

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
 1st Legislative Day
 Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Pursuant to Article IV, Part 3, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, the Representatives-Elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature assembled in the Hall of the House and were called to Order by ROBERT B. HUNT of Yarmouth, Clerk of the House of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature.

Prayer by Reverend Jeffery McIlwain, North Star AME Zion Church, Newington, NH, Rabbi Jared Saks, Congregation Bet Ha'am, South Portland, and Ayesha Baye, Islamic Society of Portland Maine

National Anthem by Jeffery McIlwain, Saco.
 Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATION

The Following Communication: (H.C. 1)

**STATE OF MAINE
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

December 1, 2022

To Robert B. Hunt, Clerk of the House in the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRSA, Section 1, hereby certify that the following are the names and residences of the Representatives-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on November 28, 2022:

- District 1 Theriault, Austin L., Fort Kent
- District 2 Albert, Roger Clarence, Madawaska
- District 3 Babin, Mark Michael, Fort Fairfield
- District 4 Guerrette, Timothy C., Caribou
- District 5 Underwood, Joseph F., Presque Isle
- District 6 Ardell, Donald J., Monticello
- District 7 Swallow, Gregory L., Houlton
- District 8 Quint, Tracy Lynn, Hodgdon
- District 9 Perry, Anne C., Calais
- District 10 Davis, Kenneth Ralph, Jr., East Machias
- District 11 Strout, Tiffany, Harrington
- District 12 Faulkingham, Billy Bob, Winter Harbor
- District 13 Worth, J. Mark, Ellsworth
- District 14 Williams, Lynne A., Bar Harbor
- District 15 Eaton, Holly, Deer Isle
- District 16 Milliken, Nina Azella, Blue Hill
- District 17 Russell, Ronald B., Verona Island
- District 18 Carmichael, Meldon H., Greenbush
- District 19 Campbell, Richard H., Orrington
- District 20 O'Connell, Kevin J.M., Brewer
- District 21 Rana, Ambureen, Bangor
- District 22 Supica, Laura D., Bangor
- District 23 Roeder, Amy J., Bangor
- District 24 Perry, Joseph C., Bangor
- District 25 Osher, Laurie J., Orono
- District 26 Dill, James F., Old Town
- District 27 Drinkwater, Gary, Milford
- District 28 Gifford, Irene A., Lincoln
- District 29 Javner, Kathy Irene, Chester
- District 30 White, James Lee, Guilford
- District 31 Perkins, Chad Richard, Dover-Foxcroft
- District 32 Foster, Steven D., Dexter
- District 33 Costain, Danny E., Plymouth
- District 34 Griffin, Abigail W., Levant

- District 35 Thorne, James E., Carmel
- District 36 Haggan, David G., Hampden
- District 37 Paul, Reagan L., Winterport
- District 38 Hymes, Benjamin C., Waldo
- District 39 Dodge, Janice S., Belfast
- District 40 Zeigler, Stanley Paige, Jr., Montville
- District 41 Doudera, Victoria W., Camden
- District 42 Geiger, Valli D., Rockland
- District 43 Matlack, Ann Higgins, Saint George
- District 44 Pluecker, William D., Warren
- District 45 Collamore, Clinton E., Waldoboro
- District 46 Crafts, Lydia V., Newcastle
- District 47 Polewarczyk, Edward J., Wiscasset
- District 48 Stover, Holly B., Boothbay
- District 49 Hepler, Allison L., Woolwich
- District 50 Paulhus, Sean C., Bath
- District 51 Jauch, Rebecca L., Topsham
- District 52 Cluchey, Sally Jeane, Bowdoinham
- District 53 Lemelin, Michael, Chelsea
- District 54 Montell, Karen L., Gardiner
- District 55 Shagoury, Daniel Joseph, Hallowell
- District 56 Greenwood, Randall Adam, Wales
- District 57 Hasenfus, Tavis Rock, Readfield
- District 58 Newman, Daniel J., Belgrade
- District 59 LaRochelle, Raegan French, Augusta
- District 60 Bridgeo, William R., Augusta
- District 61 Bradstreet, Richard T., Vassalboro
- District 62 Smith, Katrina J., Palermo
- District 63 Cyrway, Scott Wynn, Albion
- District 64 Madigan, Colleen M., Waterville
- District 65 White, Bruce A., Waterville
- District 66 Nutting, Robert W., Oakland
- District 67 Rudnicki, Shelley J., Fairfield
- District 68 Collamore, Amanda Noelle, Pittsfield
- District 69 Cray, Dean A., Palmyra
- District 70 Poirier, Jennifer Lynn, Skowhegan
- District 71 Ducharme, John E., III, Madison
- District 72 Dunphy, Larry C., Embden
- District 73 Soboleski, Michael, Phillips
- District 74 Hall, Randall C., Wilton
- District 75 Landry, H. Scott, Farmington
- District 76 Lyman, Sheila A., Livermore Falls
- District 77 Schmersal-Burgess, Tammy L., Mexico
- District 78 Henderson, Rachel Ann, Rumford
- District 79 Andrews, John E., Paris
- District 80 Jackson, Caldwell, Oxford
- District 81 Millett, H. Sawin, Jr., Waterford
- District 82 Ness, Caleb Joshua, Fryeburg
- District 83 Riseman, Walter N., Harrison
- District 84 Walker, Mark, Naples
- District 85 Pomerleau, Kimberly J., Standish
- District 86 Fay, Jessica L., Raymond
- District 87 Boyer, David W., Poland
- District 88 Shaw, Kathleen A., Auburn
- District 89 Lee, Adam R., Auburn
- District 90 Libby, Laurel D., Auburn
- District 91 Morris, Joshua K., Turner
- District 92 Wood, Stephen J., Greene
- District 93 Craven, Margaret M., Lewiston
- District 94 Cloutier, Kristen Sarah, Lewiston
- District 95 Abdi, Mana H., Lewiston
- District 96 Lajoie, Michel A., Lewiston
- District 97 Mason, Richard G., Lisbon
- District 98 Galletta, Joseph C., Durham
- District 99 Golek, Cheryl A., Harpswell

District 100 Ankeles, Daniel J., Brunswick
District 101 Arford, Poppy T., Brunswick
District 102 Sachs, Melanie F., Freeport
District 103 Bell, Arthur L., Yarmouth
District 104 Arata, Amy Bradstreet, New Gloucester
District 105 Graham, Anne, North Yarmouth
District 106 Bagshaw, Barbara A., Windham
District 107 Pringle, Jane, Windham
District 108 Terry, Maureen Fitzgerald, Gorham
District 109 Boyle, James Allen, Gorham
District 110 Moriarty, Stephen W., Cumberland
District 111 Kuhn, Amy D., Falmouth
District 112 Crockett, W. Edward, Portland
District 113 Lookner, Grayson B., Portland
District 114 Collings, Benjamin T., Portland
District 115 Brennan, Michael F., Portland
District 116 Zager, Samuel Lewis, Portland
District 117 Moonen, Matthew, Portland
District 118 Ross, Rachel Talbot, Portland
District 119 Skold, Charles A., Portland
District 120 Dhalac, Deqa, South Portland
District 121 Kessler, Christopher J., South Portland
District 122 Reckitt, Lois Galgay, South Portland
District 123 Millett, Rebecca J., Cape Elizabeth
District 124 Warren, Sophia B., Scarborough
District 125 Murphy, Kelly Noonan, Scarborough
District 126 Gattine, Andrew, Westbrook
District 127 Rielly, Morgan J., Westbrook
District 128 Salisbury, Suzanne M., Westbrook
District 129 O'Neil, Margaret M., Saco
District 130 Copeland, Lynn H., Saco
District 131 Gramlich, Lori Kathryn, Old Orchard Beach
District 132 Sheehan, Erin R., Biddeford
District 133 Malon, Marc G., II, Biddeford
District 134 Gere, Traci L., Kennebunkport
District 135 Sayre, Daniel, Kennebunk
District 136 Sampson, Heidi H., Alfred
District 137 Carlow, Nathan M., Buxton
District 138 Blier, Mark John, Buxton
District 139 Woodsome, David, Waterboro
District 140 Parry, Wayne R., Arundel
District 141 Lanigan, Lucas John, Sanford
District 142 Mastraccio, Anne-Marie, Sanford
District 143 Fredericks, Ann Marie, Sanford
District 144 Adams, Jeffrey Sean, Lebanon
District 145 Hobbs, Daniel J., Wells
District 146 Runte, Walter Gerard, Jr., York
District 147 Sargent, Holly T., York
District 148 Lavigne, Thomas A., Berwick
District 149 Roberts, Tiffany Danielle, South Berwick
District 150 Meyer, Michele, Eliot
District 151 Mathieson, Kristi Michele, Kittery

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, given under my hand at Augusta this first day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-two.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

For the purpose of ascertaining the presence of a quorum, a certified roll of the Representatives-Elect was called by the Clerk of the House of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature.

A roll was taken. 147 out of 151 members answered to their names and accordingly the Chair declared a quorum present:

Those absent were:
Representative-Elect Costain of Plymouth
Representative-Elect Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach
Representative-Elect Mastraccio of Sanford
Representative-Elect Reckitt of South Portland

Motion by Representative-Elect GOLEK of Harpswell, that Representative-Elect BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, Representative-Elect COLLINGS of Portland, Representative-Elect CRAVEN of Lewiston, Representative-Elect FAY of Raymond, Representative-Elect MADIGAN of Waterville, Representative-Elect MASON of Lisbon and Representative-Elect MILLETT of Waterford be appointed a Committee to wait upon the Governor and inform her that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives-Elect have assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives and request her attendance to administer to them the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

Subsequently, Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged.

The Governor, the Honorable JANET T. MILLS, entered and administered to the members-elect and they subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to discharge their official duties.

Governor **MILLS**: Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm so honored to be here this morning to welcome every one of you newly-elected Members of the House of Representatives and your families and friends, of which there are just a few, and to thank you for the hard work that went into becoming a Member of this Body. Thousands of hours, I know, spent talking with constituents, with groups, knocking on doors and listening to the people of Maine across this whole State, hearing their concerns and being ready to reflect them in action in this Body. It is the end of a road and the beginning of a road. And I want to especially thank the families who have sacrificed so much, who have offered their loved ones, their friends, to help you all get here and know that they have a willing ear in you in this Body and I'm very much looking forward to working with every one of you as the months draw near, as we get to work on so many big issues facing the people of Maine. You've heard about the issues, you're ready to put them into action, and I appreciate your being here. And I appreciate your being here and committed to act with each other and with the people of Maine with civility and competency and common sense and compassion.

So, with that, please stand, all newly-elected representatives of the State of Maine, please stand and raise your right hand. And somebody has a problem, they have a child in their arm, that's okay. Is everyone here who needs to be here? All right. Please repeat after me. I, (members stated their full names), do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, so long as I shall continue a citizen thereof. So help me God. I, (members stated their full names), do swear, that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my abilities the duties incumbent on me as a Representative in

the 131st Legislature of the State of Maine, according to the Constitution and laws of the State. So help me God.

Thank you very much. Congratulations.
The Governor retired.

Motion by Representative ABDI of Lewiston, that Representative PERRY of Calais, Representative O'NEIL of Saco, Representative SAMPSON of Alfred, Representative ZEIGLER of Montville, Representative MATLACK of St. George and Representative MORRIS of Turner be appointed a Committee to receive, sort and count votes for the Speaker.

The CLERK: The Clerk recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Stover.

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you. I am Representative Holly Stover and it is my honor and privilege to stand before you today to nominate Rachel Talbot Ross for Speaker of the House.

Congratulations to everyone sitting before me. Serving in this Body is an honor but also a sacrifice. You are truly putting Maine before self. You all exemplify our State motto, Dirigo. Whether in this Body as State Representative or as our Assistant Leader or in her work prior to joining the House, Rachel Talbot Ross is the epitome of Dirigo, too. Rachel is a servant-leader of the utmost character.

Rachel and I crossed paths roughly 15 years ago when I was working for DHHS and she was working on civil and human rights issues with incarcerated men and women throughout our correctional system. I came to know of Rachel's passion, empathy and dedication through one of my best friends. You see, my best friend's husband was one of those who Rachel was working with and I would often hear about this extraordinary woman who was working as a volunteer with inmates to better themselves in their current circumstances but also to prepare them for when they were no longer incarcerated. I came to understand that she didn't just do this off and on, but it was part of her life's mission; to be of service to others and, for those least among us, to work at improving their quality of life. She did this work personally, visiting prison facilities up to twice per month for 15 years before getting elected to the State Legislature.

My work at DHHS and Rachel's work within our correctional system complemented one another. I was invested in addressing the healthy integration of newly-resettled immigrants and Rachel was working with not only the incarcerated population but with other marginalized communities to prepare them for success in the next stages of their life. When we met, we immediately appreciated the work that the other was doing. We discussed the difficulties but, more importantly, the opportunity and potential that comes when people can not only lift themselves up and their families but by doing so our State, our Maine.

Our paths crossed again when I first ran for the Legislature. Rachel came to help. Throughout my campaign and then during my first term, she was there when I needed her. We often commiserated and knew that we were never too far apart to lend an ear to the difficult days we all have in doing this work. However, our relationship isn't why I support Rachel. Her style of servant-leadership is. Rachel and I both passed legislation which needed to be funded by the Legislative Council. Like always, there were finite resources to fund legislation. Rachel, sitting on the Legislative Council as the Assistant Majority Leader, had been working with a large stakeholder group for over two years on her bill. It just needed funding, which it was. When my legislation came up for a vote, it failed. But what did surprise me is what came next. Rachel asked for her legislation

to be reconsidered for a vote. She explained that she was asking for her policy priority not to be funded and, in its place, to fund mine, of which they did. She sacrificed her priorities for mine.

This is the type of leader that Rachel is. She has spent a lifetime putting others before self. She has put the needs of the caucus before self. And it goes without saying that as the sole African-American woman out of 151 legislators, she has endured, sacrificed, and put this Body before self. She has put her beloved Maine before self. It is with my utmost pleasure and honor to nominate Rachel Talbot Ross to be the next Speaker of the Maine House. Thank you.

Representative **STOVER** of Boothbay moved that the name of RACHEL TALBOT ROSS of Portland be placed in nomination for the Speaker of the House.

The CLERK: The Clerk recognizes the Representative from Farmington, Representative Landry.

Representative **LANDRY**: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I second the nomination of Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland for Speaker of the House and I wish to speak to my motion.

The CLERK: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LANDRY**: Thank you. Some might wonder why the only Democratic Representative from the counties of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset, Franklin, and Oxford would be nominating to leadership a Representative from Portland. It's simple; I'm the only Democrat representing any of those counties but I am not the only one representing rural towns in the second district, the other Maine.

In our conversations, Rachel has proven to me that she understands our issues and will work with the rural caucuses to support our communities. In fact, Rachel is already showing leadership. In the debate around the issues before us today, Rachel has listened to all sides of this debate. She understands her new role and I believe she will lead with the interests of our great state as a priority.

Rachel has advocated for small farms and other small businesses, worked to protect our heritage industries, defended our natural resources, tackled income inequality, battled food insecurity, demanded equity in our health care system, and much more. Rachel is a leader for all Mainers. She has experience, having served as the Assistant Majority Leader in the 130th Legislature, and Rachel is a worker. Anyone who has encountered her knows this to be true. In the same way that she has worked tirelessly under this dome for the last six years, she has been working out on the campaign trail to make sure that we held the majority. Her experienced policy-negotiating background has created new coalitions with Democrats, Republicans, and stakeholders outside of Augusta. It is this network that will bolster our efforts as we work closely with House Republicans, Senators, and Chief Executive Mills to pass a moral budget and to create policy that will make a difference for all of our constituents.

Throughout this process, Rachel will highlight all of us throughout the State and lead with humility. I know we all share a commitment to making a positive difference for all who reside in this great State and I firmly believe that Rachel is the person who can lead us to fulfill our collective promise. For these reasons and many others, I am honored to second the nomination of Rachel Talbot Ross to be Speaker of the Maine House. Thank you.

Representative **LANDRY** of Farmington seconded the motion.

Representative **PLUECKER** of Warren moved that nominations cease.

Motion by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, that the Committee cast one vote for the House for RACHEL TALBOT ROSS.

The Honorable ROBERT B. HUNT, Clerk of the House of the 130th Maine Legislature, administered the necessary oath of office to qualify the Speaker of the House to enter upon the discharge of her official duties.

The House was called to order by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland.

At this point, pursuant to House Rule 201, the Chair addressed the House.

Speaker **TALBOT ROSS**: Thank you all so very, very much. I am incredibly humbled and honored for the trust and the faith that you've placed in me to lead this distinguished Body. It is so wonderful and heartwarming to see this Chamber full of families, dignitaries, and friends for today's ceremony. Thank you all for being here.

I would like to respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on the land collectively of the Wabanaki Tribes, the Houlton Band of Maliseets, the Micmac Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and the Penobscot Nation and the indigenous groups that have stewarded this land before them and I pay my respect to elders both past and present.

Two years ago, amidst the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 130th Legislature was sworn in down the road at the Augusta Civic Center, masked and sitting six feet apart. But at the time, it felt like we were 600 feet apart because we could not see each other's eyes and we couldn't see each other's smiles and we were entirely alone, without our families to witness in person a life-defining moment. For anyone who has lost a loved one to this tragedy, please accept our deepest condolences and our heartfelt best that you are able to find peace and an ability to move forward with them in your prayers. But today we are here. Fifty years ago; fifty years ago, my father, Gerald E. Talbot, stepped into this Chamber to become Maine's first African-American Legislator since statehood. For years, he lived on four hours of sleep, working here in Augusta, driving home to Portland for dinner with our family, and then heading to work at the *Press Herald*, setting type for the morning edition, where he used his breaks at work to connect with constituents and review the House Calendar. I am grateful to my father, who is here today, for being such a clear, guiding light and a role model. I was 12 years old at the time and my sisters and I couldn't have been more proud. I remember when he first started, I was sitting in the gallery and looking down. Little did I imagine that 50 years later, I would be standing here with you today.

Together with my mother, Anita Cummings Talbot, our family, like so many families in Maine, devoted our lives to improving not only our own but the lives of our neighbors and our community. However, I also witnessed the struggle that my parents had, sometimes simply not having enough. My father held a patchwork of jobs throughout my childhood, my mother was a family counselor, his father was the head cook at the Bangor House, her mother was a housekeeper and cook. Our story was that of our neighbor's story and the neighbors all across this State; living from paycheck to paycheck. If we ever had a little extra left over, we knew not to waste it because there

was always someone who needed that help. This is the story of Maine, looking out for one another and making sure that no one is left behind.

I am a proud ninth generation African-American Mainer. I stand before you today and I want any child in our State to know that this, today, this is possible. I call in the spirit of my mother's mother, Thomasina Cummings, born in Columbia, South Carolina, and I honor my mother's mother's mother, Lulu Thomas, who never left her home state of South Carolina. With her, I invoke the memory of my paternal grandmother, Avela Talbot, a native of Frederickton, New Brunswick, where when she came to Maine, she was the captain of the Bangor High School girls' basketball team and she was named an All State in both 1928 and 1929. I call into this Chamber the memory of my great-grandmother, Pansy Diamond, a native of Woodstock, New Brunswick, who was a caterer in Bangor. And I honor Margaret Gosman, born in Lisbon, Maine, Eldwillia Waters Macintyre, Maryanne Crawley and so many others, whose sacrifice you will probably never know because all of my possibilities were built from their labor and their love. I bring forth their memories.

For any who cannot see their future, please know that this is possible. My story is the African-American story. My story is a story of labor. My story is a story of resiliency and sacrifice. My story is a story of a patriot. My story is a story of our democracy. My story is yours. Because there's opportunity and possibility in everything and I have to say to you, and I will say this often, that I am so very glad for this blessing. And, yes, there can be very little doubt I am my father's proud daughter.

I want to say thank you to Representative Holly Stover and Representative Scott Landry for your trust in moving my nomination for Speaker of the House. Thank you. But thank you all. Thank you all for making the decision to run for office to represent the districts that you call home, earning the incredible distinction to be chosen by a majority of voters to be their entrusted voice in the 131st Legislature of the Maine House of Representatives.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Speaker Ryan Fecteau and the work of the 130th Legislature. I know that you join me in expressing our appreciation for his and their extraordinary contributions to the people of the State of Maine during such a critical time in the history of our State. Thank you, Speaker Fecteau.

I would also like to once again acknowledge that we are joined today by three incredible Speakers of the House of Representatives who have earned their own place in Maine's history. I ask that you join me in calling forth former Speaker Libby Mitchell, who also served as President of the Senate, Hannah Pingree and Sara Gideon. Please join me in a round of applause for these people. I want to thank you three for being here with us today. You served with grace, intellect, and an unwavering dedication to the State Constitution. You are a model to be revered. I know our colleagues here today will join me in thanking each of you for your work that you've done to encourage the full and equitable participation for women and historically excluded people in public service.

So, there are many firsts to celebrate as we open this legislative session. The most obvious and, to my mind, the most important one, is this is the first time that we have come together. Each of us 151 lawmakers are here to represent the varied and, at times, seemingly diverse interests of people from every part of our beloved State, where we live, work, raise our families, and worship. We are here to shine a light on the problems facing our State and to seek solutions but we are also here to realize opportunity and to put our value for the common

good into action, illuminating the best path forward to a just, healthy, and equitable society. And like those who came before us, we will do it the same way that my people did for centuries, by locating our true north, symbolized by the north star at the top of our State Seal, and by tirelessly following it toward our collective liberation and wellbeing.

When I look to Maine's night sky, I do not see a disparate collection of distant objects competing for my attention. No, I see pictures. The very same ones that my ancestors saw. I see the drinking gourd constellation that Harriet Tubman used to locate the north star, which she used, in turn, to lead our people out of enslavement. Looking around this Chamber, I see 151 bright stars and the light that each of you bring, collectively making up a promising constellation, a whole greater than sum of its parts.

We sit in this room, embarking on our shared work, as the most diverse Legislature in the history of Maine. It is my unwavering belief, though, that we are one Maine. That leads me to trust that our diversity of voices and lived experiences are the resolution in meeting Maine's greatest challenges: housing affordability, food security, education, economic justice, preserving our natural resources and addressing climate change. To solve these problems, we owe it to the people of Maine. They deserve us to work together.

Poverty is present throughout our State, where more than one in four children live in poverty in Westbrook, Waterville and Wilton. Higher education is hard to pay for no matter where you live in Maine. A third of adults in Kennebunkport, Bucksport and Ashland have some college credit but no degree. Housing affordability is a significant problem across Maine, leaving many Mainers to choose between paying the rent and paying for other essentials like prescriptions or for food. Half the renters in Falmouth and Freeport spend at least 35% of their income on rent, as do half the renters in Fairfield and Dover-Foxcroft. Too many families are food insecure. One in five households in parts of Portland and Sanford as well as in Presque Isle and Skowhegan do not know where their next meal is going to come from. And we all know that the price of a tank of heating oil is just too high.

But we must recognize challenges that have come before us were met with strong resiliency. We must recognize the ancestors of Maine who have been living on this land since time immemorial. We must keep moving forward to a future where we truly recognize and honor the Wabanaki Nations. We must continue to improve State and Tribal relations, which will include reinstating a joint session of the Legislature for a State of the Tribes Address. A State of the Tribes Address to this Legislature has happened only once in Maine's history, over 20 years ago. I know that this is hard work. I know this is hard work. And yet it is work that encourages us all to find our common goals and come together to get it done. I encourage each of you to likewise name your ancestors and forebearers, whose memory you carry. Call their names and thank them for their love and sacrifice to get you here today.

In closing, I want to recognize that some of you have been serving in this Chamber for years, while others are just arriving. But what is true for all of us is that we have never been exactly here before. It is an exciting moment. Our potential as a collective Body has yet to be tapped. Our resolve has yet to be tried. Our contributions to this State have yet to be determined. I want you to know that I will be a Speaker for all. I will be a Speaker that listens, that has an open door, and that no one, absolutely no one, should feel that they are on the outside. Treating each other with respect and decorum is the only way that we will make progress for all Mainers.

So, as your new Speaker, I propose that at the outset of this 131st legislative session, we commit to holding this collective vision. That it is not our individual lights but rather this unique constellation that we form which represents a new hope for our State and for the people that we serve. We have a history to write. We can do this together. I want to thank you for the absolute privilege of standing here and being part of this Body with you. But, Papa, I say thank you.

Motion by Representative BELL of Yarmouth, that Representative DILL of Old Town, Representative DHALAC of South Portland, Representative ZEIGLER of Montville, Representative RISEMAN of Harrison and Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan be appointed a Committee to receive, sort and count votes for the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Speaker recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Terry.

Representative TERRY: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Members of the House. The very first time I met Rob Hunt was at a training before I ran for office. I was very impressed with his passion and his dedication for sharing what he had learned with others. I was also impressed and a little intimidated by the speed at which he spoke. Very quickly. But I never missed a word he said. The next time I saw Rob was when I came to the State House to visit, to see what I was getting myself into, and that time he was in his role as Clerk and the speed at which he spoke was nothing compared to what I had seen the first time. I thought only auctioneers could speak that fast. But, again, even with the Speaker speaking behind him, I certainly could clearly make out that this man knew his work and was excellent at his job. The last time I met Rob Hunt before having the honor to work with him was when he offered to drive me in my hometown to knock on doors during my very first election. Let me tell you this; fast-talking is not his only speedy endeavor. He is a pretty quick driver as well. That day holds my record for as many doors knocked in one three-hour period.

I mention all this because with his speed also comes accuracy. I have learned this over the past six years. Rob is a person who is dedicated to understanding his job with excellent accuracy. I dare say there is no one else in this building that knows parliamentary rules like he does. Not only is he so comfortable with the text before him while we do our work here, but Rob also makes himself available most times to any member in this caucus or the other caucus to help us understand the votes that we're taking in this Chamber and in the committee room.

His wit, his humor, and his calm and collected demeanor make Rob Hunt approachable for this very serious role. I can't wait for new members on both sides of the aisle to get to know Rob. He and his staff will make working in the State House seem effortlessly by welcoming you all with open arms and the institutional knowledge you'll need to make this job a job that you love. I'll end it here because I'm at about two minutes and if I've learned nothing else from Rob, the short speech is the only speech. I hope you all will join me in voting for our favorite Clerk of the House, Rob Hunt. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Representative TERRY of Gorham moved that the name of ROBERT B. HUNT of Yarmouth be placed in nomination for the Clerk of the House.

Representative PLUECKER of Warren seconded the motion.

Representative BLIER of Buxton moved that nominations cease.

Motion by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, that the Committee cast one vote for the House for ROBERT B. HUNT.

The Speaker of the House administered the necessary oath of office to qualify the Clerk of the House of the 131st Maine Legislature to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

Motion by Representative DILL of Old Town, that Representative MEYER of Eliot, Representative ZAGER of Portland, Representative CARLOW of Buxton and Representative HALL of Wilton be appointed a Committee to receive, sort and count votes for Assistant Clerk of the House.

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

Representative DOUDERA: Madam Speaker, I move that the name of Michelle Dunphy of Old Town be placed in nomination for Assistant Clerk of the House and wish to speak incredibly briefly to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative DOUDERA: Thank you. It's obvious that our new Assistant Clerk will have some very big shoes to fill, but I know that Michelle is up to the task. Not only has she served us for so many years, but she has been a longstanding, years ago, waitress at Pat's Pizza. And if she can wrangle the hungry Black Bears and give them their pepperoni and cheese pizzas, she can definitely help wrangle us. Thank you.

Representative DOUDERA of Camden moved that the name of MICHELLE DUNPHY of Old Town be placed in nomination for Assistant Clerk of the House.

Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford seconded the motion.

Representative DUCHARME of Madison moved that nominations cease.

Motion by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, that the Committee cast one vote for the House for MICHELLE DUNPHY.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 4)

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

December 7, 2022

Robert Lindstrom

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Robert,

Pursuant to House Rule 201.1 (l) (b), I am pleased to appoint you as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the 131st Legislature.

On behalf of the entire House membership, I would like to welcome you and wish you well as you carry out your duties and responsibilities.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 5)

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

December 7, 2022

Lisa Baker

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Lisa,

Pursuant to House Rule 201.1 (l) (b), I am pleased to appoint you as the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms for the 131st Legislature. On behalf of the entire House membership, I would like to welcome you and wish you well as you carry out your duties and responsibilities.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Speaker of the House administered the necessary oaths of office to qualify the Assistant Clerk of the House, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

Motion by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon, that Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative DODGE of Belfast, Representative DOUDERA of Camden, Representative RANA of Bangor, Representative HAGGAN of Hampden, Representative RISEMAN of Harrison and Representative KESSLER of South Portland be appointed a Committee to notify the Governor of the organization of the House.

ORDER

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 1)

ORDERED, that the House Rules of the 130th Maine House of Representatives are the House Rules of the 131st Maine House of Representatives.

READ.

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

Representative LIBBY: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your patience, first of all. Madam Speaker, I object to Item 7-A in Rule 401, part 4 of the House Rules. In brief, in the interests of transparency, I believe this rule should be struck from the House Rules and I will read it; 7-A reads may not video or photograph during deliberations. A member may not video or photograph other members of the House during deliberations. I would like to request a Roll Call. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE** of the House Order.

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 Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham, and inquires why the Member rises.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to pose a parliamentary question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: I would like clarification on what exactly this roll call vote is on, what is the motion before us?

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is the passage of House Rules. If you are in favor of adopting the House Rules, you would vote yes; if you are opposed, you would vote no.

The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: If a Member disagreed with a particular part of those rules, would the rules need to be adopted first before that particular part could be amended?

The SPEAKER: In order to amend the rules, the rules need to be established in place.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 1

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyle, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Carmichael, Cloutier, Cluchey, CollamoreA, CollamoreC, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Fredericks, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hasenus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lanigan., LaRochelle, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, MillettH, MillettR, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Perkins, PerryA, PerryJ, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Sargent, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Strout, Terry, Theriault, WhiteB, Williams, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Boyer, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Foster, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lavigne, Libby, Mason, Paul, Quint, Riseman, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, WhiteJ, Wood.

ABSENT - Campbell, Costain, Gramlich, Jackson, Lyman, Mastraccio, Paulhus, Reckitt, Supica, Warren.

Yes, 112; No, 29; Absent, 10; Excused, 0.

112 having voted in the affirmative and 29 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, and accordingly the House Order was **PASSED**.

Subsequently, Representative DOUDERA of Camden reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 3)

**INDIAN TOWNSHIP TRIBAL GOVERNMENT
PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE
JOINT TRIBAL COUNCIL**

November 9, 2022

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Clerk Hunt:

It is certified that the Passamaquoddy Tribe duly elected Aaron M. Dana, as Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative to the Maine Legislature for a term of four years commencing October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2026.

Tribal Elections were held at the Pleasant Point and Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservations in September of 2022. If you need more information, please call me at (207) 853-5110 or (207) 853-5154.

Sincerely,

S/Mary J. Lola

Passamaquoddy Joint Council Clerk

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 2)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

December 1, 2022

To the Speaker of the House in the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine, having tabulated the returns of the votes cast for State Representatives at the General Election held on the eighth day of November in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-two;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS; that the following named persons having received a plurality of the votes cast, appear to have been elected:

District 1

Appleby, Dana Marie, Saint John Plantation 1,253
Theriault, Austin L., Fort Kent 2,809

District 2

Albert, Roger Clarence, Madawaska 2,403
Paradis, Bernard, Cross Lake Township 1,676

District 3

Babin, Mark Michael, Fort Fairfield 2,065
McCrea, David H., Fort Fairfield 1,925

District 4

Guerrette, Timothy C., Caribou 2,387
Rossignol, Jordyn Victoria, Caribou 1,357

District 5

Freeman, Kevin Gregory, Presque Isle 1,398
Underwood, Joseph F., Presque Isle 1,857

District 6

Ardell, Donald J., Monticello 3,294

District 7

Swallow, Gregory L., Houlton 2,752

District 8

Quint, Tracy Lynn, Hodgdon 2,966
Ritchie, Kevin B., Lee 1,107

District 9

Chambers, John Victor, Calais 1,727
Perry, Anne C., Calais 1,947

JOURNAL AND LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, December 7, 2022

<u>District 10</u>		<u>District 32</u>	
Davis, Kenneth Ralph Jr., East Machias	2,777	Foster, Steven D., Dexter	3,195
Hinerman, Melissa Louisa, Machiasport	1,770	<u>District 33</u>	
<u>District 11</u>		Costain, Danny E., Plymouth	2,989
Rogers, Roland Eben III, Jonesport	1,425	Todd, Donovan E. III, Etna	1,181
Strout, Tiffany, Harrington	3,031	<u>District 34</u>	
<u>District 12</u>		Griffin, Abigail W., Levant	2,622
Faulkingham, Billy Bob, Winter Harbor	2,727	Pietrowicz, Joshua James, Glenburn	237
Gott, Roy D., Franklin	1,806	Roma, Frank Lawrence, Glenburn	1,394
<u>District 13</u>		<u>District 35</u>	
Linnehan, John, Ellsworth	1,724	Thorne, James E., Carmel	3,871
Worth, J. Mark, Ellsworth	2,371	<u>District 36</u>	
<u>District 14</u>		Card, Kristen M., Hampden	1,979
Coston, Stephen A., Bar Harbor	1,814	Haggan, David G., Hampden	2,930
Williams, Lynne A., Bar Harbor	3,620	<u>District 37</u>	
<u>District 15</u>		English-Flanagan, Margaret D., Winterport	2,397
Eaton, Holly, Deer Isle	2,865	Paul, Reagan L., Winterport	2,619
Joyce, Jason, Swan's Island	2,417	<u>District 38</u>	
<u>District 16</u>		Garrold, Heather Elizabeth, Knox	586
Hanrahan, Stephen M. III, Brooksville	1,927	Hymes, Benjamin C., Waldo	2,155
Milliken, Nina Azella, Blue Hill	3,396	Stanicki, Robyn M., Unity	1,475
<u>District 17</u>		<u>District 39</u>	
Hutchins, Sherman H., Penobscot	2,240	Dodge, Janice S., Belfast	3,442
Russell, Ronald B., Verona Island	2,398	Hemenway, Stephen J., Northport	1,572
<u>District 18</u>		<u>District 40</u>	
Carmichael, Meldon H., Greenbush	2,697	McLaughlin, Joseph M., Lincolnville	2,074
Throckmorton, Timothy B., Dedham	1,852	Zeigler, Stanley Paige Jr., Montville	2,950
<u>District 19</u>		<u>District 41</u>	
Campbell, Richard H., Orrington	4,043	Butterworth, Susan Lee, Camden	1,328
<u>District 20</u>		Doudera, Victoria W., Camden	4,083
Morin, Jennifer Marie, Brewer	2,004	<u>District 42</u>	
O'Connell, Kevin J.M., Brewer	2,057	Geiger, Valli D., Rockland	2,784
<u>District 21</u>		Tranfaglia, Roger V., Rockland	1,464
Rana, Ambureen, Bangor	1,878	<u>District 43</u>	
Reeves, Marianna H., Bangor	1,350	Matlack, Ann Higgins, Saint George	2,927
<u>District 22</u>		Sprague, Heather Anne, Cushing	1,959
Damon, Douglas K., Bangor	1,176	<u>District 44</u>	
Supica, Laura D., Bangor	1,653	Pluecker, William D., Warren	2,372
<u>District 23</u>		Robinson, Crystal L., Hope	2,017
Roeder, Amy J., Bangor	2,563	<u>District 45</u>	
<u>District 24</u>		Collamore, Clinton E., Waldoboro	2,502
Hathaway, Roderick Allen, Veazie	1,474	Madison, Lynn J., Waldoboro	2,198
Perry, Joseph C., Bangor	2,465	<u>District 46</u>	
<u>District 25</u>		Crafts, Lydia V., Newcastle	3,693
Bowie, Cameron S., Orono	507	Parise, Merle James II, Newcastle	1,988
Osher, Laurie J., Orono	1,842	<u>District 47</u>	
<u>District 26</u>		Fossel, Leslie T., Alna	1,230
Dill, James F., Old Town	2,419	Goodkowsky, Evan C., Wiscasset	1,773
Ouellette, Christina M., Bradley	1,647	Polewarczyk, Edward J., Wiscasset	2,055
<u>District 27</u>		<u>District 48</u>	
Crockett, Peter A., Argyle Township	1,349	Stover, Holly B., Boothbay	3,570
Drinkwater, Gary, Milford	3,030	Warren, Tricia L., Boothbay Harbor	2,056
<u>District 28</u>		<u>District 49</u>	
DiPentino, Natalie D., Enfield	1,164	Hepler, Allison L., Woolwich	3,284
Gifford, Irene A., Lincoln	2,840	James, Kelly, Georgetown	2,413
<u>District 29</u>		<u>District 50</u>	
Javner, Kathy Irene, Chester	2,549	Desjardins, Jason E., Bath	1,248
York, Laurie E., TA R7 Wels (Dolby)	1,805	Paulhus, Sean C., Bath	2,993
<u>District 30</u>		<u>District 51</u>	
Sidell, W. Louis Jr., Guilford	1,529	Baker, Linda L., Topsham	2,140
White, James Lee, Guilford	3,008	Jauch, Rebecca L., Topsham	3,090
<u>District 31</u>		<u>District 52</u>	
Evans, Richard A., Dover-Foxcroft	1,754	Cluchey, Sally Jeane, Bowdoinham	2,504
Perkins, Chad Richard, Dover-Foxcroft	2,108	Lewis, Peter A., Bowdoinham	1,937

JOURNAL AND LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, December 7, 2022

District 53

Beckwith, Jane L., Randolph 1,966
Lemelin, Michael, Chelsea 2,672

District 54

Bussell, Charles J., Gardiner 1,987
Delli Paoli, Nicolas, Gardiner 166
Montell, Karen L., Gardiner 2,142

District 55

Shagoury, Daniel Joseph, Hallowell 2,781
Wiseman, Phillip Ryan, Hallowell 2,284

District 56

Ackley, Kent, Monmouth 2,360
Greenwood, Randall Adam, Wales 2,449

District 57

Hasenfus, Tavis Rock, Readfield 2,639
Wilson, Corey S., Readfield 2,257

District 58

Neal, Robert Smith, New Sharon 2,578
Newman, Daniel J., Belgrade 2,874

District 59

LaRochelle, Raegan French, Augusta 2,418
Orr, James E., Augusta 1,577

District 60

Bridgeo, William R., Augusta 2,354
Clardy, William L., Augusta 1,589

District 61

Bradstreet, Richard T., Vassalboro 2,838
Davidoff, Amy J., Vassalboro 1,743

District 62

Harwath, Lindsey D., China 438
Smith, Katrina J., Palermo 2,666
Swift, Pamela J., Palermo 1,505

District 63

Cyrway, Scott Wynn, Albion 3,728

District 64

Madigan, Colleen M., Waterville 2,230
Malcolm, Ruth Ann, Waterville 997

District 65

Brown, Tammy, Waterville 1,000
White, Bruce A., Waterville 2,055

District 66

Barnes, Alicia, Oakland 1,771
Nutting, Robert W., Oakland 2,671

District 67

Rudnicki, Shelley J., Fairfield 2,262
Sezak, Robert, Fairfield 1,791

District 68

Collamore, Amanda Noelle, Pittsfield 2,366
Short, Stanley Byron Jr., Pittsfield 1,698

District 69

Cray, Dean A., Palmyra 2,960
Hale, Stephen A., Canaan 1,013

District 70

Lofving, Iver W., Skowhegan 1,311
Poirier, Jennifer Lynn, Skowhegan 2,007

District 71

Ducharme, John E. III, Madison 2,693
Perkins, Allison Mary, Cornville 1,403

District 72

Dunphy, Larry C., Embden 3,379

District 73

House, Vincent Michael, Sandy River Plantation 2,108
Soboleski, Michael, Phillips 2,824

District 74

Hall, Randall C., Wilton 2,945
Kimber, Gregory M., Temple 1,733

District 75

Estabrook, Tiffany E., Chesterville 1,336
Landry, H. Scott, Farmington 2,513

District 76

Hoke, Tamara N., Jay 1,713
Lyman, Sheila A., Livermore Falls 2,530

District 77

Bishop, Bonita L., Hartford 1,354
Schmersal-Burgess, Tammy L., Mexico 2,694

District 78

Henderson, Rachel Ann, Rumford 2,306
Thurston, David P., Bethel 1,899

District 79

Andrews, John E., Paris 3,197

District 80

Jackson, Caldwell, Oxford 3,722

District 81

Millett, H. Sawin Jr., Waterford 2,517
Sipe, Daniel A., Norway 2,118

District 82

Burnett, Nathan Robert, Hiram 2,229
Ness, Caleb Joshua, Fryeburg 2,275

District 83

Dodge, Donna, Denmark 2,299
Riseman, Walter N., Harrison 2,491

District 84

Powers, Barry F., Sebago 1,919
Walker, Mark, Naples 2,720

District 85

Pomerleau, Kimberly J., Standish 2,337
Struebing, Christopher V., Standish 1,920

District 86

Fay, Jessica L., Raymond 2,421
Foster, Gregory E., Raymond 2,272

District 87

Boyer, David W., Poland 2,434
Taylor, Mary-Beth H., Poland 1,548

District 88

Shaw, Kathleen A., Auburn 2,074
Sorcek, James W., Auburn 2,003

District 89

Lee, Adam R., Auburn 1,342
Weisner, Benjamin J., Auburn 1,022

District 90

Libby, Laurel D., Auburn 3,075

District 91

Lipson, Hildie J., Wayne 1,793
Morris, Joshua K., Turner 3,014

District 92

Wood, Stephen J., Greene 3,728

District 93

Craven, Margaret M., Lewiston 2,143
McCarthy, Robert Andrew, Lewiston 1,113

District 94

Beaudoin, Janet Inger, Lewiston 1,211
Cloutier, Kristen Sarah, Lewiston 1,813

District 95

Abdi, Mana H., Lewiston 1,854

District 96

Connor, Jonathan M., Lewiston 2,040
Lajoie, Michel A., Lewiston 2,161

JOURNAL AND LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, December 7, 2022

District 97

Gaiason, Scott Newman, Lisbon 1,445
 Mason, Richard G., Lisbon 2,157

District 98

Breen, Orion Evenstar, Pownal 2,384
 Galletta, Joseph C., Durham 2,599

District 99

Davis, Stephen Warner, Harpswell 2,234
 Golek, Cheryl A., Harpswell 3,034

District 100

Ankeles, Daniel J., Brunswick 4,056

District 101

Arford, Poppy T., Brunswick 3,889
 Jackson, Ravi, Brunswick 1,492

District 102

Finegan, James J. Jr., Freeport 1,503
 Sachs, Melanie F., Freeport 3,693

District 103

Bell, Arthur L., Yarmouth 4,554

District 104

Arata, Amy Bradstreet, New Gloucester 2,636
 Gass, Anne B., Gray 2,385

District 105

Graham, Anne, North Yarmouth 3,084
 Reed, David Lawrence, North Yarmouth 2,231

District 106

Bagshaw, Barbara A., Windham 2,373
 Reed, Dana, Windham 2,350

District 107

Hall, Michael David, Windham 2,213
 Pringle, Jane, Windham 2,349

District 108

Terry, Maureen Fitzgerald, Gorham 3,017

District 109

Boyle, James Allen, Gorham 2,987
 Velozo, Joseph Edwards, Gorham 1,928

District 110

Jordan, Scott William, Cumberland 1,790
 Moriarty, Stephen W., Cumberland 4,006

District 111

Kuhn, Amy D., Falmouth 3,927
 York, Jeffrey, Falmouth 1,753

District 112

Crockett, W. Edward, Portland 3,781
 Ryan, Tammy, Portland 1,487

District 113

Lookner, Grayson B., Portland 3,274

District 114

Collings, Benjamin T., Portland 3,347

District 115

Brennan, Michael F., Portland 4,224

District 116

Holman, Dale J., Portland 742
 Zager, Samuel Lewis, Portland 4,007

District 117

Moonen, Matthew, Portland 3,755

District 118

Ross, Rachel Talbot, Portland 2,865

District 119

Doyle, Peter Ignatius, Portland 604
 Skold, Charles A., Portland 4,226

District 120

Dhalac, Deqa, South Portland 2,470
 Dougherty, Michael J., South Portland 1,180

District 121

Kessler, Christopher J., South Portland 3,615
 Walter, Tammy, Cape Elizabeth 1,195

District 122

Reckitt, Lois Galgay, South Portland 4,074

District 123

Christy, Annie, Cape Elizabeth 1,562
 Millett, Rebecca J., Cape Elizabeth 4,491

District 124

Markowski, Lisa, Scarborough 1,728
 Warren, Sophia B., Scarborough 3,609

District 125

Livingston, Alan R., Scarborough 1,938
 Murphy, Kelly Noonan, Scarborough 2,863

District 126

Gattine, Andrew, Westbrook 3,186

District 127

Poitras, Ryan C., Westbrook 980
 Rielly, Morgan J., Westbrook 2,491

District 128

Ellis, Charles William, Westbrook 1,358
 Salisbury, Suzanne M., Westbrook 2,879

District 129

DuPuis, Stephen R., Saco 1,300
 O'Neil, Margaret M., Saco 2,707

District 130

Copeland, Lynn H., Saco 2,624
 Sirois, Theodore L., Saco 1,620

District 131

Eccleston, Scott B., Old Orchard Beach 1,789
 Gramlich, Lori Kathryn, Old Orchard Beach 3,170

District 132

Keenan, Timothy S., Biddeford 909
 Sheehan, Erin R., Biddeford 2,182

District 133

Malon, Marc G. II, Biddeford 3,331

District 134

Gere, Traci L., Kennebunkport 3,273
 Jordan, Elizabeth A., Kennebunkport 1,917

District 135

Hirshfield, Jared Hayes, Kennebunk 1,867
 Sayre, Daniel, Kennebunk 3,530

District 136

Sampson, Heidi H., Alfred 2,569
 Wagner, Joseph Andrew, Lyman 2,072

District 137

Carlow, Nathan M., Buxton 2,758
 Faucher, Robert W., Buxton 2,057

District 138

Barden, Michael Thomas III, Limington 1,913
 Blier, Mark John, Buxton 2,434

District 139

Piche, Nancy Germaine, Waterboro 1,395
 Woodsome, David, Waterboro 2,573

District 140

Parry, Wayne R., Arundel 2,954

District 141

Lanigan, Lucas John, Sanford 2,219
 McAdam, John M., Sanford 1,766

District 142

Buck, Pamela Diane, Sanford 1,302
 Mastraccio, Anne-Marie, Sanford 1,501

District 143

Davie, Wesley John, Sanford 1,600
 Fredericks, Ann Marie, Sanford 1,778

District 144

Adams, Jeffrey Sean, Lebanon 2,425
 Norwood, Daniel M., Acton 1,496

District 145

Hobbs, Daniel J., Wells 2,774
 Roche, Timothy M., Wells 2,591

District 146

Moulton, Bradley S., York 2,180
 Runte, Walter Gerard Jr., York 3,035

District 147

Koopman, David D., York 1,670
 Sargent, Holly T., York 3,294

District 148

Lavigne, Thomas A., Berwick 2,190
 Wheeler, Margaret, Berwick 1,943

District 149

Roberts, Tiffany Danielle, South Berwick 2,578
 Rouillard, Mark A., North Berwick 2,021

District 150

Meyer, Michele, Eliot 3,232
 Rumery, David J., Eliot 1,768

District 151

Mathieson, Kristi Michele, Kittery 3,751

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast for State Representatives at the General Election, as reported to me on the returns from the cities, towns, and plantations of the State.
 S/Shenna Bellows
 Secretary of State

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Speaker of the House is authorized, at the Speaker's discretion, to permit radio or television in the Hall of the House of Representatives during joint conventions.

READ and PASSED.
 Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 2)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that there be prepared by the Legislative Information Office, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, after adjournment of the present session, a compilation of all the Bills and Resolves considered by both branches of the Legislature, showing the history and final disposition of each Bill and Resolve.

READ and PASSED.
 Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 3)

WHEREAS, Maine is in the midst of a housing crisis due to the lack of quality affordable housing options in communities all across the State; and

WHEREAS, the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom unit is unaffordable to the average household renter according to data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the number of existing houses on the market in the State is below average and the median house price in the State is unaffordable for the median income household in 15 out of 16 counties according to the Maine State Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, the number of unhoused residents has reached an all-time high as the State heads into the cold winter months; and

WHEREAS, the lack of quality affordable housing is exacerbating the State's workforce shortage and making it harder for employers to fill critical positions; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Select Committee on Housing is established as follows.

1. Establishment. The Joint Select Committee on Housing, referred to in this order as "the committee," is established.

2. Membership. The committee consists of 13 members of the Legislature: 3 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and 10 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate shall appoint no more than 2 Senators from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Senate and no more than one Senator from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Senate. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint no more than 6 Representatives from the party holding the largest number of seats in the House of Representatives and no more than 4 Representatives from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the House of Representatives. Nothing in this section precludes the appointment of a member who is not a member of the party holding the largest number of seats or the 2nd largest number of seats in the chamber. The first-named Senate and House members shall serve as cochaIRS of the committee.

3. Authority. The committee shall hold public hearings and work sessions on any legislation referred to it and shall vote on and report out the legislation to the appropriate chamber in the manner prescribed in Joint Rule 310. In addition to reporting out legislation referred to it, the committee is authorized to submit legislation to the House of Representatives concerning housing matters. The committee is also authorized to seek information from experts on housing matters.

4. Meetings; staff assistance. The committee may meet on days and at locations jointly authorized by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Legislative Council shall provide staffing to the committee. The cochaIRS of the committee may request technical assistance from appropriate sources whenever necessary. The committee shall report out all legislation referred to it in accordance with deadlines established by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5. Termination. Unless the committee is extended by joint order, the committee terminates with the final adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

READ and PASSED.
 Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 2)

ORDERED, that each adjournment of the House be until 10 o'clock of the following morning unless otherwise ordered.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 3)

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to furnish each member of the House with a copy of the Advance Journal and Calendar of the House, said copy to be on the desk of each member or electronically distributed at the opening of each daily session.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 4)

ORDERED, that the remaining subordinate officers of the House be appointed to serve for the present biennium as follows: by the Clerk of the House, a Chief Calendar Clerk, 2 Advance Journal and Calendar Clerks, an Administrative Assistant, a Journal Copy Clerk, a House Reporter, a Senior Systems Support Coordinator, a Telephone Receptionist and a Chamber Activities Coordinator; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House is hereby authorized to accept resignations and fill any vacancies of said subordinate officers during the biennium.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 5)

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House is authorized to invite the clergy of Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner to officiate as Chaplains of the House or to invite clergy from other areas of the State as requested by any member of the House; and be it further

ORDERED, that all clergy acting as Chaplains of the House shall receive \$30 for each officiation, to be paid on payrolls to be approved by the Clerk of the House.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 6)

ORDERED, that the Speaker of the House is authorized, at the Speaker's discretion, to permit radio or television in the Hall of the House of Representatives while the House is in session.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 7)

ORDERED, that Representative Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland be declared Speaker of the House of Representatives for a term to expire on December 4, 2024; and be it further

ORDERED, that Robert B. Hunt of Yarmouth be declared Clerk of the House of Representatives for a term to expire on December 4, 2024; and be it further

ORDERED, that Michelle Dunphy of Old Town be declared Assistant Clerk of the House of Representatives for a term to expire on December 4, 2024.

READ and PASSED.

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:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Winter Emergency Energy Relief and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 8) (L.D. 1)

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

Came from the Senate, under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

Under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill was **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 1)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules of the 130th Legislature are the Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature, except for the following changes:

Joint Rule 202 is amended by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

All requests for bills and resolves submitted by Legislators for a first regular session must be submitted in complete form, as provided in Joint Rule 208, to the Revisor of Statutes by 4:00 p.m. on December 30, 2022.

Joint Rule 208 is amended by striking out all of the third paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

The Revisor of Statutes shall prepare in concept form a bill submitted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 149 that proposes to make unified appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of state government for the biennium or supplemental appropriations and allocations, and shall include an Internet address at which may be found the text of the draft unified budget bill or supplemental budget bill submitted to the Revisor of Statutes by the Governor.

Joint Rule 306 is amended by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

A quorum is 7 members, and a quorum must be present to start a meeting or to take a vote. A quorum is not required to continue a meeting. If a quorum is present, but there is not a Senator among those present, the committee may take a vote only with the authorization of the President of the Senate. For purposes of establishing a quorum, only those members physically present at the meeting may be counted.

Joint Rule 310 is amended by striking out all of subsection 5 and inserting in its place the following:

5. Committee Voting. The committee clerk shall prepare the committee jacket or jackets following the vote and obtain signatures from committee members as required. If all members are not present for the vote, the bill must be held until the following periods have expired.

A. If any member is absent from the committee at the time of the vote, that member's vote may be registered with the clerk up until noon on the 2nd business day following the vote.

B. If the presiding officers jointly determine that operational needs of the Legislature so require, they may require that a member who is absent from the committee at the time of the vote register that member's vote by noon on the next business day following the committee vote.

A member who is not physically present at the meeting but who received permission from that member's presiding officer to participate by electronic means is deemed to be present for purposes of voting, but only for voting on committee reports as specified in subsection 2 and only if the member votes in a manner that provides opportunity for those physically present at the meeting to see and hear how that member voted.

A member may be excused from voting only for a conflict of interest under Joint Rule 104.

Except for a motion to adjourn, a question may not be decided and official action may not be taken in the absence of a quorum.

No committee vote on a bill may be taken after 10:30 p.m. or before 7:30 a.m. unless authorized by the presiding officers. If the presiding officers provide this authorization, they shall notify the other members of the Legislative Council concurrently.

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

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 2)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall purchase such services, supplies and equipment as may be needed to carry on the business of the Senate and House, respectively.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 3)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all printing and binding authorized by the Legislature shall be under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 4)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a sufficient number of copies of the Legislative Record for the 131st Legislature be printed, one copy for each of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who so desires, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, with the remainder to be deposited with the State Law Librarian for exchange and library use; and be it further

ORDERED, that a suitable index be prepared for such Legislative Record, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 5)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives as advances on account of compensation established by statute, 12 payments on a biweekly basis commencing January 4, 2023, according to lists certified to the State Controller by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 6)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, is authorized and directed to prepare weekly, from expense accounts to be submitted to the Executive Director by the members of the Senate and House, expense rosters showing the entitlement of each member for meals allowance and lodging reimbursement and to transmit the same to the State Controller for processing and payment, in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Interim Committee of the 101st Legislature created to study and report on a method of implementing the administration of the provision of law relating to the mileage and expenses for members of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Executive Director of the Legislative Council is authorized and directed to provide the forms necessary for such purpose and to provide suitable space in the Executive Director's office for the filing and safekeeping of all such expense accounts and other papers and records pertaining thereto.

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

At this point, a message was received from the Senate, borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland of that Body, that the Senate had been duly organized by the election of the Honorable TROY D. JACKSON of Aroostook as President, DAREK M. GRANT of Augusta as Secretary and JARED T. ROY of Winterville Plantation as Assistant Secretary, and the Senate was ready to transact such business as might come before it.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland of that Body, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 3:45 p.m. in the Hall of the House for the purpose of electing an Attorney General, a Secretary of State and a State Treasurer.

At this point the Speaker appointed Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston to inform the Senate that the House was duly organized for business.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 3:45 p.m. and the Speaker appointed Representative TERRY of Gorham to convey this message to the Senate.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis" (H.P. 4) (L.D. 2)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook.

Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 7)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 10:00 in the morning.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Subsequently, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

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

Subsequently, Representative TERRY of Gorham reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

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

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Troy D. Jackson, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

The **PRESIDENT**: Nominations are now in order for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2023 and 2024. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce.

Senator **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I nominate Shenna Bellows of Manchester for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2023 and 2024 and I wish to speak to my motion.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce, nominates Shenna Bellows of Manchester for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2023 and 2024. The Member may proceed.

Senator **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is my honor to nominate Shenna Bellows for reelection as our Secretary of State. Secretary Bellows has had an extraordinary first term as Secretary of State, demonstrating a tireless work ethic, an incredible responsiveness to constituent needs, and a collaborative approach to working with all of us in the Legislature on both sides of the aisle to ensure fair and secure elections, a customer-centric Bureau of Motor Vehicles and public access to our State archives.

Regardless of ideology or geography, we all have a vested interest in ensuring the integrity of Maine elections. I was pleased to work with Secretary Bellows and the 130th Legislature over the last two years on a couple of bills that improved security and accessibility of elections, online voter registration and strengthening the chain of custody for ballots and election equipment. I've seen firsthand how hard she works to find common ground and to ensure the necessary resources to implement policies passed by the Legislature.

I know we are all proud that we just witnessed a record turnout in the 2022 general election for a midterm election here in our State. Some observers even say Maine was first in the nation for voter turnout based on unofficial results. There is no question that the calm, dedicated leadership that Secretary Bellows showed as our Chief Elections Official contributed to this achievement. When threats to election workers were on the rise nationwide, Secretary Bellows worked the Legislature on unanimous legislation to protect election workers and then institute a first-ever de-escalation training for clerks with the FBI. She also organized the first-ever cybersecurity summit for municipal clerks last year and piloted security assessments for municipal polling places this fall. Her leadership in advancing cybersecurity and physical security of our clerks led to her election as the member of the Executive Committee of the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center - that's a big mouthful - a national organization of federal and state and local officials dedicated to protecting critical election infrastructure.

She was a strong voice to educate the public about checks and balances in our elections and to fight back against misinformation, disinformation and malinformation. Secretary Bellows has brought this same passion, work ethic and willingness to work with all sides on other issues as well. Business groups were thrilled with her leadership and shepherding passage of a cutting-edge bipartisan bill to implement remote online notarization in 2023. She's committed to modernization not only of our election technology but also of the corporation system. An example of this system in the archives and in the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. An example of this is launching an appointment system in the BMV to lessen the wait times for customers dramatically. At the State Archives, she has worked to make our State's records more accessible to the public and shown how these historic records inform the present. Like bringing the Proclamation of Continuation of the Right of Suffrage to a celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment this past summer.

In summary, Secretary Bellows has delivered on her promises to strengthen and protect our democracy and to modernize technology to better serve the people of Maine, all while overseeing a department of over 400 employees. I am

proud to nominate her for reelection and I hope you will join me in voting for Shenna Bellows for Secretary of State.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

On the motion of Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester was placed in nomination for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2023 and 2024.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Chair recognizes Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Connell.

Representative **O'CONNELL**: Mr. Chair, I second the nomination of Shenna Bellows of Manchester and wish to speak to my motion.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Member may proceed.

Representative **O'CONNELL**: Thank you, sir. I rise to second the nomination of Shenna Bellows for Secretary of State. As a member of the Transportation Committee, it has been my pleasure to work with Secretary Bellows closely on Bureau of Motor Vehicle issues. The Transportation Committee traditionally has been a committee that takes a bipartisan approach to the work that we do and it's important that the people who appear before us do the same. I've been impressed with Secretary Bellows and her willingness to listen and work hard and find solutions to problems. Over the last two years, we've worked on issues as diverse as catalytic converter theft, titles modernization and license plates. She always does her homework and she's recruited and supported an excellent team of leaders over at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Her promise to us two years ago was to leverage technology to improve government services and she has made great strides in doing that. I know people in my area appreciate the new appointment system at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that allows working people with busy lives to make an appointment online to get in and out quickly. People moving to the area have really appreciated the convenience of automatic voter registration at the BMV, which she launched in June.

I am confident that Secretary Bellows is the best person for the job to modernize our license and vehicle systems to be more customer-centric and to implement the complex and critically important service of electronic liens and titles over the next few years. She understands the power of technology innovation and she stays focused on what's most important, making government work for the people. Her dedication to customer service includes helping us provide constituent services to the people that we represent. If any of you on either side of this aisle in this Chamber ever has a constituent that needs help with a license or other vehicle issue, you can count on Secretary Bellows and her team to respond efficiently and kindly.

I attended the ribbon cutting for the new BMV branch in Bangor last winter and I was struck by the efforts she had taken to improve the experience not only for the customers but also for the employees at the BMV. It's important to have leaders who will support their workers. Secretary Bellows has done an excellent job supporting her employees and running her department. In the evening on election day, I was standing outside the Brewer polling place when Secretary Bellows showed up. She had started the day in Kennebunk, worked her way north, and was still planning on stopping at Bangor, Orono and Indian Island polling places. That is a reflection of the energy and commitment to the people of Maine that makes me proud to support her for reelection as Secretary of State and I hope you will do the same. Thank you, sir.

Representative **O'CONNELL** of Brewer seconded the motion.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved that nominations cease.

On further motion of the same Senator, one vote was cast, on the part of the Convention, for the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2023 and 2024.

The Chair declared the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester the Secretary for the State of Maine for political years 2023 and 2024.

The **PRESIDENT**: Nominations are now in order for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2023 and 2024. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Rielly.

Representative **RIELLY**: Mr. Chair, I nominate Henry Beck of Biddeford for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2023 and 2024 and wish to speak to my motion.

The **PRESIDENT**: The Representative from Westbrook, Representative Rielly, nominates Henry Beck of Biddeford for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2023 and 2024. The Member may proceed.

Representative **RIELLY**: I've had the privilege of working with Henry over the past couple of years in the Legislature. Whenever I've had a constituent question or needed guidance on a piece of legislation, Henry has always been there to answer any questions no matter the time or the day. His advice and assistance have been valuable to me, my constituents and all of us sitting here in the House Chamber today.

Henry is a dedicated public servant with a long track record of service stretching from when he was a teenager serving on the Waterville City Council to here, serving in the House Chamber as a State Representative and now as our Treasurer for the past two terms. He has shown time again that he's the right person to continue to guide our State's finances. As of this fiscal year, our cash pool has yielded over \$21 million and our stable credit rating has been affirmed again and again.

With Henry's leadership, he has led four bond sales, with each having record low cost. This is even with rates rising in 2022. He was able to successfully negotiate sales with all in true interest cost for tax exempt bonds of less than 1%. With interest rates at an all-time high, we need a Treasurer who will provide steady leadership with the long-term financial health of Maine and its people front of mind. Henry has proven that he is that leader. Henry has shown that he is able to work with all, regardless of party partisan affiliation, as seen with his work to launch the bipartisan Maine ABLE program, helping Mainers with disabilities save money, and the Maine retirement savings program which will help aging Mainers retire with dignity.

Henry has also returned over \$65 million to 169,000 people, businesses, nonprofits, and local governments in unclaimed property and Maine, under Henry's leadership, ranks among the highest in return rate of unclaimed property.

As we begin the 131st Legislature, Henry has shown that he's the right person to continue to lead the Office of the Treasurer and support our work for the Maine people.

On motion of Representative **RIELLY** of Westbrook, the Honorable Henry Beck of Biddeford was placed in nomination for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2023 and 2024.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec County, Senator LaFountain.

Senator **LaFOUNTAIN**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I second the nomination of Henry Beck of Biddeford and wish to speak to the motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **LaFOUNTAIN**: I'd like to supplement what was just said about Henry and talk about before he had the position. I'd like to take you back to the year 2006. At the time, I was a fire captain in Waterville, where Henry went to college, and as a college student, he ran for city council. At the time, my fire department, I was the ranking administrative person, we did not have a fire chief at the time, we had massive layoffs and we had people leaving the department because the conditions were so poor. Henry as a Colby student was elected and I can say nothing but he was the catalyst that got the department back on track and got us functional. He did such things as working with the towns in the area, worked with Winslow, where we consolidated part of the fire department, which saved both communities \$50,000 a year, which was really outstanding for that time.

I would like to speak that everybody that I talked with Henry about over the years, and this is as City Councilor, working with the departments, getting the city online, everybody has come back with everybody respects Henry tremendously. To me, he is probably the biggest man of integrity that you're going to find out there with things that he has done. I don't think you can find anybody closer to having a Midas touch than you will with Henry. His successes have been tremendous.

I believe that Henry has the right mindset, he's demonstrated he's got the right skillset, the temperament to do the job, and above all, besides respect, he has the trust of many, many people and I hope you join me in supporting Henry Beck. Thank you.

Senator **LaFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec seconded the motion.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved that nominations cease.

On further motion of the same Senator, one vote was cast, on the part of the Convention, for the Honorable Henry Beck of Biddeford for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2023 and 2024.

The Chair declared the Honorable Henry Beck of Biddeford the State Treasurer for the State of Maine for political years 2023 and 2024.

The PRESIDENT: Nominations are now in order for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2023 and 2024. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Mr. Chair, I nominate Aaron Frey of Bangor for the office of the Attorney General for the political years 2023 and 2024 and wish to speak to my motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen, nominates Aaron Frey of Bangor for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2023 and 2024. The Member may proceed.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Colleagues of the Joint Convention, it is a privilege to nominate Aaron Frey for another term as Attorney General.

Aaron and I arrived here together as freshmen in the Maine House a decade ago and served three terms together until we made him Attorney General four years ago. I am proud that we made a defense attorney our Attorney General. And not just that, but an attorney who took numerous child protective and criminal defense cases through our indigent legal services commission. He knows from experience how much folks in crisis need advocates to help them and I look forward to working with him to address this urgent crisis.

The Attorney General is a big job. They run the State's largest law firm, serve as Maine's chief law enforcement officer, and represent the State in legal matters ranging from child support enforcement, civil rights and consumer protection to the prosecution of homicides, felony drug cases and major frauds. That's a wide range of work but there are several areas I want to highlight of Aaron's work.

We all know the impact of the opioid crisis on our communities and many of us have lost friends or family members. Aaron has done the work to hold the manufacturers and distributors of these opioids accountable for the harm they have caused, winning judgments that result in millions of dollars for treatment, recovery and prevention. Aaron has initiated legal action against the manufacturers of PFAS and PCB chemicals that have damaged our health and destroyed the livelihoods of our farmers. Aaron has made the State a full party to all litigation against NOAA's efforts to increase restrictions on the lobster industry and has authorized \$3.2 million in legal fees for the administration to retain expert outside legal counsel to see this fight through. Aaron has defended the work of the Legislature. One example is Representative Jess Fay's bill to protect victims of domestic violence from negative credit reporting due to financial abuse. When credit agencies sued, his office successfully defended our law in federal court.

As we look ahead, we must recognize the reality that Maine values are under attack in the federal courts. Mainers have made it clear that they support reproductive freedom, LGBTQ equality, and a safe and inclusive society for racial, ethnic, and religious minority communities, and we need an Attorney General who will vigorously defend our values and our laws in court. I have seen Aaron do exactly that time and time again. I know he will continue to do so over the next two years and I ask you to join me in supporting him for reelection as Attorney General. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

On motion of Representative **MOONEN** of Portland, the Honorable Aaron M. Frey of Bangor was placed in nomination for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2023 and 2024.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo.

Senator **ROTUNDO**: Mr. Chair, I second the nomination of Aaron Frey of Bangor and wish to speak to my motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **ROTUNDO**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Men and Women of the Joint Convention, it is an honor to second the nomination of Aaron Frey for the office of Attorney General.

I had the pleasure of serving with Aaron in the House and on the Legislature's Appropriations Committee for six years and can attest to his integrity, knowledge and work ethic. Experienced as a defense attorney and in family law, he brought his insight to his work to the Appropriations Committee where he focused on judicial, criminal justice and legal issues in the budget. We spent literally hundreds of hours together as budgets got hammered out. Aaron was always thoughtful, perceptive, conscientious and hardworking. He was also

generous in spirit and humble, with a wonderful sense of humor. The knowledge of the law and the life experience as an attorney which he brought to our work was invaluable to the Committee as we made critical decisions about the budget.

Aaron has brought these same skills and experiences to his role as Attorney General. He has distinguished himself in his work with Attorneys General across the country and with members of the Maine Legislature on issues of law and policy that are important to the people of Maine. He has not been afraid to take legal action against manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid crisis and he has not hesitated in authorizing outside counsel to develop and initiate legal action against the manufacturers of so-called "forever chemicals" that are polluting our State.

We need an Attorney General who will bring expertise, integrity and professionalism to the position. We also need someone who's not afraid to defend and promote the values that are important to Maine citizens such as the protection of the environment, expanded access to health care, corporate accountability and the protection of the rights of all Maine people. Aaron Frey has an outstanding and proven track record as Maine's Attorney General. Please join me in supporting Aaron Frey for another term as our Attorney General. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin seconded the motion.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved that nominations cease.

On further motion of the same Senator, one vote was cast, on the part of the Convention, for the Honorable Aaron Frey of Bangor for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2023 and 2024.

The Chair declared the Honorable Aaron Frey of Bangor the Attorney General for the State of Maine for political years 2023 and 2024.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Secretary of the Senate was directed to notify the Governor of the election of Constitutional Officers.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its chamber.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 12)
JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE OUTRAGE OF THE MAINE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE DECISION BY WHOLE FOODS MARKET, BLUE APRON HOLDINGS AND HELLOFRESH GROUP TO DISCONTINUE SELLING MAINE LOBSTER

WHEREAS, Whole Foods Market has announced that it will stop selling Gulf of Maine lobster in its more than 500 stores nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group have made similar announcements; and

WHEREAS, the announcements were in response to a statement by the London-based Marine Stewardship Council that it is suspending the certification of sustainability for the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery, due to concerns over harm to the North Atlantic right whale; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the statement by the Marine Stewardship Council, there has never been a North Atlantic right whale death attributed to Maine lobster gear; and

WHEREAS, Maine lobster harvesters have a 150-year history of sustainability, and Maine's lobstering community has consistently demonstrated its commitment to protecting North Atlantic right whales; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative has stated that the Marine Stewardship Council's suspension of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery's certification of sustainability is due to flaws with the National Marine Fisheries Service's regulatory plan and not due to actions by the lobster harvesters themselves; and

WHEREAS, the suspension of the lobster fishery's certification of sustainability and the refusal of Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group to continue to sell Gulf of Maine lobster harm the livelihoods of hard-working men and women up and down Maine's coast; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to express our disappointment over the outrageous decision by Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group to discontinue the sale of Gulf of Maine lobster; our belief that the Marine Stewardship Council, Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group are following misguided recommendations rather than science; our hope that the Marine Stewardship Council, Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group will reconsider their potentially devastating decision; and our hope that the public will refuse to patronize Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group until those retailers recognize that their concerns regarding the danger of Maine lobstering to the North Atlantic right whale are unfounded and flawed and that their refusal to sell lobster from the Gulf of Maine based on these unfounded and flawed concerns maligns the men and women in Maine engaged in the lobster industry and Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group resume selling lobster from the Gulf of Maine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the corporate offices of Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group and to the Marine Stewardship Council.

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

READ.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION** of the Joint Resolution.

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

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of the Joint Resolution. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 2

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Andrews, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyer, Boyle, Bradstreet, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cloutier, Cluchey, CollamoreA, CollamoreC, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Cyrway, Davis, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Jauch, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Madigan, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, MillettH, MillettR, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Connell, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, PerryA, PerryJ, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Quint, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Sargent, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, WhiteB, WhiteJ, Williams, Wood, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Brennan, Dunphy.

ABSENT - Costain, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Lookner, Mastraccio, O'Neil, Paulhus, Reckitt.

Yes, 140; No, 3; Absent, 8; Excused, 0.

140 having voted in the affirmative and 3 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

**ENACTOR
Emergency Measure**

An Act to Provide Funding for Winter Emergency Energy Relief and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program

(S.P. 8) (L.D. 1)

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

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

We seem to have forgotten that we are not a rubber stamp but we are an equal branch of government. Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle ran on government transparency and restoring democracy, yet this first legislative action that we are debating now does just the opposite and it seeks to silence Mainers' voices by bypassing the full legislative process.

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Member will defer. The Chair inquires why the Member rises.

Representative **MOONEN**: The Member is questioning the motives of Members of this Body, specifically the language saying we're trying to silence the people of Maine.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative Moonen of Portland objected to the comments of Representative Libby because she was questioning the motives of other Members of the House.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would remind all Members to not impugn the character of all the other Members. The Member may proceed.

The Chair reminded all Members that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have heard from my own party that it's okay to skip a committee hearing because Maine people won't show up, anyway. To me, that is a shocking statement. We are not responsible for coercing Maine citizens to show up but we are responsible for giving them the opportunity to make their voices heard regardless of whether they show up or not. Bypassing the full legislative process is a disservice to our constituents, whatever the subject matter.

The 131st Legislature is not the first Maine Legislature to be in existence. The Chief Executive could've called the 130th Legislature in to deal with this in special session a month ago, or even earlier this year when I asked for a special session regarding my proposal to suspend the gas tax. Winter comes every year in Maine and fuel prices have been rising for quite some time, so it's hardly a surprise that folks would be struggling to pay for heating. If this is an emergency, why weren't we called in a month ago? Why is only 10% of this half-billion-dollar bill going to pay for direct heat relief via HEAP. We have been tasked with stewarding the money that is taxed from our citizens responsibly, and that weighs heavily on me today.

Madam Speaker, over the last week, I have heard repeatedly that we should support this bill in order to keep the money away from you, to forestall the funding of policies with which we disagree. While I know that you and I certainly do disagree on a number of policies, I don't see that as a valid reason to abandon the policies and principles of fiscal responsibility and conservatism that I hold dear. Spending money so that someone else cannot spend it is inadequate justification for spending half a billion dollars of taxpayer money.

LD 1 is not a long-term solution but, instead, it's a band-aid being applied to a gaping wound, designed to make a splash in the media and placate people into complacency so that they don't ask us to fix the issues that are driving up all of the costs of our utilities, not just heat. If we want to make a real difference, let's talk about net metering and our solar policies, policies that are driving up the cost of electricity in Maine. How about we suspend the sales tax? With record-setting inflation, the cost of goods have gone up across the board and everyone is paying more in taxes as a result. Of course, people would like checks. That's not in question. It's time to stop supporting stopgap measures that don't help anyone for the long-term. Supporting this bill sets a very expensive precedent, both financially and otherwise, by establishing that it's not a big deal to ignore the process, silencing Maine people as long as it's in the name of altruism. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I really rise in support of this bill.

Now, I will agree it's not perfect. I don't think any of us are going to find anything that we like about all of it. But I'm going to tell you a little bit about what I saw while I was campaigning in Washington County. We're a rural county. I saw a young woman with two children who was working, who is losing her rent subsidy and her rent is going up and is now having trouble finding a place to live. I have an elderly gentleman who was a professor in another state who only had Social Security, whose rent he could not afford and spent a good five months living in his car in the woods. I also met a young couple who just moved to the area because her husband has a job, they're living in a camper because they cannot find a house they can afford. This is rural Maine. These are the people. When we're talking about housing assistance, when we're talking about heating, it is about survival and it's about survival through to get us to the point that we can do the work we need to do and we need to start to do in January.

I am in support of this. Do I agree with every bit of it? No. I don't agree with the checks. But, I also know people in order to get to work needs to repair their car so they can work, or needs to get some food for the family because that's all they can do. Those checks will help those people. Now, I'm one of the people that will receive one of the checks. I don't need it. I didn't need the 850 that was done before. So, what did I do? And I think that we can all have a choice to do something if you don't need it. I gave my money to the local food pantry for those people who need help. Am I my brother's keeper? And I say yes, I'll do what I can. This bill gets people to a point so that we can continue to do the work we need to do in January and therefore, I'm voting for this. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We're here today because of a failure of energy policies originating from Washington D.C. That's what's bringing us here today. Due largely in part to policies adopted there and, no doubt, exacerbated by the war in Europe, our energy prices have been driven right through the roof. I'll probably be voting in favor of this bill today despite my objections to it because I truly do care about the people who are affected and can't pay their bills right now. However, this bill certainly should've gone through the committee review process because it is in those processes we find out some glitches or failures of the bill or weaknesses of the bill and that's how we correct them. Nevertheless, I will support the bill.

My big concern is that if our country does not get its energy policies together and straightened out, we'll be back here again in a few months dealing with the same situation. People will not be able to pay their heating costs because our policies caused a situation where they cannot afford their heating bills. It's a new paradigm out there right now. I think we need to ask our federal government to review their policies. I think the State of Maine needs to review its energy policies, because if I can use a football metaphor, I think we're outkicking our coverage here. We're putting in requirements that we're not equipped to meet. If I thought our energy policies could significantly affect global climate change, I wouldn't have these concerns, but it doesn't. We could go to zero emissions tomorrow and it won't make a bit of difference. So, I hope looking forward we won't be back here again someday. This, by the way, is Pearl Harbor Day, a day that should live in infamy, and I hope that we don't look back at this as a day that we regret what we've done. I think we need to

make some changes going forward and I hope in the future people will be receptive to those changes. Thank you.

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

Representative **SKOLD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As we entered the House Capitol Building this morning, it seems like so long ago, there was a group arrayed in the lower chamber below and they were a group of ministers who were praying for those going without homes and finding themselves without shelter this winter, this holiday season, and they were urging and hoping for our action today on the matter. They were down there like, it seemed to me, you know, pardon for the Christmas reference, but it seemed like the host of heavenly angels were down there looking for our support and bringing the voices of those who they are helping around the State and the needs they are seeing into this Chamber.

My friend is one of those ministers. She called me last week saying that some families had been turned away from the shelter because there was no room at the inn. Yesterday, she called me again and she said that her church, a congregation in Falmouth, is taking in three families. Eighteen people total will be living in her church basement over the next two weeks, over the Christmas holiday, through Christmas pageants and planning and choir practice and Christmas Eve services. They will be rallying together as a body and a community to support those in need. To be honest, my friend said that she wishes there was another way. She wishes it didn't have to be this way. But she told me that she felt if she said no, that if she turned them away, if she turned down the request to house these three families, that she didn't know how she would be able to preach the Christmas message this year.

All across the State, people are making room for those in need. They're asking us to make room in our budget, in our deliberation, in our emergency package, to make room for those in need of shelter this winter. I will also go on the record saying that I'm not happy with every single thing in this emergency measure. I wish the limits on the checks were set differently, perhaps. It's a compromise bill that needs our support. I wish, like my friend, that there was another way but I know this is the way before us. I will gladly support it and I join the heavenly chorus in asking for your support as well. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will vote no on this bill and the biggest reason is because it's not honoring the full legislative process. I believe it is important to let stakeholders testify and to use the work session of the bill process to ensure that all that could be and should be involved are part of the process and it's important that this part be very clear; this is not a vote against offering assistance back to our constituents, it is a vote to respect the legislative process I was elected to honor. Thank you.

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

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to preface my remarks by saying I agree with everything that my friend from Vassalboro just said a few minutes ago.

Madam Speaker, just this morning, every Member of this Chamber was sworn in to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Maine. We took an oath to promote our common welfare. And this, my friends, is an object of paramount significance.

With record inflation continuing to distress Mainers in every corner of our State, with a frigid and difficult winter fast approaching, and \$280 million to spare, it is incumbent upon us all to act without delay.

I have listened with close attention to the concerns raised by my colleagues with respect to process and I will concede that this is a highly irregular proposal. The Joint Rules of the Legislature provide that every bill, without regard for its subject or perceived importance, shall be afforded a public hearing, a work session in one or several committees of jurisdiction, and a report to the Legislature with their findings. This is a sound process. But the House today must balance its own procedures against the Constitutional imperative to support, protect, and defend the welfare of the most vulnerable among us.

Luther Cushing, the author of one of the most prolific works of parliamentary law, states that, quote, the great purpose of all the rules and forms by which the business of a legislative assembly is conducted, whether constitutional, legal, or parliamentary, is to subserve the will of the assembly rather than to restrain it, to facilitate and not to obstruct the expression of its deliberative sense, end-quote.

Madam Speaker, my sense is that not one single Mainer should go cold this winter. Not one. Now, it's true that this supplemental budget is not just about heating and energy assistance. Among other things, it appropriates \$21 million for emergency housing and short-term emergency shelters for Mainers, as well as lawfully present asylum seekers. Lawfully present asylum seekers. I've never voted for a budget the contents of which I entirely supported. And I understand that some of my colleagues may approve of the provisions relating to heating assistance but may oppose other portions of the legislation. To those of us grappling with this important question, I appeal in closing that the urgency with which we must respond to this looming heating crisis cannot be overstated.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kessler.

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I first have to say that I rise in support of the pending motion. I do so with hesitation. However, I understand that there is a greater need that we need to meet tonight, and that is to help those in Maine who are suffering the most and are at risk of homelessness immediately.

It's clear that there's frustration around the process, disagreement on what income threshold is middle class or the best way to deploy this fortune that we have before us right now. If you are fortunate enough to not need these \$450 checks, please consider donating to your local organizations that are on the ground doing the work to respond to this crisis. And I know that we have many fingers pointing at reasons why we are in the place that we're at and to name a few, in my humble opinion, we are here because of the unintended consequences of treating housing as a commodity rather than a foundational human right, our dependency on fossil fuels in which the price is subject to the whims of hostile foreign nations, and blatant corporate profiteering and rent-seeking in all aspects of our economy where basic needs are the core business.

I feel optimistic, though, Madam Speaker. I feel optimistic that we have a tremendous group of legislators in this room on both sides of the aisle that will meet the challenges before us with critical thinking and open hearts and open minds and I'm looking forward to meeting the challenge with all of you. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand in acknowledgment of the difficulty that many of us will have as we decide how to vote on this motion. On one hand, the cost of energy has risen so rapidly that many Mainers will not be able to afford heat this winter and they need help. On the other hand, much of the rise in cost is due to impractical government policies and if people are forced to feel the full impact of those policies, perhaps they'll demand political changes that lead to long-term solutions. As for rental assistance, on the one hand, people could be forced to live outside during the coldest part of winter if we don't help them. On the other hand, everybody knew that the emergency rental assistance program would end and yet we weren't prepared for it. We need long-term solutions and not band-aids. So, what do the people of our communities want from each one of us to do as their Representatives right now? I knocked on over 1600 doors during my campaign and the number one concern that people had was how they were going to afford to heat their homes this winter. And their second most common concern was that Republicans and Democrats need to work together. Now, I don't make many promises during my campaigns, but one that I did make was that I would do whatever it takes to make sure that Democrats and Republicans work together to keep people from freezing to death this winter. Madam Speaker, you know that you and I have worked in good faith together to accomplish this and I will continue to work with you on long-term solutions. Therefore, my conscience dictates that I support this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to pose a question to the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: In reviewing LD 1, I have a question on page six, section C-2, beginning on line eight, the transfer between Homestead Property Tax exemption reimbursement. My direct question is; is this taking \$6,674,993 from the Homestead Reimbursement program that will disproportionately affect our municipalities?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to first address the question directly and then, if I might, proceed with some comments that I think reflect other members in my caucus.

The sources that are used in the part referenced by the Representative from Wales are in an effort to continue to transfer those remaining \$850 inflation relief checks that were authorized by virtue of filings that occurred right up through October but for which the money has run out. The Administration, looking at the homestead reimbursement account, which is done annually, basically reimbursing the municipalities for the homestead exemption that we now provide has shown a balance. They have completed their payments, there is that \$6.4 million balance available for this use of one-time purposes.

There are other pieces within that paragraph, too, that I might point out. There is also an administration balance within the DAFS account for the \$850 piece and that is being put forward and within the sum remaining in order to complete those \$850 checks, \$4.4 million is needed within the overall package. So, this is part of one strategy to complete the \$850 payments to those that are eligible but for which the money in the account has run out. So, I believe the answer to the question, Representative, is this is an honest attempt to find the resources to finish the job we authorized back in the spring. Could I continue, Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative MILLETT: I like to think of things in my usual budgetary style and ask myself the questions first that I think are most important and before us in issues like this. And one is the need question. And the question that I would pose to myself, and have, since I learned of this plan just over a week ago, is, is there an emergency winter energy relief problem or need out there at this point in time on December 7, 2022, that warrants our urgent response to that need? I believe there is, and I believe it based on what I know to be the situation in my district where people are paying double what they paid a year ago for their supply tanks being refreshed and even not being able to fill them. And this goes with regular fuel oil, kerosene, K1, natural gas, propane, et cetera. All you need to do is talk with your neighbors and ask them have they been able to fill their tanks for the rest of the winter. Because meteorologically, we are about to start - not continue, but start - the 90 coldest days of the winter, from the end of the first week in December to the end of the first week in March. So, the need, I think, is expressed clearly to those of us who are aware of circumstances of hardship in our constituents, in our communities, and knowing from what our own experience tells us. So, there is no process whereby the State through the Administration came to a conclusion with scientific evidence that says there is a need to do this today but anecdotally, in my heart, I believe there is. I follow that kind of reasoning and ask myself okay, what are the sources and uses that would be applied to meet this emergency? And I look at sources and I say I understand where the money comes from and predominantly they are a one-time and unbudgeted uses. The first and biggest was the revenue forecast update of a week ago yesterday, \$283 million forecast for the balance of FY 23 that was not there from the March forecast which we worked from when we finished the supplemental work back in the spring.

Secondly, the federal medical assistance percentage due to an emergency declared at the congressional level has increased the federal matching rate by 6.2% starting in the October 1 quarter and continuing through the quarter that we will enter into in just about three weeks. That amounts to, across all of the Medicaid accounts, the ability to continue the commitments we made last spring when we collectively worked to implement rate increases across the board in Medicaid programs and supplemented the funding for those programs that we knew there were waiting lists and high-priority needs among our clients. This does not take one penny away from the commitments we made last spring. It simply says 6.2% more federal money frees up 6.2% of general fund money, purely and simply, \$157 million of a one-time saving in this fiscal year alone.

Thirdly, the other source to arrive at the total funding for this package is the \$33+ million balance that we knew was there when we finished the biennial supplement back in the spring. One-time balance known to be there and that, along with the other two, provides the sources. Largely, one-time money.

So, what are the uses? Are they properly focused? Do they adequately address the need if we could agree among us to a supermajority that the need is real? And I look at the way in which the attempt is made to get the money out there for the oil deliveries as soon as possible, where people are tapped out and the prices are causing great concern. The LIHEAP money, the HEAP money, and the emergency use of deliveries through the CAP agencies all could be put to work fairly quickly upon enactment by a two-thirds vote of this package before us. That is an immediate assistance to a lot of people who are wondering right now with Christmas coming, known electricity bills increasing in January, whether they are going to have the resources without sacrificing their food, health care and the basic necessities of life.

Thus, I think it responds to a quickness and it does address the larger question of prioritization for all of the energy-related issues utilizing a mechanism built upon a database that is already in place with the so-called transfer payments. I think in an ideal world, if we had time, we had Committees, we had division of the Energy Committee taking a look at what's happening nationally, what we see here in Maine, how would we do it differently if we were doing it on a long-term basis. We probably would've come up with a more scientifically oriented and focused method of putting those transfer payments out there starting as quickly as possible, but no later than early January.

So, it boils down to the biggest challenge for us with 52 new Members in this Body, some of whom have been through it before, a handful, but in each caucus there are 30 or more brand-new people who are sitting there listening and asking themselves what did I get into, to come here on my very first week, my very first action issue after the campaign, the enactment, the inauguration, the pomp and circumstance, here we sit trying to make a decision that nobody thought they would have to make this quickly. And I guess the issue becomes one of how do you want to message it back home? Do you want to leave here tonight knowing that it's not a perfect bill, as the gentleman up back mentioned, but why would we want to put the perfect in front of the good when we're searching for a resolution to a felt need for which the Administration has provided a comprehensive package and which our leaders have had their fingerprints on over the last few days? So, I'm willing to overlook the process for a moment, until we get our Committees appointed, and hoping that all of you realize that you have role in budget planning, that uniquely you are not yet aware of and prepared for but once those biennial and supplemental budgets arrive, electronically, probably, late in the day on January 6th, after you know your Committee assignments, you will be invited to multiple hearings on each and every component of the biennial and supplemental that falls within your policy Committee and you know from at least one old-time Appropriations member, your willingness to not only take on this challenge, because you won't really have the choice of saying yes or no, but that you'll take it seriously and listen to the presentations, ask the questions when you get in work session, and come back with your own priority recommendations. We're dependent on you. Today, we don't have that ability to make those decisions with hard facts and preparation.

So, I'm thinking today that I'm going to substitute the usual hearing process, the work session process, the report-back processes, all which take a month or more in the course of a normal budget review, and say to myself do I want to go back home and say I had an option to do something good and I chose

to put it off. I usually look at this as I feel best about my years in this chamber when I am collectively looking at friends in search for solutions. I find it most unproductive when I look at people across the aisle and say we're just looking to search for scapegoats and who could we blame for not being able to come together and do the right thing. I hope you'll choose the better course tonight and I urge you all to realize that you will own this one way or the other and you need to be honest with your constituents when you go back home. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We should be voting on this bill regarding; we should use common sense versus victimhood and we all have to answer to our constituents back home in our districts. Myself, I'm prepared to make a tough decision and I'm willing to live with it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise reluctantly in support of this motion.

I think it is a stopgap, unfortunately, and I know our constituents are hurting and I would just remind my colleagues that there's a way to get money back to our constituents and it's not to take it from them in the first place. Thank you.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the Members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 125 voted in favor of the same and 16 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Request permission to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, today I rise to quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt. December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy. National Pearl Harbor Day, Remembrance Day, is held annually on December 7th in the United States. This day commemorates and honors the 2,403 Americans who lost their lives, along with 1,200 wounded on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese launched a surprise assault on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Twenty-one vessels damaged or sunk, over 170 planes destroyed, more than 2,400 dead, and 1,200 wounded. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and civilians; indeed, a day of infamy.

The bravery on display that day showed the American spirit cannot and will not be defeated. Fifteen Medals of Honor were awarded to U.S. Sailors as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Fifty-one Navy Crosses were earned, along with 53 Silver Stars. Our nation came together, as it always does when faced with immense challenges.

Madam Speaker, I find that it is of the utmost importance that today we recognize and remember the sacrifices made that day at Pearl Harbor. As a retired Air Force member of the United States Air Force, I can only say God bless those souls, God bless the State of Maine and God bless America. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I salute the Representative from Carmel's words, as we all did.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, yes. I wish to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to add to the stirring words that the Representative from Carmel just shared with us, and I know our hearts are all beating in unison on this day.

I have visited the memorials at Pearl Harbor multiple times, starting in the mid-1990s when I was assigned to the crew of the attack submarine, USS Birmingham, homeported in Pearl Harbor. The battleship USS Arizona is, indeed, a constant reminder to the ultimate sacrifice made on that infamous day. She remains underwater, but her weather deck superstructure, gun turrets, and other features are quite visible. Crew members' remains are still sealed in the hull. It is, indeed, a solemn place.

Every one of those service members that we honor today took an oath of office. It was not an oath of loyalty to a person, a party, or a dynasty like that that was taken by the attacking Imperial Japanese forces. Rather, it was an oath to support and defend a Constitution, the United States Constitution, which is a manner of governing and a guarantee of rights that we have been abiding by and refining for over two centuries. That is a large part of the meaning underlying the sacrifice that we honor today.

Author Lois Lowry was born into a military family next to Pearl Harbor in the 1930s and now lives in Maine, so, I'll just close briefly with a short excerpt of her poetry from the surprise attack 81 years ago today. This is entitled Jake and John Anderson. John Anderson survived the attack. He'd been preparing for church. Rescued, he asked to go back, he begged to return, to search. He was burned and bleeding. My brother's in there, he said, distraught, desperate, and pleading. Jake's there, I know he's not dead. But one would die and one live on. Identical twins, Jake and John. Frank Cavenous, PFC, survived from his station on the main mast high above, he looked down and saw that half of his ship was gone. His hands were burned, not like his shipmates charred by flaming oil, his were friction burns. Grasping ropes and ladders, he slid down 80 feet to save himself that morning. His watch, his children have it still, stopped at 8:15. Time doesn't matter now to Frank. At 86, he returned to his ship. Divers took his ashes down and placed them in the fourth gun turret, where he would rest with his shipmates. A bugle played Taps as they took the urn and dove. One by one, the divers have carried their ashes below and placed them in the fourth turret. John Anderson, remember him? The one who lost his identical twin? John reached the age of 98. Many, many years had passed and remembering his brother's fate, he asked to be with Jake at last.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: So, as we close out what I think all would say is a very, very special day, I want to thank you all for your extraordinary patience in getting through the day. I want to offer my sincere congratulations to you all for becoming Members of this esteemed Body, the 131st Legislature. And if I do not see you soon, I wish you and your families Happy Holidays.

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

On motion of Representative Thorne of Carmel, the House adjourned at 7:16 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2023, pursuant to Joint Order (S.P. 7), in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day.