is holding us back, and it needs to be fixed. The solution is simple: just look at the most prosperous states in the nation and do what they are doing.

States with the most prosperity have the lowest income tax rates or no income tax, including Alaska, Florida, South Dakota and Texas-even our neighbor New Hampshire. This is not anecdotal; it's fact.

Rather than debating a minimum wage, I want to give a pay raise to all working Mainers: eliminating the income tax will put \$900 million back in the paychecks of Mainers. It's the biggest wage increase they can get.

Despite what the socialists-and the media-say, we aren't trying to eliminate the income tax all at once. We can do it over time. We can reduce Maine's individual tax rate to 4% over four years, from 2018 to 2021.

The income tax cut can be aligned with the natural growth of revenue for state government. We do not need to rely on the politicians' typical budget gimmicks or unrealistic revenue projections. We do not have to increase spending or grow the size of government.

Beginning in 2024, we can use the revenue from the new liquor contract we negotiated-which has already far exceeded expectations-to lower the individual income tax rate to 0% over time. We will also need a moderate adjustment to the sales tax.

We can export this moderate sales tax increase to the tens of millions of visitors who come to Maine every year. It's a very small price for them to pay to come enjoy all our wonderful state has to offer. We also need to eliminate the death tax once and for all. It is driving away Maine's wealthiest job creators.

You all know some of these people. Many have told me they want to remain as Maine residents, but we tax them too much. Why should they leave behind an estate they worked to build over their lifetime, only to have it unfairly confiscated by state government?

So they go to Florida, become residents there and take their wealth with them. How does this help the Maine economy?

We must send the message that we appreciate them, we are thankful for the jobs they have created and we want them-and their assets-to stay in Maine.

### High Electricity Prices are Costing Mainers Good Jobs

We've been saying it for five years: Maine's electricity prices are not competitive. My Administration has made progress to lower heating costs with modern heating systems, and lower oil prices are providing some relief. But the high cost of electricity in the manufacturing and industrial sectors continues to kill good jobs for Mainers.

We have dozens of letters from well-respected Maine companies telling us that high energy costs make it difficult-if not impossible-to do business here. Maine's electric rates are 12th highest in the country, and the Legislature is making it worse. Special interests are constantly lobbying for carve-outs and above-market contracts to benefit themselves. Incredibly, last year the Legislature thought it was a good idea to sign more long-term contracts for above-market rates.

Current market rates are at 4 to 5 cents per kilowatt on average. But the Legislature **forced** the PUC to sign long-term contracts for 20 years at prices ranging from 8.3 to 10 cents per kilowatt before distribution and transmission. Now we know the exact price of their failure to protect Mainers: \$38 million has been added to your costs for the above-market contracts.

Instead of artificially increasing electric bills, legislators should focus on lowering rates for the Maine people. Lower electricity rates would help attract employers to our state and lower the cost of living and working in our state. The Maine people deserve a break, not the wealthy special interests in Augusta, who profit off our hardworking middle class.

Socialists love to subsidize new wind and solar energy projects because they think it will save the earth, but that kind of expensive and inefficient energy benefits only a few wealthy investors, and our electrical generation is already one of the cleanest in the country. Instead, let's support the existing Maine-based biomass infrastructure that is already in place to take advantage of our plentiful natural resource: wood.

The biomass industry creates good jobs for Mainers, ranging from loggers and truckers to mill workers and lumber yard crews. Biomass facilities are often the largest taxpayers in small towns, and biomass reduces our reliance on fossil fuels. Let's help our economy and all Mainers, rather than artificially limiting sources of inexpensive energy.

Meanwhile, my Administration continues to make progress working with other New England states to expand hydropower and natural gas into our region. Right now there is construction underway to expand our pipelines into New England, and clean and affordable hydropower is right next door in Quebec.

It's time to switch off expensive energy. We must plug into the affordable reserves of nearby natural gas and hydropower. We must be willing to transmit hydropower to the states south of us.

How many more Mainers must lose their jobs before the Legislature wakes up and takes action?

### **Reducing Student Debt, Attracting Youth**

We continue our focus on reducing taxes, lowering energy costs and attracting companies that create good jobs. When successful, those businesses will need workers. We must make sure our young people can stay here to fill those jobs.

Student debt is crippling our young people. Some have so much debt, they cannot afford to buy homes and start families. Too

many have moved out of state to find better-paying jobs so they can manage their debt. We need to keep them here.

We have worked with FAME so they can now consolidate or refinance student loans at very low interest rates. We would like to see FAME sell a \$10 million bond so they can issue no-interest student loans – the state can pick up the interest.

We need a commitment from Augusta politicians to help relieve student debt. Socialists want government to provide free education for everyone-and they will hike your taxes to pay for it. My plan would pay for itself and grow the economy.

We think the private sector should be a partner in reducing student debt and attracting young workers. We submitted a bill that offers a dollar-for-dollar tax credit to any business that pays off a student loan for an employee. Not-for-profit employees will be given the credit directly.

If a business pays off \$100,000 in student loans, it will get a \$100,000 credit on its income tax. We need bold initiatives and immediate action to keep young Mainers here and attract other young people to our state. This is the only way to lower the median age of the Maine people.

### **Fighting the Drug Crisis**

We cannot wait any longer to find and arrest drug dealers. They are killing the very young people we need to live and work in Maine.

Heroin and other deadly drugs are raging in our state, and it is killing Mainers every week. You have seen the terrifying statistics from 2015:

- 231 people died from drug-related overdoses.
- 265 heroin-related arrests-plus the ripple effect of domestic violence assaults, burglaries and other crimes.
- 1,013 babies born drug addicted and/or affected.
- 56 meth lab incidents.

Why has the Legislature been so slow to act on this pandemic? If 231 Mainers died of food poisoning last year, the legislators would have immediately hired an army of food inspectors, passed laws for stricter penalties and somehow found millions in their budget to fund their initiatives, all the while patting themselves on the back for a job well done.

But with Mainers literally dropping dead on the streets, where is your outrage? The Legislature delayed for a year-and-a-half the hiring of just 10 MDEA agents-when we really need 20. The State Police are 45 positions short, mainly because their pay is so low. The same is true for all law enforcement officers in other state agencies.

Legislators found millions to adorn their "Christmas tree" with pet projects last July, but they only funded a Band-Aid approach to a crisis that is killing hundreds of our friends and neighbors. Either they are so intent on depriving the Administration of credit for actually fighting this crisis or they are so focused on their socialist ideology they are ignoring the reality surrounding them.

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

January 27, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate  
Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House  
127th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 429      An Act To Modify the Disbursement from the  
Maine Economic Improvement Fund

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Amy F. Volk  
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Erin D. Herbig  
House Chair

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

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The Following Communication:      S.C. 731

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

February 2, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate  
Honorable Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House  
127th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1507      An Act To Authorize a Person Whose  
Operator's License Is Suspended Due to  
Failure To Pay Child Support To Drive to and  
from a Place of Employment

This is notification of the Committee's action.

We absolutely agree Maine needs a multi-pronged approach to this crisis, involving law enforcement, treatment and education. The Legislature is moving too slowly on all three fronts, so we are working on a comprehensive plan. It should be approved this session.

However, we can get more law enforcement agents on the street much more quickly to hunt down and arrest these dealers from out-of-state, highly organized and ruthless drug gangs who are using Maine as their street corner. We can disrupt the supply and make Maine the toughest state in nation on drug crimes with much stronger penalties.

We must send a strong message that Maine has zero tolerance for drugs. If a dealer sells the drug that kills a Mainer, we should treat it as a homicide. The penalty for dealing drugs should be decades behind bars. You won't deal death in our state.

We need fewer sound bites on this deadly pandemic and much more action. The lives of your constituents quite literally depend on it. This plague is not contained by socioeconomic status-it affects every family in the state, including yours. Next week, it could be your brother or sister, son or daughter, cousin or friend.

Again, I am urging the Maine people to find out who their legislators are. If you want lower taxes, more welfare reform, reduced energy costs, affordable student debt and a get-tough approach to the drug crisis, Mainers must contact their elected officials and hold them accountable.

Politicians are supposed to represent the Maine people, not special interests, not lobbyists and not a foreign socialist ideology.

To the Maine people, I say this: If you want to improve our economy, if you truly want to prosper, then you have to change the culture in Augusta. Vote for those candidates who will work for you. Hold them accountable; demand their attention.

Finally, this is no longer about the State of the State. With a staggering \$20 trillion of debt, the state of our country is in crisis. The federal government is in danger of further eroding its credit due to the principal and interest payments required to service this massive, almost unimaginable, debt. We are approaching national insolvency. This is not the kind of country we envisioned for our children and grandchildren to live in. They deserve better-much better.

Now, let's get to work.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage  
Governor

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

---

The Following Communication:      S.C. 730

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Ronald F. Collins  
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Andrew J. McLean  
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 732

**MAINE MUNICIPAL AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION  
COOPERATIVE AGENCY**

February 5, 2016

Honorable Mark W. Eves  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Eves and President Thibodeau:

Pursuant to 5 MRSA, §12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Scott M. Hallowell  
MMRECA

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

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Off Record Remarks

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Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

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Off Record Remarks

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**House**

**Ought to Pass**

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act To Align the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act with the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act" (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1020 L.D. 1497

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass.**

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

**READ ONCE.**

**ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.**

---

**Senate**

**Ought to Pass As Amended**

Senator CYRWAY for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Exempt Certain Liquor Sales Representatives from Licensing Requirements"  
S.P. 564 L.D. 1466

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-357).**

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

**READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (S-357) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**

**ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.**

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**Divided Report  
Pursuant to Joint Order**

The Majority of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Provide for Tax Conformity and Funding Methods" (EMERGENCY)  
S.P. 633 L.D. 1583

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**, pursuant to Joint Order 2016, S.P. 630.

Signed:

Senator:  
VALENTINO of York

Representatives:  
SANBORN of Gorham  
GRANT of Gardiner  
ROTUNDO of Lewiston  
MARTIN of Eagle Lake  
JORGENSEN of Portland  
FREY of Bangor

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-354)**, pursuant to Joint Order 2016, S.P. 630.

Signed:

Senators:  
HAMPER of Oxford  
KATZ of Kennebec

Representatives:  
SIROCKI of Scarborough  
NUTTING of Oakland  
WINSOR of Norway  
TIMBERLAKE of Turner

Reports **READ**.

Senator **HAMPER** of Oxford moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-354)**, pursuant to Joint Order 2016, S.P. 630, Report.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-354)**, pursuant to Joint Order 2016, S.P. 630, Report.

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#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That 5 Percent of Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation Come from Each County  
S.P. 272 L.D. 742

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-356)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
CYRWAY of Kennebec  
COLLINS of York

Representatives:

LUCHINI of Ellsworth  
GOLDEN of Lewiston  
HANINGTON of Lincoln  
KINNEY of Limington  
MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth  
SAUCIER of Presque Isle  
TURNER of Burlington

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:  
PATRICK of Oxford

Representatives:  
LONGSTAFF of Waterville  
SCHNECK of Bangor

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CYRWAY** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

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#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Sale of Alcohol by a Manufacturer with an On-premises Retail License"  
S.P. 563 L.D. 1462

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:  
CYRWAY of Kennebec  
PATRICK of Oxford

Representatives:  
DILLINGHAM of Oxford  
HANINGTON of Lincoln  
KINNEY of Limington  
SAUCIER of Presque Isle  
TURNER of Burlington

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-355)**.

Signed:

Senator:  
COLLINS of York

Representatives:

LUCHINI of Ellsworth  
GOLDEN of Lewiston  
LONGSTAFF of Waterville  
MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth  
SCHNECK of Bangor

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CYRWAY** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until  
Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER  
REPORT**.

---

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

---

**SECOND READERS**

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the  
following:

**Senate As Amended**

Bill "An Act To Allow All Manufacturers Licensed by the Bureau of  
Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations To Provide Samples  
of Products to Retail Licensees"

S.P. 562 L.D. 1461  
(C "A" S-353)

**READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS  
AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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Off Record Remarks

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

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On motion by Senator **MASON** of Androscoggin, **ADJOURNED**  
until Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 10:00 in the morning.