

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session

beginning January 5, 2022

beginning at page H-1003

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
7th Legislative Day
Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Representative PIERCE of Falmouth assumed the Chair.
The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

Prayer by Reverend Steve Espling, Beacon Hospice of Auburn.

National Anthem by Olive Beeton, Woolwich.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, March 9, 2022 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 720)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2022 AS THE
74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL**

WHEREAS, May 5, 2022, which is the 4th of Iyar, 5782 in the Hebrew calendar, marks the 74th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the desire of the Jewish people to reestablish an independent State of Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established over 3,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem in the land of Israel; and

WHEREAS, David Ben-Gurion's Declaration of Independence for Israel, made on May 14, 1948, fulfilled a spiritual yearning that had remained for over 2 millennia; and

WHEREAS, on the day that the British mandate over Palestine formally ended, the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was signed and went into effect, the State of Israel was proclaimed and the United States recognized Israel and established full diplomatic relations; and

WHEREAS, the United States has played a critical role in the development of Israel and has been steadfast in its commitment to helping the people of Israel develop their own economy and secure their own peace; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and the bonds of friendship and cooperation that have existed between Israel and Maine for the past 74 years have enriched the cultural diversity of our State's tapestry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize May 5, 2022 as the 74th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel.

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

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 722)
**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE ON ITS BEING DESIGNATED A NATIONAL R1
RESEARCH UNIVERSITY**

WHEREAS, in 1970, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education developed a classification of colleges and universities to support its program of research and policy analysis, and the Carnegie Classification is the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in United States higher education; and

WHEREAS, the R1 designation signifies very high research activity in recent years and is the highest possible tier that a doctoral research university can achieve in the Carnegie Classification; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Select Committee on Research and Development was created by a Joint Order of the Maine Legislature on May 29, 1997 and was directed to develop and recommend a plan for the support of applied research and development in 5 technologies identified as having growth potential in the State's Science and Technology Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the committee was directed to review current policies and programs in the State supporting research and development and to develop a plan to further support research and development in the 5 target technologies of aquaculture and marine sciences and technology; biotechnology; composite materials engineering; environmental sciences and technology; and information sciences and technology; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the committee included extensive support for research and development within the University of Maine System and between the university and other research sectors, including the funding of capital expenses such as the purchase of equipment and the renovation of laboratories; and

WHEREAS, since that time the University of Maine, already a vital state economic and educational asset, has greatly increased its research and innovation reputation, becoming a premier location for research and development that attracts highly talented experts, creates new research opportunities and drives further innovations; and

WHEREAS, over the last 5 years, research and development expenditures at the University of Maine have grown 80.2% to an all-time high of \$179,300,000 for 2021 and external funding in support of research and development has increased to \$133,600,000; and

WHEREAS, only 146 of the 3,982 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the United States are classified as top-tier doctoral research universities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the University of Maine on its designation as a national R1 research university and commend the university on its well-deserved designation and the groundbreaking achievements and commitment to excellence by the faculty, scientists, students and staff.

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

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 732)

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce or as unpaid labor within homes and community settings, and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and other movements, especially the peace movement, that create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, despite progress, women and girls—especially women and girls of color—still experience higher rates of poverty, violence and discrimination and face systemic barriers to full participation in the workforce and society and wider gaps in opportunity and equality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March as "Women's History Month" and recognize March 8th as "International Women's Day."

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Provide Assistance to Areas Severely Infested with Browntail Moths"

(H.P. 1436) (L.D. 1929)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-772) in the House on February 23, 2022.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-772) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-436)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1505)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

March 15, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

130th Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

130th Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

On March 15, 2022, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on March 15, 2022, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act To Allow County and Regional Communications Centers To Request Polygraph Examinations for Employees and Applicants for Employment" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1504) (L.D. 2024) (Sponsored by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and Representatives: COREY of Windham, FAY of Raymond) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1508)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

March 17, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

130th Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

130th Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

On March 17, 2022, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on March 17, 2022, as follows:

Environment and Natural Resources

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 180: Appliance Efficiency Standards, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Air Quality (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1507) (L.D. 2026)

(Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1510)

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

March 18, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

130th Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

130th Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

On March 18, 2022, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on March 18, 2022, as follows:

Health and Human Services

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97: Private Non-Medical Institution Services, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1509) (L.D. 2027) (Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 380)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House of Representatives

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on its review and evaluation of the State Claims Commission under the State

Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee unanimously finds that the State Claims Commission is operating within its statutory authority.

The committee's review did reveal that several members of the board continue to serve beyond their terms because reappointments are overdue and that compensation across boards and commissions is unequal.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Joe Baldacci

Senate Chair

S/Representative Ann Higgins Matlack

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 381)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House of Representatives

3 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on its review and evaluation of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee unanimously finds that the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Joe Baldacci

Senate Chair

S/Representative Ann Higgins Matlack

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 382)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House of Representatives

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on its review and evaluation of the Civil Service Appeals Board under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee unanimously finds that the Civil Service Appeals Board is operating within its statutory authority.

The committee's review did reveal that several members of the board continue to serve beyond their terms because reappointments are overdue and that compensation across boards and commissions is unequal.

Sincerely,
S/Senator Joe Baldacci
Senate Chair
S/Representative Ann Higgins Matlack
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 383)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources on its review and evaluation of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council (ASMFC) pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act (GEA), Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee voted to waive the GEA review of ASMFC.

On April 30, 2021, the committee wrote to the chair of ASMFC, Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of Maine Department of Marine Resources, that the committee intended to conduct a GEA review of the ASMFC during the 2nd Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. On May 11, 2021 the committee met and voted, in accordance with Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, section 954, sub-§2, ¶A, to waive the GEA review of the council. In reaching this decision the committee considered the amount of information and documentation made available by ASMFC to the general public and its members, on a continual basis. The committee also considered its ability to review ASMFC at any time by a vote pursuant to 3 MRSA §954, sub-§2, ¶C.

Sincerely,
S/Senator Dave Miramant
Senate Chair
S/Representative Jay McCreight
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 384)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources on its review and evaluation of the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act (GEA), Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee finds that the department is operating in accordance with its statutory authority.

By letter dated April 30, 2021, the committee notified the Commissioner of Marine Resources, Patrick Keliher, that the committee intended to conduct a GEA review of the Department during the 2nd Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. On May 11, 2021 the committee met with the department and voted, in accordance with Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, section 954, sub-§2, ¶B, to limit its GEA review to the following two items:

Projected funding shortfalls affecting the department's ability to fulfill its mission to: conserve and develop marine and estuarine resources; conduct and sponsor scientific research; promote and develop the Maine coastal fishing industries; advise and cooperate with local, state and federal officials concerning activities in coastal waters; and implement, administer and enforce the laws and regulations necessary for these purposes; and

(11-2) Emerging issues facing the department, including the protection of North Atlantic Right Whales, and the State's Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,
S/Senator Dave Miramant
Senate Chair
S/Representative Jay McCreight
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 387)

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

March 22, 2022

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (H), I appoint Representative Teresa S. Pierce of Falmouth to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 390)

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

March 18, 2022

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
RE: University of Maine System Board of Trustees

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Title 3 M.R.S.A., §154, I am withdrawing my nomination of Timothy L. Doak of Fort Kent for reappointment to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees at the request of the nominee.

This nomination is currently pending before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.
Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Very truly yours,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 378)

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

March 22, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

L.D. 471 An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

L.D. 3 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Maintenance and Improvement of Maine National Guard Facilities (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 50 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 75 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Replace and Repair Bureau of Forestry Aircraft (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 169 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Stimulate Investment in Innovation by Maine Businesses To Produce Nationally and Globally Competitive Products and Services (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 175 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 370 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade and Replace Infrastructure of the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 687 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 702 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 969 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Construction of a Convention Center in Portland, Improvements to the Augusta Civic Center and a Competitive Grant Program for Capital Improvements to Public Venues across the State (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 983 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation,

Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 1094 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects (BOND ISSUE)

L.D. 1526 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Strengthen University of Maine System Workforce Education and Innovation (BOND ISSUE)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 1587 An Act To Remove the Municipal Ordinance Exemption for the Development of Nonessential Transmission Lines

L.D. 1819 An Act To Define "Discrete Electric Generating Facility"

Health and Human Services

L.D. 1869 An Act To Provide Clarity and Assistance to Rural Maine Providers in the Implementation of the Medicaid Home and Community-based Services Waiver Rule

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 1463 An Act To Make Health Care Coverage More Affordable for Working Families and Small Businesses

L.D. 1938 An Act To Prohibit Discriminatory Practices Related to the 340B Drug Pricing Program

L.D. 1982 An Act To Protect Consumers' Privacy by Giving Them Greater Control of Their Data and To Establish Consumer Protections Regarding Small Dollar Loans

L.D. 2004 An Act To Ensure Fairness of Representation in Insurance Disputes

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

L.D. 1168 An Act To License Operators of Personnel Hoists

L.D. 1691 An Act To Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades

Judiciary

L.D. 1218 Resolve, To Require the Attorney General To Provide an Update on Maine's Implementation of the Federal Law Called "Savanna's Act"

L.D. 1665 An Act To Amend AN ACT to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Concerning Land Acquisition and Criminal Jurisdiction

State and Local Government

L.D. 1806 An Act To Clarify the Boundary between Waldo County and Knox County in Penobscot Bay (EMERGENCY)

Taxation

L.D. 80 An Act To Provide Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet and Broadband Infrastructure (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 308 An Act To Promote Research and Development in the State by Increasing and Marketing the Research Expense Tax Credit

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 379)

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

March 22, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative O'Neil of Saco, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 586 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Moore of Washington, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1860 An Act To Address Maine's Suicide and
Opioid Crises through the Construction of
Affordable Recovery Facilities in
Underserved Areas of the State

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 385)

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
130th Legislature
The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
130th Legislature

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

The Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability is pleased to submit a copy of the Final Report on the Evaluation of the Research Expense Tax Credit. In accordance with 3 MRSA section 997, subsection 7, we will provide notice to the full Legislature of the availability of the report on our website at:
<http://legislature.maine.gov/oepga/oepga-reports/9149>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

S/Lucia Nixon

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 386)

**STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
163 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0163**

March 15, 2022

Sen. Troy D. Jackson, President of the Senate
130th Maine Legislature
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Rep. Ryan M. Fecteau, Speaker of the House
130th Maine Legislature
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: State of the Judiciary Address

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the 130th Maine Legislature on the challenges faced and successes achieved by the Maine Judicial Branch over the last year and an overview of the progress we hope to make on several critical areas in 2022 and beyond.

I have attached a typed copy of this year's State of Judiciary Address. For your convenience, the link to the recording is <https://vimeo.com/688402133>. We have included the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House for distribution to members of the Legislature.

We look forward to working closely with the Legislature on a variety of issues in the coming years to improve access to justice for the people of Maine.

Very truly yours,

S/Valerie Stanfill

Chief Justice

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 388)

**PERMANENT COMMISSION
RACIAL, INDIGENOUS & TRIBAL POPULATIONS**

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor of the State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001
The Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Governor Mills, President Jackson, and Speaker Fecteau:

We are pleased to submit the Annual Report on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations (Permanent Commission) to the Governor and the 130th Legislature, pursuant to Title 5, part 31, chapter 63, section 25007, subsection 1-C.

No matter what we look like or where we come from, most Maine people believe everyone deserves the same chance to live life the way it should be. But there have always been those who use fear to divide us based on race, gender, orientation, or where we're from to keep us from working together for a better future for everyone. For far too long, Maine has allowed the institutions and racism that drive disparities to continue.

From our hometowns to the State House, to the halls of Congress, we can join together to right these wrongs and make this a place where all Maine families can thrive.

The Permanent Commission is grateful for our mission to examine the racial disparities across Maine, and to work toward improving the status and outcomes for currently and historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations. This Annual Report profiles the work and interests of the Permanent Commission toward that end, including a summary of public comments obtained at our annual public forum.

In Solidarity,

S/Representative Rachel Talbot Ross

Co-Chair

S/Ambassador Maulian Dana, Penobscot Nation

Co-Chair

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 389)

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

March 22, 2022

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

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

on March 17, 2022

Stacey D. Neumann, Esq. of Scarborough for appointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §1002, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Ellen Jane Schneiter of Readfield for appointment to the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority.

Pursuant to Title 4 MRSA §1602, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

Edward Pineau of Vassalboro for appointment and Honorable Robert S. Duchesne of Old Town, Kristin Peet of Winterport, Shelby H. Rousseau of Phillips and Albro F. Cowperthwaite, Jr. of Linneus for reappointment to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council.

Pursuant to Title 12, MRSA §10151, this appointment and these reappointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

on March 18, 2022

The Honorable Patrick S.A. Flood of Saco for appointment to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §12004-C, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Jane L. Gilbert of Augusta and Kate WB Rush of Newport to the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, MRSA 12705, these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Dr. Stephen Shannon of Biddeford for appointment to the Finance Authority of Maine.

Pursuant to Title 10, MRSA §965, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Ryan Hafener of Hampden for appointment to the State Board of Education as the Student Member.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, MRSA §401, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1134)

**MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE**

March 9, 2022

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 130th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

To the Maine Milk Commission:

- Richard A. Cook, PhD of Hermon for reappointment
- Timothy D. Drake of China for appointment

To the State Harness Racing Commission:

- Harry B. Center, II of Freeport for appointment
- Donald G. Marean of Hollis for appointment
- Patricia A. Varnum of Greene for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

To the Maine Retirement Savings Board:

- Elizabeth Bordowitz, Esquire of Portland for appointment
- Kevin Carley of Portland for appointment
- Gigi Guyton-Thompson of Peaks Island for appointment
- Jessica D. Linzer of Cape Elizabeth for appointment
- Deborah Adams Neuman of Hampden for appointment
- Daniel Piltch of Freeport for appointment
- Tina Wilcoxson of Cumberland Center for appointment
- Rebecca M. Wyke, Ph.D of Augusta for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

To the Loring Development Authority of Maine:

- Grace O'Neal of Limestone for appointment
- Joseph M. Sleeper of Caribou for appointment

To the Maine Rural Development Authority, Board of Trustees:

- Peter J. DeIGreco of North Yarmouth for reappointment
- Michael A. Duguay of Waterville for reappointment
- Steven H. Levesque of Greenville for appointment
- Elizabeth Reinholt of Rangeley for appointment

To the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority:

- Rita Armstrong of Freeport for reappointment
- David W. Lenna of Portland for appointment
- Herman A. Nichols of Bath for reappointment
- Barry Lee Valentine of Brunswick for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Transportation:

To the Maine Turnpike Authority, Board of Directors:

- Michael Cianchette of Cumberland for reappointment
- Andrew McLean, Esquire of Gorham for appointment

To the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority:

- Alan M. Casavant of Biddeford for appointment
- Alison Harris of Brunswick for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

To the Commission on Governmental Ethics:

- William J. Schneider, Esq. of Durham for reappointment

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act Regarding Taxation of Energy Storage Facilities and Equipment"

(H.P. 1512) (L.D. 2030)

Sponsored by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Allow Outdoor Stadiums To Sell Spirits" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1513) (L.D. 2031)

Sponsored by Representative DUNPHY of Old Town.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Resolve

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Representative CAIAZZO for the **Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 21, section 2 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Enhance the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in the Maine National Guard"

(H.P. 1511) (L.D. 2029)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1506) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, ROCHE of Wells, TALBOT ROSS of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

WHEREAS, on March 17th, during the annual celebration of the Feast of Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, Irish-Americans join with men, women and children of all other ethnic origins who, for one day, become Irish and celebrate Saint Patrick and the love of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, on Saint Patrick's Day, all who wear the green live for a day in the spirit of Saints Patrick, Bridget and Columcille, of whose birth the 1,500th anniversary was celebrated last year; and

WHEREAS, Irish immigrants to the United States helped form the cultural foundation of the nation, and those of Irish lineage today proudly sing support for Ireland; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the establishment of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus, whose aim is fostering and strengthening the long-standing relationship that exists between the United States of America and Ireland to the mutual benefit of both countries, with leadership in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the songs of Ireland are the tragic songs of love and the joyous songs of battle, the nostalgic reveries of the sorrows and the glories of the Emerald Isle and the lamentations of life's myriad travails and the odes to joy and the life eternal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to commemorate the celebration of the Feast of Saint Patrick.

READ.

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Recognizing the intertwined history of the United States and Ireland. The American experience is shaped by the contributions of countless Irish immigrants coming to our country. I was lucky recently to have traveled to Ireland with

my esteemed colleague from Old Town. That trip was sponsored by the NCSL in conjunction with the Irish Parliament. The opportunity afforded us the chance to learn about the challenges Ireland faced during the pandemic. During this visit, we met with Senator Mark Daly, the 24th Chair of the Senate of Ireland and began discussions about reinvigorating the American-Irish State Legislators Caucus here in Maine. I had hoped to announce along with co-chairs Representative Dunphy and Representative Roche the formation of the Maine AISLC last week on St. Patrick's Day but, alas, the watermain had a different plan. So, I am pleased today to announce the formation of this caucus and invite anyone who hasn't already let me know they would like to join to do so and welcome you to have your picture taken with the American and Irish flags in front of the Penchant Building fireplace. This caucus is open to all legislators and seeks to foster and strengthen the longstanding relationship that exists between the United States and Ireland to the mutual benefit to both countries with leadership in all 50 states. I look forward to seeing the work of this caucus and a deepening relationship between the State of Maine and the people of Ireland.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wells, Representative Roche.

Representative **ROCHE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to say *Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Dhuit*; a completely butchered version, Gaelic version, of Happy St. Patrick's Day. I can't help but think my leprechaun friend had a hand in flooding the State House last week in order to allow me to celebrate all day. Much similar to St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland last week, I stand today as a proud grandson of four Irish immigrants, wishing us all a belated Happy St. Patrick's Day and, in a not-so-Irish tradition, I will be very brief and give you my favorite Irish toast. May the winds of fortune sail you, may you sail a gentle sea and may it always be the other guy who says drinks on me. And may your best day of your past be the worst of your future. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative Madigan.

Representative **MADIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker Pro Tem. My name is Colleen Morag Madigan, a hundred percent Irish, child of immigrants. My grandparents were from Ireland. My family still owns the home my grandmother was born in. It's in a little village called Tydavnet and for those of you who watch *Outlander*, the female star of that is from the little village of Tydavnet. Happy to join the Irish-American Caucus. On St. Patrick's Day, we usually dye our mashed potatoes green in my family, but lots of people are kind of freaked out by that. And I also want to share that as a small child, from the stories of my grandmother, most small children are terrified of ghosts, monsters; I was terrified of leprechauns because I was terrified they would cause mischief in my house. So, thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittston, Representative Hanley.

Representative **HANLEY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in support of this resolution. My grandfather some six generations back landed in Pemaquid around just before 1800 and I'm a product of that landing, thank God. And you'd do yourselves a favor to look up the true history of St. Patrick himself and read

his remarkable life. Really, an incredible man. And now I wish to give you, what I always try to do, is the Irish blessing. May you be in heaven a half an hour before the devil knows you're dead. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. I'm very proud of my Irish heritage. For many years, my favorite holiday wasn't Christmas or Thanksgiving, it was St. Patrick's Day. Although I don't celebrate St. Patrick's Day as enthusiastically as I used to, I'm still very proud of that Irish heritage. Many of my Irish ancestors settled in the Alexandria area around Washington DC and my great-great grandfather who came from Ireland was a mason and set the last stone in the Washington Monument. So, with that, *Erin go Bragh*.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Connell.

Representative **O'CONNELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Lassies and Lads of the House. My grandfather from 1949/1950, Charles O'Connell, sat in seat 18, so, I got a little bit of a connection here. But I'd like to read the Irish Blessing in remembrance of John Tuttle, if I may, please, again. May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bar Harbor, Representative Williams.

Representative **WILLIAMS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm very pleased to support this motion for the establishment of this caucus. I have lived in Ireland and worked in Ireland and since that time, I've been back seven times. I love the country. My grandparents were all immigrants to Brooklyn, New York from Ireland and it's a pleasure to hear all the wonderful things today that people are saying about that country. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Reckitt.

Representative **RECKITT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you. Today you're just calling me today by my birth name, which is Galgay, which I always use but it's easier to talk to me with a borrowed name that came from my first husband. I was not going to speak today, but I think it's important because my father, who has passed, who was always proud of being hundred percent Irish and he would not let me sleep well tonight had I not stood up and mentioned at least briefly my 67 first cousins on my father's side; don't ask me to name them, I can't do it. My father had five brothers and a sister and all six of the brothers were in World War II and the miracle is they all came home alive. Only my aunt is still alive at this point but my father was an Irishman to the core, as was my grandfather and my grandmother. And I have also had the privilege of traveling to Ireland. I went to one town where I swear every blessed resident I saw in the street was related to me because they all look like my Uncle Frank. And he did have 12 children but I don't think he did it in Ireland, so, I'm not sure they were really relatives, but it was an amazing experience to be back at the homeland and I have been, as I

think many of you know, I think it was three years ago, maybe four, that I went around this chamber and got everybody's signature in the House and Senate. People kept saying well, we'll just do an all, let everybody in and I said no, no, no, I'm going to get everybody's signature on this to commemorate St. Patrick's Day. And so, it was really a wonderful experience and way to meet people but I just am very proud of being Irish.

I'm currently the treasurer of the Maine Irish Heritage Center, a job I was talked into in a time when I was not supposed to say yes to anything, right after I retired and I said yes to an Irish friend who wouldn't let me say no. And that is a habit we have amongst the Irish, we not only talk too much, which I'm doing right now, but we also are very persuasive. So, I'm going to sit down and thank you for the resolution and Representative Dillingham's efforts and Representative Roche to put this piece forward and I'm looking forward to having my picture taken but I can't remember where you said it was, so, if you could briefly say that again later, that would be great. So, thanks so much for your attention and I'm really happy and I would say something in Gaelic but only Margaret Craven can do that right, so, I'm going to pass. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Craven.

Representative **Craven**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I really wasn't going to get up, but seeing as that I was born and brought up in Ireland, I can't let this go by with everybody else, you know, adding to the conversation. And so, I must say that I have been honored in the Irish Parliament and talked about the Maine Legislature and as a Representative from the Maine Legislature. So, I am standing in support of this measure. Thank you, Madam.

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

Representative **Doudera**: *Grazie et Buongiorno tutti*. My one hundred percent Italian mother says that St. Patrick was Italian. There is a school of thought that goes down this crazy rabbit hole. Anyway, I grew up outside of Boston, where everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. I'm happy to support this and thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.
Sent for concurrence.

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

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne and wonders what he might inquire about.

Representative **Thorne**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was a little late. And, by the way, it's Carmel.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: Would the Member like to speak on the record?

Representative **Thorne**: I would, just to say that I am in support of that motion and my Irish heritage --

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: Hearing no objection, the Member may proceed. I'm sorry, I'm not as quick as some other people up here, so.

Representative **Thorne**: Nor am I, that's why we're in this situation. I just wanted to add that with the exception of

Representative Faulkingham, I may be the largest partial Irishman you'll ever see. But my mother was of the Murphy persuasion and growing up they had their family recipe for spaghetti and meatballs, which always threw me off. But I just wanted to say that everybody's Irish and had I known we were going to be doing this, I'd have worn my green tie today. So, thank you.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to thank the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce for her service as Speaker Pro Tem and her four terms of service to the people of the great State of Maine.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Nokomis Regional High School Boys Basketball Team, of Newport, which won the Class A State Championship. Members of the team include Kellen Peavey, Alex Grant, Jakob Noyes, Dawson Townsend, Ace Flagg, Grady Hartsgrrove, Cody Chretien, Connor Sides, Mason Hopkins, Ethan Cote, Hunter Flagg, Cooper Flagg and Madden White; managers Bradley Moore and Landon Rowell; assistant coaches Josh Grant, Jared Richardson and Mike Soucie; and head coach Earl Anderson. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 646)

Presented by Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Plymouth, Representative Costain.

Representative **Costain**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I know there are many teams of all sports that are recognized by this chamber. They are all deserving and worth of such recognition. However, there are certain teams, very special teams, that deserve a nod and a thank you. The Nokomis Boys Basketball Team won the State Championship and, with it, the gold ball. First of all, I want to say that this is the first championship gold ball for the boys in history of Nokomis and the girls won in 2001 and both of these teams are coached by Coach Anderson and I want to thank him for his leadership. Each and every one of them, including the coaches, worked towards a common goal and the community couldn't be more proud of what you've accomplished. In the times we are in right now, it is all too easy to get distracted. It can be very tough to keep your eyes forward towards your goal, as we all have dealt with so many different circumstances around us. So, when you see members of your community, of which these boys represent so well, care about others, they care about their school and they care about their teammates. They really go out there and I had the opportunity to watch many of their games this year and

there's not a selfish boy on that team. Every time you watch them, I mean, I don't know how many times, they dribble down to the basket and they could make the basket but they don't, they pass it off to somebody else. So, there's none there that are selfish. Every one of them, they play as a team. They not only play as a team on the court but outside, they're always together when you see them, there's a whole group of boys together and I think that's a great thing and that's how they got to winning this gold ball, because of their team and their leadership together. I want to thank you for representing our community and thank you for being such good people. Please know that there are so many people that are proud of you. In sincere congratulations for winning the gold ball; you earned it, you deserved it, great job. The way to go, Warriors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

the Hall-Dale High School Girls Basketball Team, of Farmingdale, which won the Class C State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 647)

Presented by Representative HARNETT of Gardiner.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HARNETT of Gardiner, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Recognizing:

the Skowhegan High School Girls Basketball Team, of Skowhegan, which won the Class A State Championship. Members of the team include Maddy Morris, Jaycie Christopher, Arayana Lewis, Reese Danforth, Natalie Gilman, Elle Donaghue, Kasey Getchell, Annabelle Morris, Jayla Gentry, Julia Fitzgerald, Carlie Jarvais, Callaway Lepage, Allie Frey and Laney LeBlanc; Managers Dory Clark and Bob Lord; Assistant Coaches Lee Johnson and Kevin Main; and Head Coach Michael LeBlanc; We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 650)

Presented by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Recognizing:

Jaycie Christopher, of Skowhegan, a senior at Skowhegan Area High School and a player on the girls basketball team, who has been named Miss Maine Basketball for 2022 by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 655)

Presented by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it's with great honor that I rise before you to celebrate the accomplishments of the Skowhegan Girls Basketball Team, who dominated the courts for a 22-0 undefeated season. Every member of this team was instrumental to its success. The teamwork and motivation seen in these young women throughout the season was admirable and stunning. They embraced each challenge and focused on the things they could control on the court. It was an awesome season to watch and it brought our community together. For the first time in our school's history, the Skowhegan Girls Basketball Team won the State championship and brought home the Class A gold ball. On behalf of our entire district, I congratulate this extraordinary team, their coaches and managing staff and thank them for an amazing season. It is also a great pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Jaycie Christopher, who has been named Miss Maine Basketball 2022. I can't say enough about her athletic ability and talent. She's made significant contributions to her team's success, demonstrated respect for the game, sportsmanship and citizenship both on and off the court. Jaycie will continue her basketball career at Boston University and our community is so proud of her and wish her continued success. I wish that all of you will join me in congratulating the whole team and go Riverhawks.

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

Recognizing:

the Camden Hills Regional High School Girls Swim Team, of Rockport, which won the Class A State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 651)

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Recognizing:

the Long Reach Swim Club, of the Bath Area Family YMCA, which won the Maine State YMCA Swimming Championship. This is the team's 31st consecutive victory at the annual championship and 39th overall. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 663)

Presented by Representative PAULHUS of Bath.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

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

READ.

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

In Memory of:

George Vafiadis, of Sarasota, Florida, one of the cofounders of the Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor and the founder of two other Maine theater companies, Acadia Repertory Theatre on Mount Desert Island and the Public Theatre in Lewiston. As a young man, Mr. Vafiadis worked in theater companies across the country before moving to Maine in the early 1970s. In 1973, he founded the Acadia Repertory Theatre, which has offered summer stock theater for 50 years, with only one break during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 1983, Mr. Vafiadis and a colleague formed the Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor, where he served as producing director until 1990. He then founded the Public Theatre in 1991, the company recently celebrating its 30th anniversary. Later in life, he worked as a voice actor in audiobooks, recording versions of the King James Bible and Abraham Lincoln's letters, and he also appeared in a number of film and television roles, including a recurring role on HBO's "The Wire" and in the film "27 Dresses." Mr. Vafiadis will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 659)

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Roeder.

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be brief in speaking about Mr. Vafiadis and I am going to use the words of one of his friends and colleagues, Ken Stack. In many ways, George was more than a skilled classical actor and director. He was the main Johnny Appleseed of theater. The Acadia Repertory Theatre on Mount Desert Island, the Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor, LA Public Theatre in Lewiston-Auburn; wherever he went, he left thriving and successful theaters in his wake. And I personally am very, very grateful that he did. I have benefitted from his influence in my own beloved community and the State of Maine, which enjoys a \$1.55 billion economic impact from the Arts, should also be grateful for his legacy. I'll close with a quote from Mr. Vafiadis; the point is, if you have a passion, follow it.

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

In Memory of:

David Faulkner, of Portland. Mr. Faulkner was the Executive Director of Day One, an agency working with at-risk youth suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues. For over 32 years, he developed the agency into one of the leading nonprofit agencies in the State. As a young man, he joined the AmeriCorps VISTA program in Georgia and Alabama before moving about the country, eventually working for the Department of Health and Human Services in Lewiston and then settling in Portland. Mr. Faulkner will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of 50 years, Elodie, his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 664)

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland, Senator SANBORN of Cumberland, Representative COLLINGS of Portland, Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative LOOKNER of Portland, Representative SYLVESTER of Portland, Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Representative WOOD of Portland, Representative ZAGER of Portland.

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

READ.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Unfortunately, the State of Maine has just lost one of its greatest advocates, one of its greatest professionals in the area of substance use. For 32 years, David Faulkner led and built Day One into one of the most premier substance use agencies in the State of Maine. Thousands of individuals, youth and families benefited from his leadership and from the services of Day One. But David also understood that while it was important to assist every individual, he spent countless hours here in the State House, working to make sure that Maine adopted progressive and cutting-edge policies related to substance use. I will sorely miss him because he's a friend but also the State of Maine will miss him because he was such a leading voice on this important issue. And today in the State House there are a number of MSW students who are here learning about the Legislature and learning about public policy and I will just say David was an MSW and he was the ultimate social worker and I wanted to make sure that we took time to recognize his passing. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

Geneva L. Wallace Beals, of Phippsburg. In the mid-to-late 1950s, Mrs. Beals and her husband Robert worked with a group of parents from local communities to establish a program to educate their special needs children, who had been denied admittance to public school, an effort that resulted in the creation of Elmhurst, Inc. in Bath. Mrs. Beals helped to found the Phippsburg Ambulance Service, as well as the Ladies Fire Auxiliary, to support firefighters and ambulance/rescue members, and she worked tirelessly to raise funds to support the fire and rescue services. In the days before the 911 emergency call system, she and other volunteers answered calls in an interconnected "red network" of phones strategically installed in homes and businesses throughout Phippsburg at all times day and night throughout the year to ensure quick and appropriate responses to calls for help. She also worked for Edith Parks, Doris Shores, Bill and Shirley Reid, Charles and Linda DeMello and Bob and Laura Ridgewell, owners of "THE STORE" at Phippsburg Center. Mrs. Beals will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 665)

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

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

READ.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-426)** on Bill "An Act To Improve Student Access to Postsecondary School Transcripts and Diplomas"

(S.P. 656) (L.D. 1838)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

McCREA of Fort Fairfield

MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth

SALISBURY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Senator:

WOODSOME of York

Representatives:

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

ROCHE of Wells

SAMPSON of Alfred

STEARNS of Guilford

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-426)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-426)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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" (S-426)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-427)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Use of a Student Athlete's Name, Image, Likeness or Autograph"

(S.P. 663) (L.D. 1893)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

McCREA of Fort Fairfield

MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth

SALISBURY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Senator:

WOODSOME of York

Representatives:

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

ROCHE of Wells

SAMPSON of Alfred

STEARNS of Guilford

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-427)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-427)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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" (S-427)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-424)** on Bill "An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Employees Who Work for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 601) (L.D. 1746)

Signed:

Senators:

DAUGHTRY of Cumberland
HICKMAN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SYLVESTER of Portland
GERE of Kennebunkport
PEBORTH of Blue Hill
ROEDER of Bangor
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
MORRIS of Turner
PRESCOTT of Waterboro

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-424)**.

READ.

Representative SYLVESTER of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro **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 Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand and I appreciate the efforts that are being made on behalf of our Legislature to make sure that the retirement system for people who work for the State is as inclusive as possible. However, moving people back into a special plan that was changed years ago is setting an unfortunate precedent. We had to fix our retirement system a number of years ago. It's on solid footing now but if we keep and continue to do things like this, we will be putting that system in jeopardy. So, I urge you in voting with me on Ought

Not to Pass or against the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 467

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRoche, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Peabworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Gramlich, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Moriarty, Perry, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 76; No, 59; Absent, 13; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-424)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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" (S-424)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)** on Bill "An Act To Improve the Safety of Prisoners and Jail Staff by Limiting Work Hours of Jail Employees" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 832) (L.D. 1154)

Signed:

Senator:

LAWRENCE of York

Representatives:

WARREN of Hallowell
LOOKNER of Portland
MORALES of South Portland
PLUECKER of Warren
RECKITT of South Portland
SHARPE of Durham

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

Signed:

Senators:

DESCHAMBAULT of York
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

COSTAIN of Plymouth
NEWMAN of Belgrade
PICKETT of Dixfield
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

Representative LOOKNER of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative PICKETT of Dixfield **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 Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative **PICKETT**: Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as I said, I rise in opposition to the pending motion. As drafted, LD 1154 would've mandated that every county jail employee receive eight hours off for every 16 hours on duty. This provision was obviously intended to protect employees from overworking, which is a very commendable goal. That said, however well-intentioned, the amended version of the bill will work a disservice to the public and county jail employees. First of all, why are we attacking labor unions? I spent my entire career as a police officer working for and within the State of Maine. Most officers, like jail employees, are members of labor unions who collectively bargain for their terms of work. And were this bill, this amended bill to pass, it would most certainly constrain the ability of employers and employees to establish the terms of their employment. Secondly, we must consider that many jail employees welcome the opportunity to work overtime and collect time and a half or more. If this amended bill were adopted, the flexibility of employees to voluntarily take on overtime shifts would also be constrained. The bill's sponsor recognized, however, emergency situations in which working additional hours may be required in order to protect the public, jail inmates, or other employees, so, the sponsor amended LD 1154 so that beginning January 1, 2024, a jail employee would be prohibited from working more than 18 hours in a 24-hour period except in exceptional circumstances or when the Chief Executive has declared a State of emergency pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, Section 742, Subsection 1. The amendment defines exceptional circumstances to mean circumstances beyond the control of the Sheriff or jail administrator that pose a threat to the safekeeping of persons committed or transferred or detained in the custody of the jail, the safe operation of jail in accordance with Title 38, Chapter 13 and the standards set pursuant to Title 34-A, Chapter 1, Subsection 2 for the safe performance of their duties by employees of the jail.

However, the amended version of LD 1154 still does not take into consideration the unintended consequences it creates with labor negotiations and employee opportunities to accept

overtime shifts, as I have already stated. Mr. Speaker, this bill will give all the power over labor unions in our jails to the State. This should never happen in a democracy. Labor unions have earned the right to bargain for their members on a level playing field. This amendment interferes with these rights. Whatever the problems that exist in our State employee relations can be corrected at the bargaining table. That is where this problem belongs. For these reasons, I ask that you follow my light and defeat the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **COLLINGS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand in support of this motion. I did sponsor this bill. This is an effort I have worked on the past few years. It was brought to me, actually, by representatives of labor representing workers in county jails. Just to clarify, this is for county jails only, no State facilities. Unfortunately, very tragically, there have been a few incidents where people working in the county facilities have worked many long hours, many consecutive shifts. There were a few accidents when people were driving home. One tragic incident, a young girl passed away when someone, no fault of his own, had worked so much that he was exhausted, fell asleep and went off the road. There have been some accidents since then and so, the idea was proposed to put in some safety regulations. Again, not just for the workers themselves or the sheriffs or the inmates, but for the general public. Now, as we all do know, in the federal and State level, there are oftentimes that there are very basic principles of safety that are put into Statute to protect everyone in the public and this goes beyond what may be happening in a bargaining unit with labor and administration. So, in this case, for some reason, it hasn't been negotiated, representatives of labor of the law enforcement in these facilities asked for this to go forward.

What we're seeing in Cumberland County and some other counties, not all of them, but what we're seeing in some of our counties and what I've been told will eventually reach many of our counties is a trend that we've seen from the west coast that's moved here where in these facilities, they're having a very hard time and this was before the pandemic to fill these positions. In Cumberland County, they only have about half of the personnel they need to run the county jail. And in the process of this legislation, which I've been working on for a few years, there's been many other issues that have come up about why these factors are leading to a decline in the workforce, but those are not relevant to the bill and I hope that in the future we can fix them, but the purpose of this bill is a very basic principle of safety for not just the workers in the facility, not just for the sheriffs and their deputies, anyone else working there, not just for the prisoners who might be depending on these overtired, overworked staff to give them the proper medication levels, to take care of safety issues. This deals with tired workers having to drive home on our public roads and the accidents that have happened and, God forbid, I do not want to see another accident, another life lost in Maine because of this issue. And so, that is the basic reason this was put in. I did work and speak with many sheriffs, specifically Sheriff Joyce who's in Cumberland County. I just saw him recently, this weekend and had a good talk with him.

We made our best efforts to all come together on this bill. We couldn't come to a hundred percent resolution but I did put two amendments at the requests of sheriffs. Number one is it was supposed to be after 16-hour shifts you need at least some sort of period of time to rest, I was asked if I could put it to 18 because in one county that's how they operate. So, I said we could do an 18-hour shift before a mandated eight-hour of rest. The other thing was during the pandemic, the sheriffs brought up all these issues out of their hands that had made it extremely difficult to manage these facilities, so, I said we'll have a phase-in period. So, they have an extended amount of time. They can phase this in immediately; if not, they have adequate time of two years to phase this in and make this work.

But, again, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we have basic safety provisions and rules in many sectors that go beyond a bargaining unit of a labor union to protect people in the public. We're talking about protecting workers and law enforcement, we're talking about protecting inmate safety and people out on the roads in the general public. So, for all those reasons, this bill was put in. I did work as good as I could with the sheriffs and so, I did amend it to accommodate some of their wishes. I hope that we can vote on this. Just like on the roads, truckers after so many hours they're mandated to stop. There's so many industries where we mandate certain basic principles for safety. This is all that it does. There's no way that people can sustain year after year working these long hours. So, for emergencies, they can work more and, again, there's going to be a two years of time for this to be phased in, so, I think it could work. I did everything possible to work with all the sheriffs in all the counties as well as the people representing the workers and as well as looking out for the general public of people out on our roads. So, I hope you can support this and vote for this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Bickford.

Representative **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'm wondering why we would limit this to county jails. If we really want to get to the heart of it, this legislation has nothing to do with if they have a second job. They can work 10 hours at one job and go work another job for 10 hours. How do we control that? I don't believe it's up to the Legislature to decide. What about other careers? What about firefighters who work 24 hours a day and we allow them to? Again, that's up to the municipality, that's up to their unions. It's not up to the Legislature to do that. Do we need to legislate peoples' freedom to work at the career they choose? I don't believe it is. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bath, Representative Paulhus.

Representative **PAULHUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to first thank the Representative for putting this bill in. I worked in security and where I work, we've been pretty short-staffed and work 16-hour double shifts pretty regularly. And, you know, when you work 16-hour shifts, either overnights or during the day once a week or something, that's okay. But when you're doing it every other day or something, it can really grind a person down and your faculties, as it's been mentioned, you know, when you're driving home, you're beat-tired. And I

believe this really is a safety issue and if we're talking about staff, people in the jails, you know, we want the people working there to be alert, to be available, you know, they're guarding inmates, we want them to be on the best alertness.

So, I think this is definitely a way to go. Yes, I believe in unions in negotiations and stuff, I think that is definitely where we want those things to be done, but I think having a basic way of safety and guidelines, I think we can do that, I think most people do that and I do, so, I do think this is a safety thing. I've seen it, I know people in those fields and for the individuals who are having to work overtime, I mean, we talk about 18 hours, I mean, that could be a real grind especially with, I mean, we talked about 24 hours, I mean, like I said, if you're doing it like once a week or a couple times a month, that's not as bad, but if you're doing it on a very regular basis, it takes a toll on a person. It takes a toll on them physically, it takes a toll on them mentally. And so, I think having some guidelines to help when negotiations can happen, that we can do that and I support the legislation moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SYLVESTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is where we get into one of those areas of labor law and labor negotiations that might seem one way on the outside but when you sort of delve under the hood, you get to see how these pieces work together. In collective bargaining, there are two types of issues to bargain. One is a mandatory set of bargaining issues such as wages and benefits and working conditions, etcetera and then there are what are called permissive subjects of bargaining. Staffing is one of those permissive subjects of bargaining and so, if both sides don't agree to bargain on it, then neither side has to. Certainly, I had hoped that with much of the federal money that had come in that this would be an issue where counties would look at the short staffing that happens in their jails and see that, as many other industries did, that wages needed to rise in order to attract and retain the best employees in those open positions, but what has happened is what the Good Representative from Portland has described as the workers that are there are being overworked. And so, legislation such as this creates a situation where counties will have to look at their personnel and decide that they need to hire new folks and to make the conditions possible to do that, which is largely in using perhaps some of this federal money or other monies in order to raise the wages.

Many of the folks who work in these jails work for wages that are well below what you would imagine they would be and partly because those contracts were negotiated, they're often long-term and were negotiated in times when the economy was not doing very well. So, I would encourage everybody, Mr. Speaker to reach out to their counties and encourage them to open up the contract, as they can at any time, to give more wages. But, at this time, what we need to do is to stop the unsafe conditions that allow counties to overwork the employees that they have in place and to need to find new employees in what I understand is a very tight workforce environment. But this is what we can do as a legislature and so, I would encourage my colleagues to do this small thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 468

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Peabworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White B, White D.

ABSENT - Cebra, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Perry, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 77; No, 60; Absent, 11; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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-809)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-810)** on Bill "An Act To Enhance Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams for Firefighters"

(H.P. 1114) (L.D. 1504)

Signed:

Senators:

DESCHAMBAULT of York
LAWRENCE of York

Representatives:

WARREN of Hallowell
LOOKNER of Portland
MORALES of South Portland
PLUECKER of Warren
RECKITT of South Portland
SHARPE of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

COSTAIN of Plymouth
NEWMAN of Belgrade
PICKETT of Dixfield
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

On motion of Representative DUNPHY of Old Town, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Repeal the Law Regarding the County Jail Reimbursement Fee"

(H.P. 1396) (L.D. 1886)

Signed:

Senator:

DESCHAMBAULT of York

Representatives:

WARREN of Hallowell
LOOKNER of Portland
MORALES of South Portland
PLUECKER of Warren
RECKITT of South Portland
SHARPE of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

NEWMAN of Belgrade
PICKETT of Dixfield
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

Representative LOOKNER of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative **PICKETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As I said, I rise in opposition to the pending motion. The county jail reimbursement fee is a means-tested additional expense that requires the courts to weigh an individual's ability to pay the fee based on financial fact that excludes the value of tax to assets like primary residences and vehicles. It is very rarely used, provides nominal funds to the county for obligated incarceration and enables the court to recoup costs for higher-profile cases from those who have the capacity to pay. In committee, county officials told us they believe that the model

used for other court-assigned fees appropriately weighs ability to pay with the need to collect and, as such, they asked our committee to consider it a model to review our court-assessed fees instead of stripping the tool from the court. Enacting LD 1886 would be a State-level policy response to a public service shouldered disproportionately on the property tax for the delegated enforcement of State law. So, I urge you to follow my light and defeat this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Friendship, Representative Evangelos.

Representative **EVANGELOS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Women and Men of the House. I brought this bill forward. It was brought to my attention from several criminal defense lawyers that there's one or two judges left in the State that are assessing this jail fee up to \$80 per day. While most judges no longer assess these fees, realizing it's a form of double jeopardy punishment, one judge in particular still regularly assesses it and I maintain that it's not an equal justice when 99% of the justices do it one way but one justice is assessing this fee. A defendant is already faced with possible jail time, fines and restitution. Adding on a jail fee as punishment makes recidivism worse and it just digs the hole deeper for someone trying to straighten their life out. I don't believe when 99% of the justices are handling this one way, one hardline judge is doing it another way, that it serves equal justice. That's the reason I brought the bill forward and I urge you to pass this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 469

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Faulkingham, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCreia, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Perry, Riseman, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 78; No, 58; Absent, 12; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-811)** on Bill "An Act To Strengthen the Governance of the Maine Community College System and University of Maine System" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1353) (L.D. 1820)

Signed:

Senator:

RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
McCREA of Fort Fairfield
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
SALISBURY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Senator:

WOODSOME of York

Representatives:

LYMAN of Livermore Falls
ROCHE of Wells
STEARNS of Guilford

READ.

Representative BRENNAN of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative STEARNS of Guilford **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 Guilford, Representative Stearns.

Representative **STEARNS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Fellow Members of the House. This will look familiar to you in that we had a similar bill that would've established these positions on the Boards of Trustees with voting powers last session that was vetoed by the Chief Executive and held up by this Body. This bill brings up a few of the same concerns for some of us. There's no doubt that communication; there's never enough communication. It always has to be nurtured so that any governing Body, decision-making Body, has appropriate information so that they can make the best decisions for the organization. We all agree to that. To that extent, the trustees of both of the Community College System and the University of Maine System routinely travel to

campuses and spend long days meeting with students, faculty, support staff, etcetera. They readily agree that they could improve on that, particularly through what has happened during COVID, when those trips and visits have been greatly limited. The same concern exists regarding M.R.S.A. 17 Section 3104 and I'll paraphrase, but it basically says that any member of a board of trustees cannot have an inherent financial interest, again I'm paraphrasing, in the matters of that board. And you see that routinely held up in your local K-12 school boards where someone can't be working for the school system and sit on the board of directors at a local school board. There are concerns regarding still the conflict of interest and perhaps the notion that because of that these boards of trustees maybe would have to go into executive session more often than they would like to and perhaps lead to an unintended consequence. So, I would urge you to follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I agree with the Good Representative from Guilford; we want to improve communication. And that's what this bill does. It assists both the Board of Trustees with the University of Maine System and the Community College to have at the table representatives of staff, representatives of adjunct faculty and faculty members. That's a good thing. That will improve decision-making at the University System and in the Community College. Now, the concern that was raised by the Good Representative from Guilford, last year the attorney General made it very clear that there was no conflict of interest by having representatives on the Board of Trustees at both the Community College or the University. This year, the committee, the Education Committee, took the extra step of putting an amendment in the bill that made it very clear that the three representatives that would be nonvoting could not participate in discussions or receive information relative to collective bargaining. So, we really improved on the bill that was presented last year and we put in appropriate firewalls to ensure that the integrity of the collective bargaining process was not compromised. So, I would urge everybody in the House to support this proposition because it will improve communication and it will improve policy making at the University and Community College. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cape Elizabeth, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just rise to say that there are a lot of stressors on higher education, including economic, demographic and societal that are putting pressure on the relationships among the boards, faculty and administration across the country and here in Maine. Affordability, persistence, access and workforce development has raised expectations for our higher education institutions and often requires significant change. And change is a team game that requires trust and openness. Henry Ford said coming together is beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success. Today, with all of the opportunities and challenges that our higher education institutions face, it is essential that faculty, staff administrators and Board of Trustees have multiple opportunities to share an

understanding of the path forward for our proud State's higher education institutions. Creating seats for faculty and adjunct faculty members and a staff member on the Board of Trustees is one such way to open up and improve lines of communication and build mutual understanding of the issues and possible solutions. We have many reasons to celebrate our higher education institutions and all that they do in support of our economy, our community and our citizens. And at the center of that success are our students, faculty, staff, administrators and trustees. All have a critical role to play in our future and now, more than ever, all must find that common ground to forge stronger bonds and a shared vision. LD 1820 is about replacing frustration, anger and disruption with transparency, trust and fellowship. I hope you will join me in supporting LD 1820.

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. 470

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfeld, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Dillingham, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Perry, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 78; No, 58; Absent, 12; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. Committee Amendment "A" (H-811) was **READ**.

Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-821) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-811)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-811) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-821) 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-811) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-821) thereto and sent for concurrence.**

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Refer to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business** on Bill "An Act Concerning Advanced Refrigeration Technology"

(H.P. 634) (L.D. 866)

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

TUCKER of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BLUME of York
BOYLE of Gorham
DOUDERA of Camden
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
HANLEY of Pittston
O'CONNOR of Berwick
ZEIGLER of Montville

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

Signed:

Senator:

BENNETT of Oxford

Representative:

TUELL of East Machias

READ.

On motion of Representative TUCKER of Brunswick, the Majority **Refer to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Update the Consumer Credit Laws Related to Legal Funding Practices"

(H.P. 1455) (L.D. 1956)

Signed:

Senators:

SANBORN of Cumberland
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

TEPLER of Topsham
ARFORD of Brunswick
BLIER of Buxton

BROOKS of Lewiston
EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft
MATHIESON of Kittery
MELARAGNO of Auburn
QUINT of Hodgdon

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

Signed:

Senator:

STEWART of Aroostook

Representatives:

CONNOR of Lewiston
MORRIS of Turner

READ.

Representative TEPLER of Topsham moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member to not use adjectives when moving reports. The Member may proceed.

Representative **TEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and, yes, I apologize. I'm in error. It is the Ought Not to Pass Report. In fact, this bill creates a serious problem for desperate plaintiffs who have been injured and are looking to receive compensation for injuries and other issues that might result from an accident. And this bill suggests that if they are desperate enough to take on a loan in hopes of a settlement or judgment, that they must disclose that loan to the defendant and to the insurance companies. This means that the insurance companies will be in a position to judge that the plaintiff is desperate and they would be inclined to downgrade that plaintiff's settlement. So, I feel that in the interests of consumer protection, this is not a matter of fairness and equality. The defendant is represented by an insurance company's lawyers and that situation means that they are in a very different place than the injured party that is represented by his or her own attorney. And I am convinced that this bill, if passed, would create a situation where all settlements would be downgraded by the insurers. Thank you.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a brave new world when it comes to legal funding practices. It's not a particularly good one. Back in 2007, the Legislature enacted a funding Statute. The Statute addressed the question of disclosures by companies that provided some funds to a plaintiff in a tort case to tide that individual over until the case was resolved. Today, we have multinational hedge funds participating in litigation financing. Not to give the plaintiff some funds pending resolution of a case, but to make significant profit by financially controlling all the expenses in that case. For example, a recent Wall Street Journal Article entitled "Litigation Financing Long Hidden in the Shadows Faces Calls for More Sunlight." This article discusses the new form of litigation financing. Four hedge funds cited in the

article together have invested 1.2 billion in litigation financing. They are, in effect, venture capitalists. These hedge funds have no interest in a plaintiff's litigation. They have no interest in the well-being of the individuals who for one reason or another have had to bring a lawsuit to obtain redress. These hedge funds exist solely to invest in a commodity which will bring a high rate of return to their investors and that commodity is personal injuries.

Indeed, during the public hearing, one company, Oasis Financial, testified that they are charging the plaintiffs an average on their interest rates of 66%. A 66% interest rate for having a litigation financing agreement with them. This bill would require the disclosure of these agreements to the defendants. Who are those defendants? It's Maine's business community. No wonder the Maine Motor Transport, Chamber of Commerce, Maine's Retail Association and Maine's auto dealers all testified in favor of this bill. This protects them as well. What is happening is plaintiffs are turning down settlements because they have agreements with these litigation financing companies to pay these usurious 60% interest rates. If defendants are required to disclose insurance, that is because the insurance company is making the financial decision. I would suggest to you that plaintiffs are turning down these settlements because the agreements with these litigation financing companies that are backed by these hedge funds are helping to guide their decisions.

This is about transparency. It may be said that this isn't happening in Maine, but we don't know. This is a way to ensure that there is transparency so that this doesn't happen in Maine, so that we can protect Maine's business communities, so that the small retailer trying to make a living and trying to keep their business going is not subjected, does not get sued, make a reasonable settlement and be stuck in a situation where they cannot determine when they make an offer of a settlement, the plaintiff turns it down because they have to pay the usurious interest rate to the litigation funding company. That's what this bill is about. This bill is about transparency and I urge this Body to reject this motion and pass this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This bill came forward in my committee at the time Superintendent Lund said that we did not have a problem here in Maine which this bill was anticipating to correct. Having said that, after further investigation and further research afterward, why not be in front of this? This is a situation that is problematic in other states and it's all about disclosure and why not be in front of this problem before it rises here in the State of Maine. So, I will be changing my vote and please follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **TEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to say that Superintendent Lund of the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection testified neither for nor against this bill but did remind the committee that he oversees all the lenders in our State that would be involved in this kind of lending, that they are few and that there is no obvious

connections to hedge funds and not every State has a Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection that requires lenders to register with them. That is something we have in Maine right now. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also, like the Representative from Buxton, would like to publicly state my vote for the Ought to Pass. This is one of the instances where I as a newbie was in Zoom and so, I wasn't able to get my questions answered and I actually didn't believe that the bill went far enough, which is why I voted for it. So, I would've had an Ought Not to Pass but making it even stronger than what Representative Morris did. And so, I just wanted to once again State that I am in the Ought to Pass for this. Thank you very much.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 471

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Perry, Roche, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 77; No, 59; Absent, 12; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-806)** on Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues
(H.P. 1381) (L.D. 1871)

Signed:
Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner
BABBIDGE of Kennebunk
EVANGELOS of Friendship
MORIARTY of Cumberland
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:
Senator:

KEIM of Oxford

Representatives:

HAGGAN of Hampden
LIBBY of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
THORNE of Carmel

Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-806)** Report.

READ.

On motion of Representative HARNETT of Gardiner, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-806)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-806)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-807)** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Name Changes"

(H.P. 1407) (L.D. 1900)

Signed:
Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner
BABBIDGE of Kennebunk
EVANGELOS of Friendship

MORIARTY of Cumberland
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:
Senator:

KEIM of Oxford

Representatives:

HAGGAN of Hampden
LIBBY of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
THORNE of Carmel

Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-807)** Report.

READ.

Representative HARNETT of Gardiner moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative HAGGAN of Hampden **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 New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, determining a person's identity is so important when conducting background checks and checking references for applicants for tenancy. Background checks are crucial for maintaining good order at the property and the safety and quiet enjoyment of those who live at the property or in the apartment building. At the end of the day, the landlord gets to go home but the tenants are stuck sharing a home with each other, which is why accurate background checks are so important. And for this reason, I must oppose the motion and urge you to do the same. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The major reason law requires publication of a name change is to prevent fraud by making the name change a matter of public record. Without a requirement to publish the notice, anyone can change their name to avoid debt, commit fraud, or defame others. Publication of a name change is particularly important to creditors who offer alternative financing options without credit reporting. If a person can change their name and perhaps address, how does a business who offers in-house financing find the person to collect the debt owed? Passage of this bill will cause lenders to err on the side of caution and protect their financial interests and will cause people who are struggling with credit issues a greater burden of finding financing. This bill is not necessary. Under Title 18-C, already it says that the judge is allowed to remove the publication requirement for adults petitioning for name change when there is a reasonable fear for the person's safety. And for minors,

when the minor is a victim of abuse or if the minor or the petitioner shows reasonable fear for their safety, the judge has the say of whether or not the publication notice needs to be filed. So, passage of LD 1900 may alleviate discomfort for some people who do not wish to have the name change published but it will also open the door for people to abuse the system and bring back problems the law was originally written to prevent, namely fraud and avoidance of debt. For these reasons, I oppose the current motion because I trust our judges to use the current law to make the appropriate decisions about publication notices. Thank you.

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

Representative **SHEEHAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Colleagues of the House. I rise to speak in support of this motion. Mainers change their names for many, many reasons. Some may have just been married but others are escaping from abusive relationships and some are choosing a name to align with their gender. For these folks, serious privacy and safety concerns exist because Maine law currently requires anyone seeking a name change to publish their request in their local newspaper. Petitioners may file for an exception but must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that they are currently in fear of their safety. When it comes to the deeply personal matter of a name change, Mainers deserve to have their safety and privacy protected regardless of whether they can prove a specific and explicit threat to their physical safety. The current requirement to publish notice in a paper offers no meaningful protection against fraud and yet badly compromises Mainers' safety, privacy and access in the following ways. First, applying for the exemption from this requirement can be time consuming and difficult, requiring additional court appearances and presenting logistical and safety barriers to those seeking an exemption. Women fleeing abuse, for example, often struggle to make multiple appearances and cannot afford to wait weeks or months to have their exemption granted. Removing the public notice requirement altogether will better ensure her safety as she seeks a name change.

Public notice requirements also add additional costs to the process. Not only must applicants pay the filing fee, they must also pay the cost of publishing the notice and these costs vary from county to county depending on the publishing cost of that county's local paper. Someone from York County could be required to pay significantly more than someone from Cumberland County, for example. Costs like this disproportionately burden at-risk applicants such as women escaping abuse and transgender Mainers, who are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty as Maine's general population. Some, but not all counties, have financial assistant programs, they often only cover the cost of the filing fee and not the public notice and not all counties have these programs. Furthermore, publishing notice in a local paper provides no assurance that interested parties will receive the information that they're entitled to. Many creditors and family members are not local and do not have access to local papers and as countless news articles in recent years have attested, many Americans no longer read their local papers. Probate courts should adopt modern and effective techniques for assuring safety and fraud protection such as the use of affidavits and

background checks which, to be clear, this bill does not eliminate the ability for people to run background checks. The majority of Maine probate courts require additional paperwork in the form of an affidavit, which screens for attempts to avoid legal obligations, bankruptcy proceedings debt collection and documents relationships to minor children. This affidavit is a document submitted in an official proceeding and lying in such a proceeding constitutes perjury, which is a Class C crime. Universal adoption of this affidavit would provide greater protection against fraud than publishing notice in a local newspaper that may never been seen. Furthermore, five of Maine's probate courts require background checks as part of the name change process. Six courts use them in specific cases and a seventh is in the process of implementing their use. Universal adoption of a background check procedure for adult name changes would better address any safety concerns arising around name changes. For more context, public notice requirements are no longer the default approach to adult name changes as only 11 states and four U.S. territories require a public notification of a name change. Nineteen states allow limited exceptions but 20 states as well as DC and Puerto Rico no longer require newspaper publication at all.

Mr. Speaker, the Judiciary Committee heard no testimony in opposition to this proposal. It was supported by the Family Law Advisory Commission, the Maine Public Health Association, as well as dozens of LGBTQ citizens and advocates who testified to the need for modernization. Newspaper notices may have protected creditors and public safety in the past, but it is no longer adequate to the task. Please support this bill to better protect Mainers' privacy and to adopt modern practices that more effectively prevent fraud and more thoroughly ensure public safety.

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

Representative **PRESCOTT**: Thank you, Speaker. May I pose a question?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **PRESCOTT**: As it is now, or even with this bill, when somebody goes for a name change, do they run a background check to see if, you know, felonies in their past, maybe they're running from something? Is that included in a name change now?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Waterboro, Representative Prescott, has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who wishes to answer it. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have done some practice in probate court and the judge is the ultimate arbiter of whether or not to grant the decision and so, yes, if there is something in the record that indicates that the person is doing this for fraud or any illegal activity, then yes, the judge can decide not to grant the name change. So, that's my attempt at answering the question. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to address their comments through the Chair.

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. 472

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Grignon, Hanley, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Martin, Perry, Roche, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 78; No, 56; Absent, 14; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 56 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-807)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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-807)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-808)** on Bill "An Act To Provide Funding for Guardians Ad Litem"

(H.P. 1424) (L.D. 1918)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner
BABBIDGE of Kennebunk
EVANGELOS of Friendship
HAGGAN of Hampden
MORIARTY of Cumberland
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Senator:

KEIM of Oxford

Representatives:

LIBBY of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
THORNE of Carmel

Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-808)** Report.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members that they need to be facing the front of the room, they cannot have their backs turned during the course of business. The Member may proceed.

On motion of Representative HARNETT of Gardiner, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-808)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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-808)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Whistleblowers' Protection Act To Ensure Coverage in Unionized Workplaces"

(H.P. 1399) (L.D. 1889)

Signed:

Senators:

DAUGHTRY of Cumberland
HICKMAN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SYLVESTER of Portland
CUDDY of Winterport
GERE of Kennebunkport
PEBORTH of Blue Hill
ROEDER of Bangor
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
MORRIS of Turner
PRESCOTT of Waterboro

READ.

Representative SYLVESTER of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

Representative SYLVESTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one of those bills that just needs a little bit of explanation on the record and so, normally we all think of the Whistleblower Act, that it covers everybody. There was a court case, Nadeau v. Twin Rivers, that said that perhaps folks who were in collective bargaining agreements were not covered by the Whistleblower laws and so, this simply adds folks who are in collective bargaining into the existing Whistleblower law. So it's really just a technical change to make sure that what everybody thinks is true is true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative BRADSTREET: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not request a Roll Call. I would like to address the motion very briefly. Sometimes it's good to know why people oppose bills and our opposition was based primarily on the fact that historically such contracts as they were talking about here, State law is preempted by federal law and it's our opinion that that still may be the issue, regardless of whether or not this goes forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-813)** on Bill "An Act To Allow Municipalities To Use Ranked-choice Voting in Municipal Elections"

(H.P. 627) (L.D. 859)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
CLAXTON of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MATLACK of St. George
BRYANT of Windham
COPELAND of Saco
PAULHUS of Bath
RISEMAN of Harrison

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

Signed:

Senator:

ROSEN of Hancock

Representatives:

DOWNES of Bucksport
GREENWOOD of Wales
HEAD of Bethel

TUELL of East Machias

READ.

Representative MATLACK of St. George moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative TUELL of East Machias **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 East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative TUELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill for many people comes down to local control. But for many others, it comes down to an expansion of ranked-choice voting. And while everybody has their own thoughts on ranked-choice voting, many of us come from parts of the State where it was not supported and where many of our communities all across rural Maine don't believe we should be expanding it and politicizing even more than they already are our local selectmen and school boards races. This bill will add confusion and more divisiveness when, in truth, many have advertised that ranked-choice is the cure to divisiveness. And I think we can all look at the political spectrum today and see where it's divisive, if not more than we have ever been. So, in sum, I believe this bill is a solution looking for a problem. I don't see towns coming out asking for this. I don't see a parade of municipalities doing that. And, beyond that, if a municipality wants to do this, they can go through the charter process which takes a good deal of which, yes, it takes time but it also takes consultation with the community and involvement of the community. So, if municipalities wanted to do this, they could already do it without a bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Berry.

Representative BERRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Men and Women of the House, I rise in support of the pending motion and in great appreciation to the majority of the committee that saw fit to give its seal of approval to this bill. LD 859 with the committee amendment would simply give municipalities more options in municipal elections. As the original bill proposed and with that clarification, it does not require any municipality to do anything that it is not already doing. The bill pertains to Maine's noncharter municipalities. I represent three of them. Most of us here in this chamber represent a noncharter municipality. Maine has, last I counted, 488 municipalities and 413 of them are noncharter municipalities. Charter municipalities are able to determine the manner of their elections. They are not required to use plurality voting to determine the outcome of an election. That is not the case for Maine's 413 noncharter municipalities. The laws that we make in this chamber and in the other Body require them only to use a plurality vote. So, by passing this bill, by accepting this report and moving on to the amendment to come, we can give local control to those 413 noncharter municipalities.

You have in your inbox this morning as of 10:51, I believe, an email in support of this report from the League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections and Maine Students Vote, asking us to give our noncharter

communities the same respect, the same freedoms that we allow for our charter municipalities. And, Mr. Speaker, the earlier statement that I think I may have heard regarding the lack of an interest in this may simply be because not everyone has heard. There are certainly communities that are asking for this ability to use a runoff election or to use ranked-choice voting in determining municipal elections. I know of a select board member in the Town of China who testified in support of this bill for that very reason. I know of a select board member in the community of Harpswell who submitted testimony for that very reason and I know of select board members in my own hometown of Bowdoinham who are interested in having this ability, this local control that, again, we already accord to our charter municipalities. So, I hope we can accept this pending motion and move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Penobscot, Representative Hutchins.

Representative **HUTCHINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to this piece of legislation. One thing I do as an aside is moderate town meetings. I do my fourth one tonight this year. And this occasionally comes up, this talk about ranked-choice voting and it never comes up as a positive, or at least any of the town meetings that I run over at a number of towns, I do five or six towns over the course of a year, usually. But I do think that the old axiom that from some harm, some good possibly comes from it. And in this particular case, if we vote for this, it will show more communities the ridiculousness of this type of voting which may possibly lead to the end of it statewide sooner. So, either way, I think we may come out of this with a plus.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Connor.

Representative **CONNOR**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this bill was first introduced, it was titled An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Ranked-choice Voting in Municipal Elections. To me, that's pretty straightforward. The goal of the bill was to expand the use of ranked-choice voting to more and more municipal elections throughout the State. However, now that the bill has gone from concept draft to actual text, it's called something different; An Act to Give Municipalities More Options in Municipal Elections. Perhaps you think that sounds more innocuous, but I think this sanitized Orwellian title actually obscures the bill's true aim, which is to further expand ranked-choice voting and further politicize local elections. Mr. Speaker, town meetings are respected traditions in many Maine communities. Make no mistake, LD 859 seeks to rewrite the rules for how these town meetings are conducted. By adopting the framework proposed in this bill, we would enable political activists, some paid, some volunteer, to canvas the State and rewrite the rules of town meeting communities. Now, if you're someone who thinks rural Maine needs to be more like Portland, this is the bill for you. Many of us watched the recent Portland charter commission election results with dismay, as the candidate who received over 1800 first-place votes ultimately lost to a little-known candidate who received only 379 first-place votes. Mr. Speaker, that's just 4%. These are the rules that the proponents of the bill want to bring to a rural community near you. And what was the result of that Portland election? It ensured there was limited

ideological diversity on the commission, not more. Reflecting on our recent experiences with ranked-choice voting, my observation has been this; it has made races that use it much more political and more divisive, not less. This is a bill that seems written for political operatives to exploit at the expense of our small Maine communities and I, for one, will not be party to it and I urge my colleagues to vote no against this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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. 473

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evans, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Pluecker, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Fay, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Roche, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 75; No, 61; Absent, 12; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-813)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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-813)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Update Statutory References to Building Code Standards for Public Improvements"

(H.P. 1336) (L.D. 1795)

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATLACK of St. George

BRYANT of Windham

COPELAND of Saco

PAULHUS of Bath

RISEMAN of Harrison

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

Signed:

Senator:

ROSEN of Hancock

Representatives:

DOWNES of Bucksport

GREENWOOD of Wales

HEAD of Bethel

TUELL of East Machias

READ.

Representative MATLACK of St. George moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative TUELL of East Machias **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that one of the biggest concerns about this bill is that it's fairly benign on the surface but when you really dig into it, many fear that it expands the role of the Maine Universal Building Code system that towns have been struggling with for decades and been frustrated with for decades and many of us just fear that this bill would expand it. Maybe slightly at first but, in a way, it is the camel's nose under the tent, so to speak. So, I'll be voting against the pending motion and would encourage others who feel the same way to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Canaan, Representative Stetkis.

Representative **STETKIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. It seems the few days that we've been in here this session, we've spent a lot of time talking about affordable housing and although this bill doesn't directly deal with affordable housing and the cost of affordable housing, the result is the same. You know, based on our current circumstances where costs are already unaffordable due to the supply chain issues. Anybody that's in the building industry or is looking to have anything done to their homes or businesses understand that some of the materials are three to four times the cost they were a year ago. That and of course the record inflation that we're dealing with and you pile on the tight labor market that was mentioned in an earlier bill, adding

these ventilation standards to all buildings that are going to be occupied by State employees is; it's simple math. It's going to increase the cost. We have limited resources here in the State of Maine. The bounty that we've experienced in the last year or two with the federal money coming in, that's ending. So, if we make our public buildings more expensive, it means we are going to have less public buildings built. And especially in rural Maine when it comes to schools or any other buildings like that, there's a long waiting list to build these buildings for our kids, for our seniors, for others. So, this bill at this time is really a bad idea to further increase the cost and I would hope that we would vote this down and if felt necessary in future years, bring it back.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack.

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes necessary updates to references in building code standards for public improvements. It basically does three things. It eliminates references to building codes that are no longer in effect or have been superseded by the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. It applies the current MUBEC ventilation standards to buildings occupied by State employees and it replaces references to the Department of Economic and Community Development in MUBEC with references to the Department of Public Safety. That's the extent of what this bill does. It doesn't do anything except clean up a bit of old language and allows us to move forward with improving ventilation in our State buildings. Thank you, sir.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 474

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Peabworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Grignon, Harrington, Kinney, Kryzak, Roche, Salisbury, Sharpe, Stanley, Talbot Ross, Warren.

Yes, 79; No, 58; Absent, 11; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Allow for a Variance Rate in the Amount and Potency of Cannabinoids in Adult Use Edible Marijuana Products" (H.P. 1367) (L.D. 1846)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
FARRIN of Somerset
MIRAMANT of Knox

Representatives:

CAIAZZO of Scarborough
COREY of Windham
HARRINGTON of Sanford
KINNEY of Knox
McCREIGHT of Harpswell
RIELLY of Westbrook
SUPICA of Bangor
WOOD of Portland

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

Signed:

Representative:

DOLLOFF of Milton Township

READ.

On motion of Representative CAIAZZO of Scarborough, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-817)** on Bill "An Act To Allow Unorganized Territory School Staff To Receive Annualized Pay"

(H.P. 1331) (L.D. 1780)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
DAUGHERTY of Cumberland
WOODSOME of York

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
McCREA of Fort Fairfield
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
ROCHE of Wells
SALISBURY of Westbrook
STEARNS of Guilford

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

Signed:

Representative:

SAMPSON of Alfred

READ.

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-817)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **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-817)** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1337) (L.D. 1796) Bill "An Act To Coordinate Marine Port Development" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-818)**

(H.P. 1448) (L.D. 1936) Bill "An Act To Codify the Senate and House Legislative Districts, the Congressional Districts and the County Commissioner Districts as Enacted by the Legislature" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-820)**

(H.P. 1488) (L.D. 2002) Bill "An Act To Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-819)**

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

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

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

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

(H.P. 1039) (L.D. 1423) Bill "An Act To Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use by Ensuring Adequate Funding for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs and by Raising the Tax on Tobacco Products and To Provide Funding To Reduce Disparities in Health Outcomes Based on Certain Factors" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-812)**

(H.P. 1338) (L.D. 1797) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Length of Service Award Program" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-816)**

(H.P. 1365) (L.D. 1844) Bill "An Act To Provide for Special Fees for Certain Aquaculture Lease Applications and To Amend Other Provisions in the Laws Governing Aquaculture Leases" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-815)**

(H.P. 1468) (L.D. 1975) Bill "An Act Concerning Winter Maintenance on Private Roads in the Town of Windham" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-814)**

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

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

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

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

Representative **BABBIDGE**: Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to address the House on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Babbidge, requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **BABBIDGE**: In reference, Mr. Speaker, to Roll Call 452 on House Order 999, had I been present I would have voted yea. In reference to Roll Call 454 on LD 1902, had I been present I would have voted yea. In reference to Roll Call 455 on LD 1902, 456 on LD 1429, 457 on LD 867, Roll Call 458 on LD 1778 and Roll Call 459 on LD 2000, had I been present I would have voted yea. But, Mr. Speaker, in reference to Roll Call 453 on House Order 998, had I been present I would have voted nay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act To Transfer the St. Francis Water District to the Town of St. Francis and To Repeal the St. Francis Water District Charter

(S.P. 641) (L.D. 1814)
(C. "A" S-433)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 102 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act To Revise Certain Financial Regulatory Provisions of the Maine Insurance Code To Be Consistent with Model Laws from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners

(S.P. 642) (L.D. 1815)
(C. "A" S-425)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 105 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act To Update the Designation of Vietnam War Remembrance Day

(S.P. 718) (L.D. 2000)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 104 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

(H.P. 1441) (L.D. 1932)

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

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **FINAL PASSAGE** and later today assigned. (Roll Call Ordered)

**Pursuant to the Constitution
Public Land**

Resolve, Authorizing the Bureau of Parks and Lands To Authorize Additional Construction and Installations Related to a Telecommunications Tower on Bald Mountain in the Town of Rangeley

(S.P. 712) (L.D. 1981)
(C. "A" S-434)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 23 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 103 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act To Increase Capacity for Slaughtering and Meat Processing in Maine

(S.P. 201) (L.D. 493)
(C. "A" S-435)

An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System

(H.P. 541) (L.D. 736)
(C. "A" H-771)

An Act To Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Maine by the Year 2045

(H.P. 1045) (L.D. 1429)
(C. "A" H-775)

An Act To Require Screening for Cytomegalovirus in Certain Newborn Infants

(S.P. 603) (L.D. 1747)
(C. "A" S-432)

An Act To Improve Health Care Affordability and Increase Options for Comprehensive Coverage for Individuals and Small Businesses in Maine

(H.P. 1329) (L.D. 1778)
(C. "A" H-773)

An Act To Align Postpartum MaineCare Coverage with Federal Law

(S.P. 617) (L.D. 1781)
(C. "A" S-429)

An Act To Ensure Health Insurance Coverage for Certain Adults with Disabilities

(H.P. 1339) (L.D. 1798)
(C. "A" H-776)

An Act To Require Reporting by the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species Regarding Recommendations To Reduce the Threat of Further Infestations

(H.P. 1359) (L.D. 1826)
(C. "A" H-774)

An Act Requiring a Contract for the Administration of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Low-cost Spaying and Neutering Program

(S.P. 644) (L.D. 1828)
(C. "A" S-428)

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.

Resolves

Resolve, To Study the Impacts of Consumer Fireworks Use

(S.P. 430) (L.D. 1348)
(C. "A" S-423)

Resolve, To Establish the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State

(H.P. 1322) (L.D. 1771)
(C. "A" H-770)

Resolve, Authorizing the Maine National Guard To Sell Certain Property in Hallowell

(S.P. 602) (L.D. 1852)
(C. "A" S-431)

Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools

(H.P. 1409) (L.D. 1902)
(H. "A" H-778 to C. "A" H-769)

Resolve, Establishing the Working Group To Review and Recommend Improvements to the Seed Capital Investment Tax Credit

(S.P. 682) (L.D. 1941)
(C. "A" S-430)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 686) (L.D. 1949) Bill "An Act To Amend the Caribou Utilities District Charter To Include Broadband Services" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 689) (L.D. 1953) Bill "An Act To Fix Inconsistencies within the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2013" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 704) (L.D. 1967) Bill "An Act To Amend the Charter of the Gray Water District" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 167) (L.D. 379) Bill "An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-450)**

(S.P. 70) (L.D. 798) Bill "An Act To Improve the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-449)**

(S.P. 417) (L.D. 1266) Bill "An Act To Improve the Value of Dental Insurance" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-438)**

(S.P. 645) (L.D. 1859) Bill "An Act To Build More Sustainable Ambulance Services in Communities" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-446)**

(S.P. 666) (L.D. 1896) Bill "An Act To Allow Heating Fuel and Motor Vehicle Fuel Customers To Opt Out of Paper Delivery Tickets" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-451)**

(S.P. 679) (L.D. 1924) Bill "An Act To Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine through Legal Education" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-448)**

(S.P. 690) (L.D. 1964) Bill "An Act To Update Certain Water Quality Standards and To Reclassify Certain Waters of the State" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-447)**

(S.P. 706) (L.D. 1974) Bill "An Act To Establish and Fund the Maine Climate Corps Program Pursuant to Recommendations in the Report Required by Resolve 2021, Chapter 25" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-440)**

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

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

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

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the House adjourned at 3:30pm until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 24, 2022; in honor and lasting tribute George Vafiadis, of Sarasota, Florida, David Faulkner, of Portland and Geneva L. Wallace Beals, of Phippsburg.