

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature
State of Maine

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
April 14, 2022

Senate called to order by President Troy D. Jackson of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Senator Glenn C. Curry of Waldo County.

SENATOR CURRY: Good morning. Today I'd like to share a prayer by the Reverend Dr. Sydney K. Wilde. Ours are the hands that must do Your work. Spirit of life and love, Your prophet Isaiah called us to worship You by freeing the oppressed, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and housing the homeless. Your follower, St. Francis, cried out, 'Make me an instrument of Thy peace.' Jesus instructed us to love our neighbors and our enemies as ourselves. Remind us again, dear God, that ours are the hands that must do Your work. We are the ones who must comfort the sick and left up the poor. We are the ones who must challenge tradition to bring about justice. Strengthen our resolve, we pray, to live out our faith as doers of good works. Fill us with the spirit which will give us both courage and strength to move out into the world and there to make a difference. By our efforts, may Your will be done. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator G. William Diamond of Cumberland County.

Reading of the Journal of Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Off Record Remarks

Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Brunswick High School Boys Hockey Team, which won the Class B South Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes.

SLS 962

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I just am here to rise and say congratulations to the Brunswick Boys Ice Hockey Team for winning the Regional Championship and the Class B State Championship. Particularly, the Saturday afternoon game was

filled with lots of excitement and a remarkable defensive game leading to 31 saves and a shut-out. Even though I was trapped up here in Augusta, I was really excited to be able to watch and share from my computer. I also want to extend a special congratulations to Garrett Countway and Zack Stern-Hayes for their goals and to the entire team for their 12th straight victory. Defending all five power-play chances, the boys showed their depth and skills on the ice and could probably skate circles around all of us. I would like to issue congratulations to Alex Arnold, Grey Perham, Sam Masse, Iain Clendening, Sid Pols, Kaelin Gerwig, Joe Marro, Garrett Countway, Brady LaForge, Zach Stern-Hayes, AJ Wolverton, Tommy Labbe, Jake Reeves, Kennedy Eddy, Dolan Pols, Nick Marro, James Bowen, Eli Palmer, Ollie Bateman, Luke Patterson, and Shae Hemberger; Managers Victor Jimenez and Pedro Carlos; Junior Varsity/Assistant Coach Todd Ridlon; and Head Coach Michael Misner. If I got any of your names wrong I give my heartfelt apologies but I also apologize for my English teachers who would be pulling me out by ears for that and, as a proud BHS grad of the Class of 2005 and a very proud Dragon, I hope that we can all extend our congratulations and best wishes from the Maine State Senate. Congratulations.

THE PRESIDENT: Would the members of the Brunswick High School Class B Hockey Champions please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is going to recognize two other teams today. We're going to start first up in the Gallery with the Hermon High School Cheerleading Team which won the Class B North Championship. The Cheerleading Team has Alanna Berube, Madison Despault, Madison Higgins, Alexis Raymond, Madison Smith, Megan Dorr, Lyndsee Reed, Abigail Sinclair, Samantha Harris, Sage Lang, Navia Kenney, Danielle Holand, Ashlyn Stidem, and Assistant Coach Caitlin LaPointe and Coach Christie Reeds. The Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci, is going to make remarks on the team.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. It's a pleasure to welcome two sets of champions. Good morning. The Hermon High School Hawks Cheerleading Team continued its dominance this year in high school cheerleading last month by racking up its fifth straight State Championship and it's also their 10th State Championship in 11 years. Coach Christie Reed's Hawks posted a score of 64.4 points to out distance Medomak Valley of Waldoboro by 3.2 points. I would note that my good friend, Representative Jim Thorne of Hermon, is here and I would also note that some of the students from Carmel, because Hermon High takes Carmel and Hermon, and I would also recognize that I'm joined in these sentiments by Senator Stacey Guerin, who is also joining me in these appreciations. I would ask if they could rise and accept the welcome of the Chamber.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Guerin.

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of Senate, and Senator Baldacci, I join you in commending the Hermon Cheerleaders. I was a cheerleader myself. Actually, I was center in the first competition, statewide

competition, and we got second place that year. So, whenever you girls come it brings back happy memories for me. I congratulate Christie on ten championships. That's just so awesome. Look forward to seeing you girls back here next year.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise that the Hermon Cheerleading Team is up in the gallery. I hope I caught all the members' names and said them right. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: So, the Chair had the wrong team. I'm going to try to get this right this time. I'd like to recognize up in the Gallery the Hermon High School Girls Basketball Team, which is on this side, which won the Class B North Championship. The members of the team include Faith Coombs, Maddy LeBel, Sydney Gallop, Charlotte Caron, Megan Tracy, Elizabeth Wyman, Alli Cameron, Ashley Cote, Veronica Chichetto, Jane Leman, Rachel Wickett, Izzy Byram, Bella Bowden, Brooke Gallop, and Assistant Coaches Shawn Good, Liza Muth, Christie Leman, and Ryan Waning, and Coach Chris Cameron. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACC:** Thank you. Again, I rise to congratulate the Hermon High School. Hermon High School, in general, is the center of academic excellence and is just great young people. This is another example of great young people in our community. The Hermon High School Girls Basketball Team held Old Town, sorry Senator Dill, scoreless over the games' last 4 minutes and 10 seconds and sank ten of twelve free throws in the fourth quarter to pull away for a 45 - 30 victory in the Class B North Schoolgirl Championship game at the Cross Insurance Center and it is just a pleasure to have you here and thank you very much for holding off Old Town and all the other teams. Great job.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Guerin.

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, my congratulations also go to the Hermon Girls Basketball Team. What a powerhouse Hermon is this year for athletics and it's great to see their shining faces up in the balcony. I know it was lots of hard work, many hours of practice. Congratulations to you on your Championship win.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize up in the Gallery the Class B North Champion Girls Basketball Champions, Hermon High School. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents
H.P. 509 L.D. 697

In Senate, April 12, 2022, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that body having **RECEDED**, subsequently the bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-935) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1001)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **INSISTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1525

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual violence affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual violence may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, eating disorders, homelessness and suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence can be devastating not only for the victim, but also for the family, friends and community of the victim; and

WHEREAS, Maine communities bear the substantial fiscal costs related to sexual violence, such as lost work time and increased health care costs, thereby increasing the need for prevention and awareness; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual violence on its own, but we can work together to educate our entire population about how we can all prevent sexual violence and support victims and their communities; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment, assault and abuse happen in all communities, including online spaces, and there is a need to create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of practicing consent, keeping children safe and supporting survivors; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and provides an excellent opportunity for citizens of Maine to learn more about preventing sexual violence; 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 April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to express our support for and encouragement of all those affected by sexual violence; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault as a token of our respect and support.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to share a few words this morning. Mr. President and colleagues of the Senate, I rise today to present this Joint Resolution recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, observed as an opportunity to promote education and the prevention of sexual violence. Sexual Assault Awareness Month traces its history to the 1970s when activist first began organizing on a national scale to reduce sexual assault and violence against women. Advocates fought tirelessly to bring a topic once taboo for public discussion out of the shadows and shed light on the widespread problems of sexual assault. I would like to share a few data points which illustrates the importance of recognizing this important topic. In the United States, 21% of women and 2.6% of men have experienced rape. More than half of women who are raped report that the perpetrator was an intimate partner. In fact, Mr. President, rape frequently happens between partners. Child sexual abuse, which is also sexual assault, is a significant but preventable adverse childhood experience and public health problem. Although estimates vary across studies, the data shows about 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sexual assault abuse at some point in childhood, 91% of sexual abuse in children is perpetrated by someone the child or the child's family knows. Having an open conversation about issues like sexual violence can help reduce the shame and stigma felt by survivors and encourage them to seek support and community. We can learn more about how to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence and ways to support survivors by reviewing resources compiled by the Sexual Violence Resource Center. If you or someone you know needs help regarding sexual assault you can contact the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault for free and private support. Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to raise awareness about this important condition.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act To Implement Recommendations Regarding the Incorporation of Equity Considerations in Regulatory Decision Making"
H.P. 1500 L.D. 2018

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-999)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland
BENNETT of Oxford
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

TUCKER of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BLUME of York
BOYLE of Gorham
DOUDERA of Camden
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ZEIGLER of Montville

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-1000)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

HANLEY of Pittston
O'CONNOR of Berwick
TUELL of East Machias

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-999)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-999)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-999)** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-999) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-999)**, in concurrence.

Senator **ROSEN** of Hancock requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Legislative Day.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act Concerning Equity in Renewable Energy Projects and Workforce Development"

H.P. 1464 L.D. 1969

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-971)**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
MORRIS of Turner

Comes from the House 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" (H-971)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator CHIPMAN for the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act To Help Maine Residents with High Electricity Costs" S.P. 723 L.D. 2010

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-549)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-549) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Emergency Measure

An Act To Expand the Address Confidentiality Program to Victims of Certain Human Trafficking Crimes

S.P. 684 L.D. 1943
(C "A" S-541)

On motion by Senator **DIAMOND** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL HIGHWAY TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

Acts

An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation

H.P. 123 L.D. 170
(C "A" H-931)

An Act To Update the Laws Regarding the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

H.P. 1216 L.D. 1632
(C "A" H-995)

An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses

H.P. 1414 L.D. 1908
(C "A" H-990)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and, having been signed by the President, were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

An Act To Enact the Uniform Foreign-country Money Judgments Recognition Act and the Uniform Registration of Canadian Money Judgments Act

H.P. 659 L.D. 903
(C "A" H-948)

On motion by Senator **BREEN** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

Resolve

Resolve, To Examine Recruitment and Retention Programs and Incentives for Public Safety Workers

S.P. 623 L.D. 1785
(C "A" S-466)

On motion by Senator **BREEN** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **FINAL PASSAGE**, in concurrence.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Emergency Measure

An Act To Ensure Access to All Paths to Recovery for Persons Affected by Opioids Using Money Obtained through Litigation against Opioid Manufacturers

H.P. 1277 L.D. 1722
(C "A" H-997)

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

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Acts

An Act To Amend the Maine Food Sovereignty Act and To Recognize the Maine Food Sovereignty Act in Plantations and Unorganized Territories

H.P. 419 L.D. 574
(S "C" S-543 to C "A" H-402)

An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water

H.P. 662 L.D. 906
(C "A" H-984)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and, having been signed by the President, were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

An Act To Clarify the Exemption from Income Tax and Withholding Tax Liability for Certain Out-of-state Suppliers of Spirits Purchased by the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations

S.P. 671 L.D. 1937
(C "A" S-548)

On motion by Senator **BREEN** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

Resolve

Resolve, To Direct the Office of the Public Advocate To Study Reforming Maine's System of Retail Electricity Supply To Provide More Options to Maine Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals

H.P. 222 L.D. 318
(H "A" H-955 to C "A" H-918)

FINALLY PASSED and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act To Establish a Court Process for Involuntary Substance Use Disorder Treatment"

H.P. 1496 L.D. 2008

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1003)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
KEIM of Oxford
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner
BABBIDGE of Kennebunk
EVANGELOS of Friendship
MORIARTY of Cumberland
POIRIER of Skowhegan
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford
THORNE of Carmel

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HAGGAN of Hampden
LIBBY of Auburn

(Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought To Pass as Amended Report**.)

Comes from the House 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" (H-1003)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1003) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act To Establish Limits on the Number of Hours Worked by and Workloads of Child Protective Services Caseworkers in the Department of Health and Human Services

H.P. 1358 L.D. 1825

In Senate, April 12, 2022, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-847)**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **INSISTED**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act To Ensure That Municipalities and Multimunicipal Regions of Every Size and Capacity Have Guidance on Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategies for Policy, Implementation and Investment Decision Support

H.P. 1205 L.D. 1616

In Senate, April 12, 2022, on motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **READ** and **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-917)**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **INSIST**.

On motion by Senator **MIRAMANT** of Knox, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Miramant.

Senator **MIRAMANT:** Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. Right now, we have great ponds protected in a way that when they're being polluted by roads that lead to them, or are adjacent to them and they are causing run-off, municipal money can be spent on them. It's not that they aren't required to maintain a certain standard but if they can't then the town has to step in. We need to protect our resources. This bill adds several other natural resources that need to be protected in order to help keep our watersheds clean, our land clean, our food edible, which we're dealing with in several bills. So, I do not think this is the way to go with this Insist. I think we should vote this down and consider the next step that would come up if we do that and I do not believe this bill costs municipalities a lot of money. There's a lot of fear about that but it is not something that will. There's a whole process before, if we ever get to that. It's just a safety valve to keep your lakes, rivers, land clean. So, please vote this motion down. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is the motion to Insist. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#750)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, CLAXTON, CURRY, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, ROSEN, SANBORN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BREEN, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, DAUGHTRY, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY

24 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **INSIST PREVAILED**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act To Enact the Maine Data Collection Protection Act
H.P. 669 L.D. 913

In Senate, April 13, 2022, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-905) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-996)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

Eight members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights"
H.P. 1406 L.D. 1899

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1004)**.

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

Four members of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report **"B"** that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
KEIM of Oxford

Representatives:

HAGGAN of Hampden
LIBBY of Auburn
THORNE of Carmel

One member of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report **"C"** that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-1005)**.

Signed:

Representative:
POIRIER of Skowhegan

(Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports Report **"A"**, **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1004)**.)

Comes from the House with Report **"A"**, **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1004)**, **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1004)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, Report **"A"**, **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1004)**, **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1004) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1004)**, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass As Amended

CUDDY of Winterport
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth
KESSLER of South Portland
SACHS of Freeport
ZEIGLER of Montville

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 301: Fee Schedule and Administrative Procedures for Payment of Commission Assigned Council, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1433 L.D. 1926

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1002)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1002)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1002) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Create the Maine Generation Authority"

H.P. 1218 L.D. 1634

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

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
STEWART of Aroostook
VITELLI of Sagadahoc

Representatives:

CARLOW of Buxton
FOSTER of Dexter
GRIGNON of Athens
WADSWORTH of Hiram

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-982)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

BERRY of Bowdoinham

Comes from the House with the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-982)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/5/22) matter:

An Act To Strengthen the Governance of the University of Maine System

H.P. 1353 L.D. 1820
(C "A" H-811; H "A" H-821
to C "A" H-811; H "A" H-833)

Tabled - April 5, 2022 by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland

Pending - **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence

(In Senate, March 31, 2022, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-811) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-821)** thereto, **AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-833)**, in concurrence

(In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.)

On motion by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Senator from Waldo, Senator **CURRY**, and the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **DILL**, requested and received leave of the Senate to be excused from voting pursuant to Senate Rule 401.3.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#751)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, DAUGHTRY, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, RAFFERTY, SANBORN, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, POULIOT, ROSEN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, WOODSOME

EXCUSED: Senators: CURRY, DILL

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/12/22) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act To Prohibit the Contamination of Clean Soils with So-called Forever Chemicals" H.P. 1417 L.D. 1911

Report "A" - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-958)** (10 members)

Report "B" - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-959)** (2 members)

Report "C" - **Ought Not to Pass** (1 member)

Tabled - April 12, 2022 by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF ANY REPORT**

(In House, April 11, 2022, Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958)**, READ and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958)**.)

(In Senate, April 12, 2022, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958)**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise today in opposition to the pending motion of acceptance of Report "A". I understand that there's likely going to be some sort of amendment to this bill in the future, and I won't talk to that, but from what I've come to understand about it there still is going to be a significant problem with this bill, which is effectively that it's going to be an unfunded mandate on local water districts who do, in fact, engage in the practice right now of sludge spreading, whether or not there are any PFAS chemicals in it. This is a big problem. In fact, we talk about this every week on our weekly calls with the Aroostook Partnership and one district in particular I'll highlight in this instance is going to be hit with about one half a million dollar rate increase to their ratepayers up north. Don't get me wrong, Mr. President, PFAS is an awful chemical. We need to do what ever we can to eliminate exposure to it but, in this case, what we're doing is passing along this burden to our local districts without any guaranteed way to back fill what, ultimately, would be those lost monies to have to deal with it. That's going to go right to the ratepayer and, as we've talked time and time again in this Chamber, the cost of living is going up, the cost of energy is going up, inflation is a big problem, and this is just one more thing that's going to hurt our ratepayers, particularly in some of these rural districts. Beyond that we have another problem with this bill, which is the fact that there is also no guarantee that even if, you know, we do - they are in fact doing away with the \$10 deposit with this report, and that's a good step but there is no guarantee that there's actually going to be a place to take this sludge. So, I think that we've got a couple of issues with this bill, if you're - I appreciate the work that's going into this and I certainly appreciate the efforts to get rid of PFAS out of our public water systems and others. In fact, I've sponsored legislation, and passed legislation, to that effect earlier in this session, Mr. President. So, I think that we really need to consider the impact that this bill is actually going to have for our localities. This is something that I've heard many, many pleads on from these folks, that there is still concerns about this bill and I don't think now is quite the right time to pass it and would request that members reject this motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER**: Thank you, Mr. President. How a society manages its waste is the bedrock of government. Historically speaking, in order for humans to live in community, waste management has defined policy in civil society. We started with the basics. We've known for centuries that you don't put your waste where you eat but as a species we also tend to reach for the easiest solution, flush our waste into the river and into the ocean. By 1972, it wasn't just our toilets but also waste products and chemicals of industrial society. Our waterways had become polluted enough for Ed Muskie to pass the Clean Water Act. Just a few weeks ago I stood here, Mr. President, to celebrate the profound effects of the Clean Water Act on the health of our state's rivers but what I failed to mention is the unintended consequences of the legislation. The Clean Water Act ended the regular disposal of waste in our waterways and it funded the development of sewage treatment facilities all across the state. To defray municipal expenses, farmers and landowners were encouraged to spread the treated sludge over their land. It was a reasonable solution, at the time, and known contaminants like lead and mercury were removed. Landowners were presented with letters from the DEP, like the one that I've distributed to you this morning, and this comes from Fred Stone's testimony in our committee. The letter states 'this will not pollute the waters of the state. It will not contaminate the ambient air. It will not constitute a hazard of health or welfare. It will not create a nuisance.' In 2016, when Fred Stone's farm in Arundel was the first in the state to be discovered contaminated with PFAS, leading to the complete devastation of his business and the need to dispense with the majority of his cows, the State, at the time, was slow and reluctant to address the reality. In 2019, the current Administration created the PFAS Task Force to inform the trajectory of the State's response to the problem. At the time there was already a transition away from the land application of sludge. However, the practice was not banned. The majority of Maine's sludge is already being landfilled but there still remains four treatment facilities who engage in land application of PFAS contaminated materials and a handful that still composts.

I want to talk about what this bill does. It begins the process of testing effluent at wastewater treatment plants. This is the fluid that's separated from the solid waste with the cost of that testing covered by the State to determine how best to design filtration systems to address the PFAS in the effluent. It addresses septage, which there's been some confusion. I just want to clarify septage is the material that you scrape out of the septic tank. It addresses it separately from sludge. Sludge is the material that's solid, that comes from the wastewater treatment facility, separated out from the effluent. It prohibits the land application of septage where contamination exists and it directs the DEP to analyze the best approach going forward to ending the land application activities of raw septage. This bill prohibits the further land application of sludge on lands. It prohibits the sale or distribution of sludge-based compost and fertilizers made with sludge and it repeals the \$10 fee per ton on sludge disposal.

I also want to tell you why we chose this direction. In consultation with the DEP, it is clear that PFAS screening levels for composting facilities throughout the state have consistently exceeded the acceptable levels. Using sludge to make compost or fertilizer does not alter the chemistry of the PFAS compound. We say that dilution is the solution to pollution but when we talk about chemicals which are dangerous in the parts per billion level, chemicals which bio-accumulate in our bodies and chemicals which react on the body's endocrine system, dilution is not the

solution. Containment is. Elimination is. Last session we passed bills to phase out these chemicals.

When I was in grad school in Philadelphia I used to grow food in a community garden. Every spring we would bring in a load of compost and pile it into last year's beds. I would recommend this practice to anyone interested in growing healthy food but knowing that some compost is currently being made with PFAS contaminated sludge we not only endanger the bodies of our gardening families but we confuse the narrative of healthy, wholesome food production. Fertilizer is also being made with sludge and why shouldn't it. The nutrient cycles we learned about in high school science class are the basis of ecology but PFAS has derailed the cycle and until we address contamination the low-cost application of sludge on farmland has to end.

During a committee session on PFAS related bills this session one farmer told us how he felt it was his civic duty to accept this sludge from the waste district to help defray municipal costs. He broke down in tears, with deep remorse, for the contamination that is now prevalent on his neighbor's farm and in the domestic wells adjacent as a result of this land application activity.

As water moves through contaminated soils PFAS concentrates in groundwater aquifers and it contaminates our rural wells. In Fairfield over 200 homeowners now must use taxpayer funded water filtration systems from historic application activities on one farm. Government and industry have started to phase out the use of PFAS but we aren't there yet. Knowing the consequences of continuing land contamination, we must pass this ban. The DEP's Director of Solid Waste Management has confirmed that this legislative change will not drastically deplete capacity in our landfill. Bulking agents exist within the state's waste stream to manage the engineering.

We come to the Legislature hoping to build a better way of life for Mainers and most of us are here with the ambition to be creative and forward thinking. In Maine, we've done a tremendous job to build our agricultural brand. We've created programs to protect farmland from development and facilitate access for young farmers with the Lands for Maine's Future Program. We've developed programs to ensure agricultural business viability with programs like Farms for the Future. There are farmer grants for irrigation, marketing, and processing and \$20 million invested by this Body in processing infrastructure just last year. Non-profits have often led the efforts to recruit a new generation of farmers into the state through professional development and training programs. Our growing young farmer population in the state of Maine is the envy of almost every rural region in the country. As much as we want to serve our state by these initiatives sometimes, as Legislators, we have to be reactive, especially when it comes to emerging new contamination in our environment. We have to protect the way of life which makes Maine special. We have already made progress and in this current legislative session, in the Agricultural Committee and in this Body, we have committed unanimously to give aid to farmers who are found to be on contaminated land to the tune of \$100 million. It will cover business loss, clean up, testing, research, and damages incurred by this tragedy.

In 2007, much like Senator Sanborn, I learned that my then one year old daughter had lead poisoning. We had just found the perfect farm, close to good markets, a good sandy loam, a big barn, and a beautiful old farmhouse. In my limitless ambition, I tied that baby onto my back and I fixed up that house while my husband plowed the soil that had not been turned in decades.

Learning that my baby had crawled through lead contaminated dust in that old house turned my dream into a nightmare but I'm here to say that my nightmare didn't last. The State had a program and we quickly learned a lot about lead. At one time every gas-guzzling car spewed lead soot, lead paint was ubiquitous, lead-soldered pipes supplied water to us. That problem must have seemed insurmountable and, to be sure, there were plenty of lawmakers who thought the problem was inflated but our government trusts science and, at times, believes in the precautionary principle and action was taken. My old farmhouse was professionally cleaned according to the processes that must have taken many committees and research studies to decide on. I don't know if those rules were Major Substantive or routine technical, but we eventually moved in and over time our daughter's lead levels went down. Through testing and protocol, we avoided tragedy. We were able to revive a 150 year old farm into a thriving business for our community. This is what success looks like for farmers and legislators.

When I saw maps from the DEP showing PFAS land application licenses, I immediately found my farm and, once again, I felt that same knot in my chest. There is a mark on a neighboring parcel and it took me weeks to find the words to call my neighbor to ask about that history. What would he say? What would I say if I'd unknowingly contaminated the soil or my neighbor's well water? The farmers who have shared their story with us in the ENR and ACF committees have taught me that this is not the time for blame or guilt. This is about knowing better and doing better. My neighbor told me that the Department of AG said it was good for the soil, it would grow great hay, and that sludge did grow great hay. Now, years later, he's reading these articles in the paper about sludge and PFAS and he's somewhere between perplexed and despondent. We identified fields on a map. I ordered tests on our well water. I trust the science and I believe in this precautionary principle. This is the action which we are putting into practice today. I see this bill as another step in the systemic approach that the State is taking to address PFAS and engender trust. As results come in from testing, we are learning that there is plenty of clean soil and groundwater in our state and we must act to keep it that way. This is a crisis which calls for action but this is not an insurmountable problem. The action we must take now is to ban the spread of PFAS contaminated sludge and to ban the use of sludge in the making of compost and fertilizer.

As a farmer I am truly heart-sick that the nutrient cycle of waste to soil to food has been broken but as a parent I cannot allow future generations to continue to clean up after us. As a legislator, I am inspired by the bold leaders who came before me to address lead contamination. I hope we can live up to that standard. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I'm from the - my district has Fairfield Center in it, which we have the highest PFAS problem in the state, and I'm very concerned with it. We've gone and met at several meetings. Talking about a public water supply costing approximately \$47 million to put in place in that area. I truly believe that this bill is an awesome bill. I do think that there is some improvements that have to be made. I have gotten calls from the water district, very concerned about the cost it will

increase and as it is if we put this \$47 million water supply in place it will cost approximately \$1 a day for the residents that have the issues of PFAS problems. So, we're talking about an increase of about \$370 a year on their water supply and now, with this the way it stands, it would add another potential 20% to 30% increase on the water supply because of putting in a new filtration system in for the Kennebec water supply. So, I do think that the report later on that may be coming, the amendment, will actually help, considerably help, in this and I, you know - so I'm very tossed because I really like to support this intended bill the way it is but I just cannot. I would have to support the amendment that may be coming later. I just wanted to let you know that this will cost our community several dollars the way it is standing. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow members of the Senate, first I want to congratulate the Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for her heartfelt testimony and her extraordinary leadership on our state's response to this scourge that we're all facing. As we've become acutely aware, following the contamination throughout Fairfield and elsewhere in Maine, PFAS is a group of manmade chemicals that are extremely persistent, meaning that once released they are not going to breakdown, earning them this moniker of forever chemicals. Now I've heard, even in this late date to the debates about PFAS, questions about the damages this family of chemicals actually brings to human health. Studies, I want to emphasize, continue to show the links between PFAS and negative health impacts, including several types of cancer and decreased immune response. If anybody has a question about this, I encourage them to look into the long-term, longitudinal study in Parkersburg, West Virginia, from 2004 to 2013. These people suffered with PFAS in their community, their groundwater, their soils, for a long time and they continue to suffer the deleterious health effects. Look to the EPA's website. There are abundant well researched, factual studies about the damages of PFAS on human health. We all know now that one major source of PFAS contamination in Maine is the application of industrial and municipal sludge, sometimes called bio-solids, on Maine farmland. Where should this sludge go instead? Because of the original DEP ban on sludge didn't mean screening levels, most of the sludge is already being landfilled. But we've heard all sorts of doom and gloom on this issue about costs and most of it comes out of Casella Waste Systems. Casella has tried to say that there isn't space in the landfills and this is simply untrue. I might add that Casella has a 30 year contract to manage our state-owned landfill at Juniper Ridge. The DEP's Paula Clark has stated publicly several times that there is landfill capacity for this sludge. Now why is Casella, a \$4.5 billion multi-state enterprise, saying this untruth? Casella is protecting their own profits as the composting they sell is entirely made from sludge, most of which, I add, comes from out-of-state. We cannot continue to be the dumping ground for PFAS contaminated sludge from other states, as is allowed now. As is allowed now. This bill will stop that. Yes, waste water treatment facilities may see an increase in fees for landfilling and I might add that the amendment to which the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway, is alluding will not take care of that problem. So, if that's your concern, you might as well vote for this now. It will improve the bill but we're getting ahead of

ourselves. Waste water treatment facilities may see an increase but that cost will be far less than what it would cost to clean up contaminated farmland, not to mention the healthcare costs and loss of livelihoods for impacted communities. This is not an unfunded mandate. The Attorney General and Office of Fiscal and Program Review have reviewed that question and it is not an unfunded mandate. The DEP Commissioner Loyzim estimated during a briefing that the State is looking at around \$20 million a year to be necessary for clean-up and remediation, and this does not include funding to help our impacted farmers and communities. We've got to stop the contamination. This bill will do that. We cannot afford more contamination. If you are concerned about the money, the State is poised to spend \$100 million. Every member of this Body voted for \$100 million in public funds to help impacted farmers due to the spreading of sludge and sludge derived compost on farmland. It makes no fiscal sense to continue a policy that is costing the State so much money.

This practice is not just impacting our farmland. An article in March 27th Press Herald reported that they are now finding high levels of PFAS in fish and seafood. One of the sources for this contamination is land application of sludge. Along with our farmers, lobstermen, fishermen, and tourism are the backbone of Maine's economy. If you care about the money consider that. People flock here to enjoy our fresh seafood, our pristine beaches and lakes, and they rely on Maine produce to be clean and pure and quality. If we continue to poison our farms, our oceans, our streams we will damage our way of life. Please join me in voting yes on Report "A". Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I feel it important to get the words of one of our - two of our farmers into the record, so I'd like to read the letter from Adam Nordell on behalf of himself and his wife, Johanna Davis, the owners and founders of Songbird Farm in Unity. 'I wish to voice my strong support for L.D. 1911. We need to keep PFAS contaminated waste off of our farmland, out of our home gardens, and out of our surface and ground water. Our municipalities and water treatment plants are being encouraged to fear and protest an increased cost in disposal fees associated with keeping Maine clean of PFAS chemicals. We need to weigh these hypothetical costs against the very real and present cost of contamination. I think you will agree that we cannot risk the health and livelihood of future generations of Mainers over waste management expediency. Please take our story as a cautionary tale. Twelve years ago, my wife and I moved back to her home state of Maine to start our business, Songbird Farm. For the first five years we cultivated rented land on a year-to-year lease, then seven years ago we purchased our own property with an eye towards a lifelong career as growers, serving the local food economy. Until this winter, our products were on the shelves of five Maine retail stores, sold through two regional food distributors, and were in the kitchens of 100 CSA customers. Our business had been steadily growing and we had been investing a significant portion of our income back into our farm infrastructure. In 2021 alone, we drilled a new irrigation well, built a new wash-pack facility, erected a new hundred foot greenhouse, and made significant investments into the efficiency of our grain production. The farm supported our family, one year-round employee, and several seasonal

employees. We were in it for the long haul. This December we learned that our land was licensed and spread with PFAS laden municipal sludge from the Portland Water District and the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District in the early 1990s. The land was only spread four times. Now, 30 years later, our soils read between 250 and 475 parts per billion sum of six PFAS. The State's testing threshold is around five parts per billion. Our drinking water read over 400 times the State's current safety threshold. Our drinking water read over 400 times the State's current safety threshold. My wife and I have PFAS exposure equivalent to, and grossly exceeding, the levels of factory workers where these chemicals were manufactured. This puts us at an unstudied exposure level. What health outcomes might we look forward to? PFOA and PFOS stay in the body for an incredibly long time but they can leave through the placenta and through breastmilk. What illness can the next generation of rural Mainers look forward to? Our business is on the rocks and our health has been put at risk. Our son's health has been put at risk. Try to calculate the economic cost of that, then multiply it by the number of effected households in Fairfield and Unity Plantation. Multiply it by the number of farms who are only now learning of their contamination. Multiply it by the number of farms who are avoiding testing because they are terrified of what the results might do to their lives and livelihoods. The State has no safety net in place for farms like ours. Clearly, we need one and we need it fast. When you consider supporting L.D. 1911, do the cost benefit analysis. Think about the increased cost of trucking sludge to Juniper Ridge and then think about the cost of upending future agricultural businesses and saddling more rural Mainers with a lifetime of medical concerns. That, my friends, is easy math.'

I met with Adam and Johanna and their son, as well as other impacted farmers and we cannot over state the impact PFAS has had on their lives and livelihoods. We are in the early stages of understanding this environmental crisis and I understand this crisis is our generation's chapter of a long story of failed environmental and health protection, a story where earlier chapters included lead gasoline and DDT and Asbestos. But there's also another way in frame my understanding of the current situation and that is politics. Politics of the politically and economically powerful urban and industrial areas against and overwhelming the interests of communities like mine, which are far more rural and so much of the state is rural. Earlier in this legislation, we acted to close a loophole to have out-of-state waste filling up our landfill, yet we still accept the human waste, 41,000 tons of human waste, from out-of-state. The Casella composting facility has 7,000 tons from Maine and 41,000 from out-of-state. We are literally the outhouse for New England and I am offended by that. I'm offended that we see that as our economic future, that that is what matters. On behalf of the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County, we are sick and tired of taking your crap. I encourage you to vote with me on this bill.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Arostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to clarify a few points here and, first of all, I would agree with the good Senator from Waldo. Bring me that bill. Bring that bill that prevents sludge from the rest of the New England coming into Maine and I'll vote

for that bill. That's not what this bill does. You know, the point was brought up earlier about cost and the reality, the cold hard reality, here is you have a problem that was created by the State. In fact, the good Senator from Cumberland distributed some literature to that effect. I agree with her. Yet, here we are trying to fix the problem but we don't want to actually put our money where our mouth is. Not in this instance. That \$100 million that was referenced earlier, Mr. President, does nothing to help our local water districts. You know, the Senator from Oxford, who is a good friend of mine, mentioned that the Attorney General weighed in and said this is not a legally, not legally an unfunded mandate. Well, that's fine but it is quite literally a mandate now that is unfunded by the very governmental entity that created the problem. Mr. President, you have a Republican, a conservative Republican, that's advocating for more spending in this instance. Fix this bill. Take advantage of that fact. Let's put our money where our mouth is. Bring me that amendment and I will vote for this bill. We have not done that. We have shirked our responsibility here and we have thrown this problem onto the backs of local ratepayers who, I underscore once again, should not have to take yet another hit from poor decisions that are made in this bill. Bring me that amendment and I will vote for this bill. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Women and men of the Senate, water, milk, vegetables, seafood, wildlife are all contaminated with chemicals that we have become addicted to and I continue to wonder why we've done this to ourselves. Article I, section 25 of the Maine Constitution reads as follows: 'all individuals have a natural, inherent, and unalienable right to food, including the right to save and exchange seeds, and the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce, and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health, and wellbeing as long as the individual does not commit trespassing, theft, poaching, or other abuses of private property, public lands, or natural resources in the harvesting, production, or acquisition of food.' Whether you voted for that or not, it's in the Maine Constitution. It is a public health declaration. It is an affirmation of our relationship to Mother Earth. It speaks to the spirit of Maine and our relationship to Mother Earth, as enshrined in this Constitutional Amendment, has broken down completely with the crisis in front of us. Please vote to accept the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. You may have felt like you've heard enough from me today but I just wanted to address the good Senator from Aroostook's concerns about the water districts because I share them, which is one reason why we took the \$10 fee off. This saves \$3.6 million annually. We also talked at length in committee with the DEP about how water districts have access to money annually from the Clean Water Act as well as from the American Rescue Plan and from infrastructure package money. So, I just want to make sure that that's clear, that there is access to funding for water districts to apply for additional infrastructure that they might need in order to create

better drying facilities for their sludge and also to defray some of the cost. Thank you so much.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I understand everybody wants this. They want PFAS taken care of. The State messed up. It's our responsibility to take care of this and I understand that. We should be ashamed of ourselves if we didn't take care of this when back when they allowed sludge to be spread. They should have checked it out. We maybe didn't have the research, or whatever it was, and it took time to get to where we are today. We ended up finding out at a farm when their milk showed up with all the PFAS and they called me up and they said, 'Senator Cyrway, I hate to tell you this but we have found a highest readings in the state, in the country.' Fairfield Center, my area, \$47 million won't even touch what we have to do for the area that I live in. We need to take the time and figure out how we can help everyone in this state, not just a few. This money, when you talk to \$100 million, I believe they're talking about maybe \$60 million we're going to actually get. That's not even touching this and it's not going to go towards infrastructure for them. They can't sue the State because it would be suing everybody. We have a problem. I guess you could say Houston we have a problem. That's the way we feel. We're in Apollo 13 here. The farmers feel that way. The residents in our area feel that way. Now we're talking, you know, let's ignore the cost of this. Let's just do this because we want clean water and whatever. I understand we all need this and I think there are some solutions, and it's going to take a little time, but let's make sure that this bill, what's well intended, works to help everyone. That's why I really want to vote for this. I really do. I just think that we need to do it right, and I appreciate everybody's thoughts and time and all their good conscience feelings about this. I'm not against it. I don't think anybody here is. I just think we've got to think this out. When you talk about a \$10 fee compared to the \$370 or \$375 a year that they're going to have to pay, besides the added amount that the Kennebec Water District is really concerned about, that's really going to put a crimp on everybody in that area. I just don't think it's fair, especially when our state's the one that did this to them. EPA said it was okay. My father, we were crop farmers, 80 acres of vegetable farming and 110 head of cattle. We had 500 acres. We were lucky. My father said 'No, we're not going to spread that stuff on my land.' In Fairfield Center they thought it was a great idea because this was back, I believe, when they had the buy-outs for farming, dairy farmers. They took and bought their cattle out, and left heifers and whatever on their farm, and then they had said 'We're not getting enough manure to fertilize all these hay fields,' and they said 'Hey, we can get this manure for free. This human waste.' Especially if a farmer closed their barn down for the cows, they had to still fertilize their hay fields and they said 'Wow, what a deal.' EPA says it's great. Now, this is what we end up with. I just feel it's terrible that we're put in the place where I've got to vote against something that I believe in. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Maxmin.

Senator **MAXMIN**: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of this motion and I just wanted to say if any one of us in this Body had an incredibly poisonous amount of PFAS in our blood, if any of us knew that our land had been spread and we were raising our children and growing our food on contaminated land, we would all be behind this. It's because of our privilege and our isolation from the direct impacts of this issue that we can debate this. Even if this bill isn't perfect we have to do something. We have to do something for the people who have been impacted and that's why I'll be voting yes today.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of Report "A", Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-958), in concurrence. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#752)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, FARRIN, GUERIN, HICKMAN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, MOORE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, ROSEN, SANBORN, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: CYRWAY, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, WOODSOME

30 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 4 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958)**, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-958) **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, Senate Amendment "B" (S-553) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-958) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, this is the amendment I was alluding to earlier, which I do, in fact, think makes this bill a better bill and I think if we're moving on from the point about water districts and talking now about the actual impact to farms that have actually spread sludge, and I want to correct the record on a few things, one of which is that they were never licensed to spread PFAS intentionally. They were licensed to spread sludge, not knowing what was in it. That said, there may not have been PFAS in that sludge and yet they are still marked and impacted by the bad press and PR that they get from being affiliated with

this list. I want to take second, Mr. President, to defend these farmers and their reputation. What we have done is effectively put Maine's agriculture market on a list that's recognized and known for problems with PFAS because of how much we have exploited this issue. Even in instances where there was never PFAS on that property that has an effect. Words matter. We need to be careful in how we talk about these issues because there is an impact to our market, to our economies that are critical to your district and to mine, Mr. President. These farmers, some of which are in your district, some of which are in my district, have reached out. There is no PFAS on the land but they are still black listed anyways and, for all intents and purposes, are impacted. So, we need to be very cognizant in that. I appreciate the efforts that have gone into this amendment. I think that this is an important step in the right direction, particularly for our agriculture industry. But I want the record to note that Maine's agriculture industry is incredibly important and that the language that we choose to use in this Body and in front of the press has an impact and I want my colleagues to be mindful of that, Mr. President. Throwing around accusations that there's PFAS on every bit of property that's ever spread sludge in their life is simply inaccurate and people ought to know that and I want to support our growers in that regard. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would say that that's twice this week that our natural resources economy might have been black listed.

On motion by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake.

Senator **TIMBERLAKE**: Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, first of all, I thank the committee for bringing this amendment forward and the reason I didn't vote for the last bill is because this amendment wasn't on there and I wasn't going to do something that I didn't believe in wholeheartedly. I knew that by saying that farmers couldn't sell their product to the market, even though there was nothing wrong with it, was not the right thing to do just because maybe 25 years ago they had had sludge spread on their land that had no PFAS in it, but it labeled them as bad players. I think that's the problem I have with most of this. The most of it is that we're labeling people because 25 or 30 years ago they go their name placed on a map because they spread sludge, most of them from municipal sludge which everybody knows is not anywhere near as toxic as industrial sludge, but they're getting lumped into a group and they're being convinced that they're guilty before they're innocent. We, in the United States, don't do that. You're innocent until proven guilty. If you ask why I couldn't have supported the last amendment, that's the reason. We were telling people they were guilty when they really wasn't. So, I thank them for bringing this amendment forward. I really mean that from the bottom of my heart and I will be supporting this motion.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Adoption of Senate Amendment "B" (S-553) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-958). Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DIAMOND**, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **CHIPMAN**, and the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#753)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CLAXTON, CURRY, CYRWAY, DAUGHTRY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DILL, GUERIN, HICKMAN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, MOORE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, ROSEN, SANBORN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: CHIPMAN, DIAMOND, FARRIN

31 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "B" (S-553) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-958), **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-958) as Amended by Senate Amendment "B" (S-553) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I have heard some concerns raised about this bill this morning and one concern from the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, was that he didn't want to vote for a bill that would not ban out-of-state sludge from the rest of New England coming here. This bill does not ban out-of-state sludge from coming into Maine to be used in composting. However, it does ban the sale, the distribution, and the use of such sludge - such compost in Maine. It would have to be trucked back out of state so that it could be sold and used elsewhere. So, I hope that gives some comfort on that one point and, Mr. President, I request that we all join together on this important initiative and vote for this bill to be Engrossed.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-958) as Amended by Senate Amendment "B" (S-553) thereto, in non-concurrence. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#754)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BREEN, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CURRY, CYRWAY, DAUGHTRY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, FARRIN, GUERIN, HICKMAN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MAXMIN, MIRAMANT, MOORE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, ROSEN, SANBORN, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

34 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-553)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/13/22) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act To Incorporate Respectful Language into the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 22, 25 and 34-A"

H.P. 1526 L.D. 2038

Majority - **Ought to Pass**, pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 120, section 2 (9 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass**, pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 120, section 2 (2 members)

Tabled - April 13, 2022 by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin

Pending - motion by Senator **DESCHAMBAULT** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS**, Pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 120, section 2, Report, in concurrence

(In House, April 11, 2022, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS**, Pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 120, section 2, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.)

(In Senate, April 13, 2022, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, being in law enforcement, I've seen a lot of crimes committed and causing a lot of victims to have consequences effecting their lives. We have inmates that they want to be called residents or we want them to be called residents. I grew up about respect and usually I treat people the way I'd want to be treated. In many cases they aren't. The victims are not treated like you'd like to see them treated. A crime committed is usually because of someone that has caused someone to suffer a loss, a very serious loss, in some way. So, I cannot support this bill the way it's written. There is too much that hurts all the people that have suffered and seeing what's been done, you know, seeing so many victims, very serious situations, and I cannot just call them a resident or a client. So, I would vote ought not to pass. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset, Senator Farrin.

Senator **FARRIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I just rise quickly in opposition to this motion. On April 25, 2018, in Norridgewock, John Williams murdered Corporal Eugene Cole in cold blood. I will never support legislation opposed in L.D. 2038 that will refer John Williams as a resident and not the monster that he is.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Diamond.

Senator **DIAMOND:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, let me first say I - what I respect is I respect the other people who disagree with me on this bill. I think every good intention is there and I hope that everybody knows that. I can't fall in that category. I think knowing first and second hand some of the malicious and life shattering violence against victims does not allow me to show this extra, put this extra position in the hands of those people who are already convicted. When we look at those crimes, and we look at the people today who are still trying to live after having suffered those crimes, the last thing I want to do is worry about those who committed the crimes and these aren't alleged, these are convicted, and I just can't bring myself to give this kind of attention to the people who have done this. In some cases, too many cases, they shattered these lives, young lives, adult lives, more than once and I just can't. I just can't do it and I wanted to explain to this Body I'm really concerned that anyone who supports this might be mispainted. That's not anywhere near what it should be but, again, I think the victims may look at this and say 'Well, wait a minute. Do you know exactly what happened to me? You know what happened to my daughter?' and I think they have a valid point. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake.

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I, for the same reasons, have a very hard time supporting the bill. I don't see being called an inmate is the worst name you could be called when I could think of a lot of others for the gentleman who killed two very close friends of mine about a year and two months ago. Went into the house at 1 o'clock in the morning and stabbed them in cold blood while they were in bed while their 17 year old daughter watched them. She watched her mother and father die right before her. If you think for one minute I'm going to give these people the respect to not be called an inmate, to be called a resident or our guest, it's not going to happen for that reason. This is wrong. You folks can go that way and I understand it. I respect your opinion.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Sanborn.

Senator **SANBORN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise only briefly to set the record straight, that our statutes do not call inmate monsters nor should they and instead we should refer to those folks as residents. I'll be voting in favor of the motion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Miramant.

Senator **MIRAMANT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, these are the kinds of issues that challenge us but make us better for it. I could never understand when Nelson Mandela became President of South Africa after his life in prison and abuse and people who were marching for their freedom and their rights. The tortures and the deaths. He came in and said 'We're going to set up a reconciliation council. You'll come and you'll say I did this horrible thing,' and the parent or spouse of the person that they killed or abused or raped or whatever are sitting in the room and the room is exploding in tears and this will never work because, you know, they actually have someone like that in front of you and not want to bring out the worst, not to make me feel like doing the same thing to them that they did to others. It's just in my nature. I have to fight against that every day. Sometimes issues up here make me feel that way and I have to really counter and try to be more than I am in that moment. This is one of those that challenges me to be more in that moment. I agree with my colleagues who just spoke about how hard that will be, how unfair, it seems, to not be just speaking about the horror every time instead of saying 'Okay, I'm going to get away from letting that grab me,' or I'm just going to ignore the whole situation. I'm not going to call them anything but if I choose to I'll try to do it with some respect and understanding. For me, I know how hard that would be but I'm going to support this because it challenges me to do that and I want to be better, even at this late point in my life. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Maxmin.

Senator **MAXMIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the pending motion. I just wanted to give a little bit of context to this bill. This bill actually came out of a study that we funded for \$12,000. This bill uses language that the Department of Corrections already uses. We are just changing it in statute and, more broadly, as a state we spend millions of dollars a year on

rehabilitation and I think that the language that we use in our statutes should reflect that as well. Our statute should reflect compassion, not vengeance. It should reflect what we hope for the best of people, not the worst. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACC**I: Thank you, Mr. President. I will join my colleague from Windham, from Cumberland County, Senator Diamond, on this bill and I respect those who disagree but I think that, first of all, it's already been admitted here that the policy is already in place. Having been an attorney for 30 years, having actually sued a jail for mistreatment of a prisoner, having experienced all sides of these equations, I think this bill unnecessarily is trying to put an onus on correctional officers who are already over worked, under paid, and that there are many vacancies. I don't see this bill achieving anything other than putting an onus on them, trying to set some sort of record straight. At a time when we have rising crime, we should be focused on dealing with that. I will be joining Senator Diamond because I think, for those reasons, the Ought Not to Pass Report should pass.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Deschambault.

Senator **DESCHAMBAULT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I didn't know what word to use. I think I feel a little schizophrenic about this. I was thinking back how we've changed words for many years. I remember the debate about even changing the name of Squaw Mountain, remember that. Somerset, Skowhegan went through the whole Indian name change. I started working in corrections 50 years ago. Didn't like it then that youngsters, young girls, were called juvenile delinquents or incorrigible. I called prisoners 'prisoners' or inmates for the last 45 years. I never treated them as a prisoner or an inmate. I treated them with respect. That's hard to say, but with respect. We don't have a law that says don't call a police officer a pig. Don't call them even a cop. It comes from your heart but at the same time I think the reason I said Ought to Pass, and I was in the Majority, is that it's probably time for a change. I, however, it is so much easier to say inmate or prisoner than adult resident and try to communicate that but I think we'll be able to adjust as a society, somehow. They are human beings. I got to know them as well as I know some of my cousins and I gave them respect, no matter what I called them, and they knew it. They knew they were in prison and they're a prisoner. We don't have a word for victims. Do victims really want to be called a victim or do they want to be called a survivor? We haven't talked about that and I sympathize with all of you that said we've got to think of the victims. At some point we'll come up with a good name. It's difficult, even the victims don't like to be called that. So, I know I probably just didn't make sense to you other than it's time for a change. So, thank you.

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **DESCHAMBAULT** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS**, Pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 120, section 2, Report, in concurrence. (Roll Call Ordered)

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Miramant.

Senator **MIRAMANT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Permission to stay on the record.

THE PRESIDENT: So moved.

Senator **MIRAMANT:** Thank you. I rise in support of my colleagues in the House and Senate to highlight two Mainers a day who have died from accidental overdoses. Today I recognize the loss of my constituent, Teresa Thomas. Teresa Thomas was born in Rockland, Maine on August 14, 1970, the daughter of James Thomas and Bonnie Daniello. She spent her life working as a lobster fisher on the shores of our great state, the place she found the most joy. She could work circles around anyone on a lobster boat. As with many in the lobster industry, she was hit hard by the opioid epidemic and succumbed to it on September 28, 2021. She leaves behind her son and daughter, Stephen Little and Kiersten Harjuala, both of Rockland; her nieces, Courtney Allen of Augusta and Cassandra Allen of Arab, Alabama; and her sister, Lisa Thomas of Valrico, Florida; several Aunts, Uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

I remember it was such a short time ago we were dealing with an overdose a day, 365 a year. How could we let that go?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will be in order.

Senator **MIRAMANT:** Now we're up to two a day. We read the people that she left behind to remember how that also spiderwebs out and how many lives it effects and how much we want to help those people and we've tried here and I appreciate my colleagues' efforts and thank you for listening to honoring this person's life, as brief as it was.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED** until Thursday, April 15, 2022 at 10:00 in the morning.