

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2nd Legislative Day
Wednesday, January 4, 2023

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

Prayer by Reverend Mark Babin, Celebration Center, Fort Fairfield.

National Anthem by Michelle Gonya, Winslow.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Erik Steele, D.O., Yarmouth.

The Journal of Wednesday, December 7, 2022 was read and approved.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator VITELLI of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 6:00 in the evening at the Augusta Civic Center for the purpose of administering to the Honorable JANET T. MILLS, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify her to enter upon the discharge of her official duties and to receive such communication as she may be pleased to make.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 6:00 in the evening at the Augusta Civic Center and the Speaker appointed Representative TERRY of Gorham to convey this message to the Senate.

At this point, the Speaker recognized the Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative DANA, the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative GRAMLICH, the Representative from Sanford, Representative MASTRACCIO, the Representative from South Portland, Representative RECKITT, and the Representative from Plymouth, Representative COSTAIN, and they were added to the roll call of the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

At this point, pursuant to her authority under House Rule 401.1, the Chair assigned Representative DUNPHY of Embden to seat 133, Representative POMERLEAU of Standish to seat 132, Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth to seat 107, Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle to seat 84, Representative MASON of Lisbon to seat 131, Representative DRINKWATER of Milford to seat 130, Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield to seat 41, Representative SWALLOW of Houlton to seat 40 and Representative CARMICHAEL of Greenbush to seat 13, effective immediately.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 5) (L.D. 3) Bill "An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**

On motion of Representative LIBBY of Auburn, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-2)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I understand that Mainers are feeling the pinch in their wallets, but I want to see relief for all instead of just some. My amendment includes the \$50 million appropriation for direct heat relief and also implements a sales tax holiday, re-appropriating the \$398 million that is currently appropriated for \$450 checks, so that all Mainers may benefit from a sales tax holiday over a period of approximately three months.

As the cost of goods has gone up with inflation, so has the amount we are paying in taxes on those goods. A sales tax holiday would provide meaningful relief and would do so for all Mainers, not just some. Thank you.

Representative TERRY of Gorham moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-2)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-2)**.

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 Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "A" (H-2). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 3

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cluchey, Collamore C, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, White, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore A, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy,

Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Perry J, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Arford, Cloutier, Haggan, Landry, Roberts, Sheehan, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 64; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-2) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Subsequently, under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 9)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 215, subsection 1 to read:

1. Calling of United States Constitutional Convention. An item requesting the calling of a United States Constitutional Convention requires a 2/3 majority vote of the members present in each chamber;

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES.**

READ and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 10)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 208 to read:

Rule 208. Requirements for Drafting.

A request for a bill or resolve filed with the Revisor of Statutes is considered complete when the request is properly titled and accompanied by sufficient instructions, information and data required for its preparation. When a request is not accompanied by sufficient instructions, information or data, the Revisor of Statutes is directed to give written notice of inadequate information to the legislator. Upon receipt of said written notice, the legislator has 5 business days, unless an alternative period is set jointly by the presiding officers, to file adequate information with the Revisor of Statutes, or the request for the bill or resolve will be denied. Drafts prepared by an outside source must be filed in final form by the appropriate cloture date.

~~When directed by the sponsor, the Revisor of Statutes shall prepare a bill or resolve in concept form. The bill or resolve shall contain only an enacting clause and a summary of the proposed legislation and shall not be fully drafted by the Revisor of Statutes. The bill or resolve prepared in this form shall be printed and referred to a committee in the same manner as other legislation and may be reported in fully drafted form by that committee in the same manner as other legislation. Except as otherwise provided in this Joint Rule, this method of drafting legislation is not allowed for legislation submitted by the Governor, by agencies or departments of state government, by study commissions, by joint standing committees or joint select committees or pursuant to law or statute. Any request for a bill or resolve submitted after cloture must state if it is a request for a concept draft. Any committee amendment must be germane to the detailed summary of the concept draft.~~

The Revisor of Statutes shall prepare in concept form a bill submitted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, ~~section 1666~~ 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.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES.**

READ and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES** in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

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)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED in the House on December 7, 2022.

Came from the Senate **FAILING** of **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 6)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

**2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 16, 2022

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

131st Legislature
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
131st Legislature

Dear Madam Speaker and Mr. President:

On December 16, 2022, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on December 16, 2022, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 5) (L.D. 3) (Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland) (Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook)

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 6)

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

December 16, 2022
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I am temporarily appointing the following House members to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, effective December 16, 2022:

Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland as House Chair
House Democratic Leader Maureen Terry of Gorham
House Democratic Assistant Leader Kristen Cloutier of Lewiston
Honorable Anne Perry of Calais
Honorable James Dill of Old Town
Honorable Scott Landry of Farmington
House Republican Leader William Faulkingham of Winter Harbor*

House Republican Assistant Leader Amy Arata of New Gloucester

Honorable Sawin Millett of Waterford
Honorable John E. Ducharme of Madison

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding these appointments.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 7)

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

December 9, 2022

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-I, I am pleased to reappoint Representative Jessica Fay of Raymond to the *Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination*, effective immediately.

Representative Fay will continue to serve as House chair on the committee.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 8)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 16, 2022
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Senate Rule 201.3, I have temporarily made the following appointments to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, effective immediately:

Troy D. Jackson, Chair (D-Aroostook)

Eloise A. Vitelli (D-Sagadahoc)

Harold "Trey" L. Stewart (R-Aroostook)

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding these appointments.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 9)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 19, 2022
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to appoint Deb Ibonwa to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations.

With this appointment, she will be serving as a representative of an organization with expertise in legal and policy matters related to public benefit programs that assists individuals with low incomes, effective the date of this letter.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 10)

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

December 22, 2022
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I am rescinding the appointments of the following House members from the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, effective immediately:

Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland as House Chair
 House Democratic Leader Maureen Terry of Gorham
 House Democratic Assistant Leader Kristen Cloutier of Lewiston
 Honorable Anne Perry of Calais
 Honorable James Dill of Old Town
 Honorable Scott Landry of Farmington
 House Republican Leader William Faulkingham of Winter Harbor*
 House Republican Assistant Leader Amy Arata of New Gloucester
 Honorable Sawin Millett of Waterford
 Honorable John E. Ducharme of Madison
 Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding the rescinding of these appointments.
 Sincerely,
 S/Rachel Talbot Ross
 Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 11)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

TO: Honorable Robert B. Hunt
 Clerk of the House
 FROM: S/Rachel Talbot Ross
 Speaker of the House
 DATE: December 27, 2022
 RE: Committee Appointments
 131st Legislature

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1(l)(a), I have made the following appointments to the various Joint Standing Committees:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

William D. Pluecker, Chair (I-Warren)
 Allison Hepler (D-Woolwich)
 Laurie Osher (D-Orono)
 Rebecca L. Jauch (D-Topsham)
 Kathy A. Shaw (D-Auburn)
 Randall C. Hall (R-Wilton)*
 Danny Edward Costain (R-Plymouth)
 Dean A. Cray (R-Palmyra)
 Timothy C. Guerrette (R-Caribou)
 Caldwell Jackson (R-Oxford)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Melanie F. Sachs, Chair (D-Freeport)
 Jessica L. Fay (D-Raymond)
 Benjamin T. Collings (D-Portland)
 Ann Higgins Matlack (D-St. George)
 Rebecca J. Millett (D-Cape Elizabeth)
 Drew M. Gattine (D-Westbrook)
 H. Sawin Millett, Jr. (R-Waterford)*
 John E. Ducharme III (R-Madison)
 Mark John Blier (R-Buxton)
 Nathan M. Carlow (R-Buxton)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Suzanne M. Salisbury, Chair (D-Westbrook)
 Grayson B. Lookner (D-Portland)
 Tavis Rock Hasenfus (D-Readfield)
 Kristi Michele Mathieson (D-Kittery)
 Michel A. Lajoie (D-Lewiston)
 Nina Azella Milliken (D-Blue Hill)
 Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland)*

Daniel J. Newman (R-Belgrade)
 Donald J. Ardell (R-Monticello)
 Chad Richard Perkins (R-Dover-Foxcroft)
Education and Cultural Affairs
 Michael F. Brennan, Chair (D-Portland)
 Janice S. Dodge (D-Belfast)
 Rebecca J. Millett (D-Cape Elizabeth)
 Holly T. Sargent (D-York)
 Kelly Noonan Murphy (D-Scarborough)
 James Mark Worth (D-Ellsworth)
 Heidi H. Sampson (R-Alfred)*
 Sheila A. Lyman (R-Livermore Falls)
 Edward J. Polewarczyk (R-Wiscasset)
 Barbara A. Bagshaw (R-Windham)
Energy, Utilities and Technology
 Stanley Paige Zeigler, Jr., Chair (D-Montville)
 Christopher J. Kessler (D-South Portland)
 Valli D. Geiger (D-Rockland)
 James A. Boyle (D-Gorham)
 Sophia B. Warren (D-Scarborough)
 Walter Gerard Runte, Jr. (D-York)
 Steven D. Foster (R-Dexter)*
 Mark Michael Babin (R-Fort Fairfield)
 Larry C. Dunphy (R-Embden)
 Reagan L. Paul (R-Winterport)
Environment and Natural Resources
 Lori K. Gramlich, Chair (D-Old Orchard Beach)
 Margaret M. O'Neil (D-Saco)
 Victoria W. Doudera (D-Camden)
 Arthur L. Bell (D-Yarmouth)
 William R. Bridgeo (D-Augusta)
 Daniel J. Hobbs (D-Wells)
 Richard H. Campbell (R-Orrington)*
 Tammy L. Schmersal-Burgess (R-Mexico)
 Michael Soboleski (R-Phillips)
 David Woodsome (R-Waterboro)
Health and Human Services
 Michele Meyer, Chair (D-Eliot)
 Colleen M. Madigan (D-Waterville)
 Margaret Craven (D-Lewiston)
 Samuel Lewis Zager (D-Portland)
 Daniel Joseph Shagoury (D-Hallowell)
 Anne P. Graham (D-North Yarmouth)
 Kathy Irene Javner (R-Chester)*
 Abigail W. Griffin (R-Levant)
 Michael H. Lemelin (R-Chelsea)
 Ann Fredericks (R-Sanford)
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
 Anne C. Perry, Chair (D-Calais)
 Poppy Arford (D-Brunswick)
 Kristi Michele Mathieson (D-Kittery)
 Anne-Marie Mastraccio (D-Sanford)
 Jane P. Pringle (D-Windham)
 Sally Jeane Cluchey (D-Bowdoinham)
 Joshua Morris (R-Turner)*
 Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland)
 Scott W. Cyrway (R-Albion)
 Gregory Lewis Swallow (R-Houlton)
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 H. Scott Landry, Jr., Chair (D-Farmington)
 James F. Dill (D-Old Town)
 Cheryl A. Golek (D-Harpwell)
 Sally Jeane Cluchey (D-Bowdoinham)
 Clinton E. Collamore, Sr. (D-Waldoboro)
 Richard G. Mason (R-Lisbon)*

Stephen J. Wood (R-Greene)
Gary A. Drinkwater (R-Milford)
David Woodsome (R-Waterboro)
James E. Thorne (R-Carmel)

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Tiffany Roberts, Chair (D-South Berwick)
Raegan French LaRochelle (D-Augusta)
Bruce A. White (D-Waterville)
W. Edward Crockett (D-Portland)
Daniel Sayre (D-Kennebunk)
Amanda N. Collamore (R-Pittsfield)*
Mark Walker (R-Naples)
Katrina J. Smith (R-Palermo)
Caleb Joshua Ness (R-Fryeburg)
Lucas John Lanigan (R-Sanford)

Judiciary

Matthew W. Moonen, Chair (D-Portland)
Lois Galgay Reckitt (D-South Portland)
Stephen W. Moriarty (D-Cumberland)
Erin R. Sheehan (D-Biddeford)
Adam R. Lee (D-Auburn)
Amy D. Kuhn (D-Falmouth)
Jennifer L. Poirier (R-Skowhegan)*
John Andrews (R-Paris)
David G. Haggan (R-Hampden)
Rachel Ann Henderson (R-Rumford)
Aaron M. Dana (the Passamaquoddy Tribe)

Labor and Housing

Amy J. Roeder, Chair (D-Bangor)
Traci Gere (D-Kennebunkport)
Valli D. Geiger (D-Rockland)
Ronald B. Russell (D-Verona Island)
Marc G. Malon II (D-Biddeford)
Charles A. Skold (D-Portland)
Richard T. Bradstreet (R-Vassalboro)*
Gary A. Drinkwater (R-Milford)
Joseph C. Galletta (R-Durham)
Michael Soboleski (R-Phillips)

Marine Resources

Allison Hepler, Chair (D-Woolwich)
H. Scott Landry, Jr. (D-Farmington)
Victoria W. Doudera (D-Camden)
Lydia V. Crafts (D-Newcastle)
James F. Dill (D-Old Town)
Holly Rae Eaton (D-Deer Isle)
James E. Thorne (R-Carmel)*
Tiffany Strout (R-Harrington)
Irene A. Gifford (R-Lincoln)
Kenneth Ralph Davis, Jr. (R-East Machias)

State and Local Government

Holly B. Stover, Chair (D-Boothbay)
Sean C. Paulhus (D-Bath)
Lynn H. Copeland (D-Saco)
Deqa Dhalac (D-South Portland)
Mana Abdi (D-Lewiston)
Randall Adam Greenwood (R-Wales)*
Jeffrey Sean Adams (R-Lebanon)
Kimberly J. Pomerleau (R-Standish)
Joseph F. Underwood (R-Presque Isle)
Walter N. Riseman (I-Harrison)

Taxation

Joseph C. Perry, Sr., Chair (D-Bangor)
W. Edward Crockett (D-Portland)
Ann Higgins Matlack (D-St. George)

Tavis Rock Hasenfus (D-Readfield)
Ambureen Rana (D-Bangor)
Meldon H. Carmichael (R-Greenbush)*
Thomas A. Lavigne (R-Berwick)
Tracy L. Quint (R-Hodgdon)
Laurel D. Libby (R-Auburn)
Shelley Rudnicki (R-Fairfield)

Transportation

Lynne A. Williams, Chair (D-Bar Harbor)
Kevin J. M. O'Connell (D-Brewer)
Bruce A. White (D-Waterville)
Lydia V. Crafts (D-Newcastle)
Daniel J. Ankeles (D-Brunswick)
Wayne R. Parry (R-Arundel)*
Roger Clarence Albert (R-Madawaska)
James Lee White (R-Guilford)
Austin L. Theriault (R-Fort Kent)
Richard G. Mason (R-Lisbon)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Laura D. Supica, Chair (D-Bangor)
Morgan J. Rielly (D-Westbrook)
Benjamin T. Collings (D-Portland)
Marc G. Malon II (D-Biddeford)
Karen L. Montell (D-Gardiner)
John Andrews (R-Paris)*
David W. Boyer, Jr. (R-Poland)
Benjamin C. Hymes (R-Waldo)
Shelley Rudnicki (R-Fairfield)
Walter N. Riseman (I-Harrison)

Government Oversight Committee

Jessica L. Fay, Chair (D-Raymond)
Margaret M. O'Neil (D-Saco)
Anne-Marie Mastraccio (D-Sanford)
H. Sawin Millett, Jr. (R-Waterford)*
Amy Bradstreet Arata (R-New Gloucester)
Mark John Blier (R-Buxton)

Joint Select Committee on Housing

Traci Gere, Chair (D-Kennebunkport)
Holly B. Stover (D-Boothbay)
Grayson B. Lookner (D-Portland)
Drew M. Gattine (D-Westbrook)
Ambureen Rana (D-Bangor)
Cheryl A. Golek (D-Harpswell)
Richard T. Bradstreet (R-Vassalboro)*
Joshua Morris (R-Turner)
Richard H. Campbell (R-Orrington)
Mark John Blier (R-Buxton)

*Ranking Republican Member

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 12)

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

December 27, 2022
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 354, I have appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules:

Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules

Maureen Fitzgerald Terry, Chair (D-Gorham)
 Anne C. Perry (D-Calais)
 Colleen M. Madigan (D-Waterville)
 Amy Bradstreet Arata (R-New Gloucester)*
 David Haggan (R-Hampden)
 *Ranking Republican Member
 Sincerely,
 S/Rachel Talbot Ross
 Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 13)

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

December 27, 2022
 Honorable Robert B. Hunt
 Clerk of the House
 2 State House Station
 Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
 Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (J), I have made the following appointments to the Standing Committees of the House:

Bills in the Second Reading

Anne P. Graham, Chair (D-North Yarmouth)
 Erin R. Sheehan (D-Biddeford)
 Mana Abdi (D-Lewiston)
 Ambureen Rana (D-Bangor)
 Richard G. Mason (R-Lisbon)*
 Nathan M. Carlow (R-Buxton)
 Dean A. Cray (R-Palmyra)
 Reagan L. Paul (R-Winterport)

Elections

Kristen Sarah Cloutier, Chair (D-Lewiston)
 Margaret Craven (D-Lewiston)
 Stephen W. Moriarty (D-Cumberland)
 Samuel Lewis Zager (D-Portland)
 John Andrews (R-Paris)*
 Joshua Morris (R-Turner)
 David W. Boyer (R-Poland)
 Kimberly J. Pomerleau (R-Standish)

Engrossed Bills

Colleen M. Madigan, Chair (D-Waterville)
 Janice S. Dodge (D-Belfast)
 Morgan J. Rielly (D-Westbrook)
 Walter Gerard Runte, Jr. (D-York)
 Sheila A. Lyman (R-Livermore Falls)*
 Randall C. Hall (R-Wilton)
 Irene A. Gifford (R-Lincoln)
 Stephen J. Wood (R-Greene)

Ethics

Suzanne M. Salisbury, Chair (D-Westbrook)
 Sean C. Paulhus (D-Bath)
 Stephen W. Moriarty (D-Cumberland)
 Ronald B. Russell (D-Verona Island)
 H. Sawin Millett, Jr. (R-Waterford)*
 Amanda N. Collamore (R-Pittsfield)
 Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland)
 Richard H. Campbell (R-Orrington)

Leaves of Absence

Michel A. Lajoie, Chair (D-Lewiston)

Bruce A. White (D-Waterville)
 Jane P. Pringle (D-Windham)
 Michele Meyer (D-Eliot)
 Danny Edward Costain (R-Plymouth)*
 David Woodsome (R-Waterboro)
 Austin L. Theriault (R-Fort Kent)
 David G. Haggan (R-Hampden)

Rules and Business of the House

The Speaker, Ex Officio
 Maureen Fitzgerald Terry (D-Gorham)
 Billy Bob Faulkingham (R-Winter Harbor)*
 Amy Bradstreet Arata (R-New Gloucester)
 *Ranking Republican Member
 Sincerely,
 S/Rachel Talbot Ross
 Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 14)

**STATE OF MAINE
 Office of the Secretary of State**

January 4, 2023

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

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

REPORT AS FOLLOWS; that Janet T. Mills, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected Governor of the State of Maine:

General Election – November 8, 2022

Governor

Sam Hunkler

Beals

Independent-Unenrolled

Androscoggin	884
Aroostook	515
Cumberland	2,462
Franklin	343
Hancock	566
Kennebec	1,140
Knox	385
Lincoln	349
Oxford	631
Penobscot	1,303
Piscataquis	158
Sagadahoc	379
Somerset	500
Waldo	400
Washington	553
York	1,994
State UOCAVA	19
Total	12,581

Paul R. LePage

Edgecomb

Republican

Androscoggin	23,220
Aroostook	16,530
Cumberland	47,201
Franklin	7,179
Hancock	12,527
Kennebec	28,368

Knox	8,430
Lincoln	8,744
Oxford	14,229
Penobscot	35,496
Piscataquis	4,960
Sagadahoc	8,049
Somerset	13,233
Waldo	9,099
Washington	8,160
York	41,662
State UOCAVA	217
Total	287,304
Janet T. Mills	
Farmington	
Democrat	
Androscoggin	22,915
Aroostook	11,587
Cumberland	112,188
Franklin	7,406
Hancock	17,446
Kennebec	30,838
Knox	13,441
Lincoln	11,853
Oxford	12,875
Penobscot	31,844
Piscataquis	3,098
Sagadahoc	12,414
Somerset	9,083
Waldo	11,508
Washington	6,064
York	60,772
State UOCAVA	1,602
Total	376,934

I, SHENNA BELLOWES, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast for Governor 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 ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 15)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 27, 2022
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Senate Rule 201.3, I have made the following appointments to various Joint Standing Committees.

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair (D-York)
Senator Craig Hickman (D-Kennebec)
Senator Russell Black (R-Franklin)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Senator Peggy Rotundo, Chair (D-Androscoggin)
Senator Jill Duson (D-Cumberland)
Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Pinny Beebe-Center, Chair (D-Knox)

Senator David LaFountain (D-Kennebec)

Senator Matthew Harrington (R-York)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Joe Rafferty, Chair (D-York)
Senator Teresa Pierce (D-Cumberland)
Senator Jim Libby (R-Cumberland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair (D-York)
Senator Nicole Grohoski (D-Hancock)
Senator Matthew Harrington (R-York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair (D-Cumberland)
Senator Anne Carney (D-Cumberland)
Senator Peter Lyford (R-Penobscot)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Donna Bailey, Chair (D-Saco)
Senator Cameron Reny (D-Lincoln)
Senator Eric Brakey (R-Androscoggin)

Health and Human Services

Senator Joe Baldacci, Chair (D-Penobscot)
Senator Henry Ingwersen (D-York)
Senator Marianne Moore (R-Washington)

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Senator Glenn "Chip" Curry, Chair (D-Waldo)
Senator Joe Rafferty (D-York)
Senator Stacey Guerin (R-Penobscot)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Senator David LaFountain, Chair (D-Kennebec)
Senator Glenn "Chip" Curry (D-Waldo)
Senator Russell Black (R-Franklin)

Judiciary

Senator Anne Carney, Chair (D-Cumberland)
Senator Donna Bailey (D-York)
Senator Peter Lyford (R-Penobscot)

Labor and Housing

Senator Mike Tipping, Chair (D-Penobscot)
Senator Mattie Daughtry (D-Cumberland)
Senator Matt Pouliot (R-Kennebec)

Marine Resources

Senator Cameron Reny, Chair (D-Lincoln)
Senator Pinny Beebe-Center (D-Knox)
Senator Marianne Moore (R-Washington)

State and Local Government

Senator Tim Nangle, Chair (D-Cumberland)
Senator Joe Baldacci (D-Penobscot)
Senator Eric Brakey (R-Androscoggin)

Taxation

Senator Nicole Grohoski (D-Hancock)
Senator Ben Chipman (D-Cumberland)
Senator Jim Libby (R-Cumberland)

Transportation

Senator Ben Chipman, Chair (D-Cumberland)
Senator Tim Nangle (D-Cumberland)
Senator Brad Farrin (R-Somerset)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Craig Hickman, Chair (D-Kennebec)
Senator Stacy Brenner (D-Cumberland)
Senator Jeff Timberlake (R-Androscoggin)

Additionally, I have made the following appointments to the

Joint Select Committee on Housing:

Senator Teresa Pierce, Chair (D-Cumberland)
Senator Eloise Vitelli (D-Sagadahoc)
Senator Matthew Pouliot (R-Kennebec)

Sincerely,
S/Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 16)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 27, 2022
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 371, I have made the following appointments to the Government Oversight Committee:

- Senator Craig Hickman, Chair (D-Kennebec)
- Senator Jill Duson (D-Cumberland)
- Senator Mike Tipping (D-Penobscot)
- Senator Lisa Keim (R-Oxford)
- Senator Jeff Timberlake (R-Androscoggin)
- Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford)

Sincerely,
S/Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 17)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 27, 2022
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Joint Rule 354, I have made the following appointments to the Committee on Joint Rules:

- Senator Troy Jackson, Chair (D-Aroostook)
- Senator Eloise Vitelli (D-Sagadahoc)
- Senator Anne Carney (D-Cumberland)
- Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford)
- Senator Eric Brakey (R-Androscoggin)

Sincerely,
S/Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 21)

**CHILD WELFARE OMBUDSMAN
P.O. BOX 92
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332**

December 28, 2022
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: 2022 Annual Report of the Child Welfare Ombudsman
Dear Mr. Hunt,

Enclosed please find 164 copies of the 2022 Annual Report of the Child Welfare Ombudsman to be distributed to members of the Maine House and staff. The Child Welfare Ombudsman is required to report to the Maine Legislature each year pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §4087-A.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
S/Christine Alberi

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Increase Support for the Modernization of the Board of Pesticides Control by Increasing the Annual Pesticide Registration Fee"

(H.P. 12) (L.D. 8)

Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren. Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Spouses and Children of Veterans Holding Free Day Use Passes"

(H.P. 31) (L.D. 56)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich. Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: FAY of Raymond, JAUCH of Topsham, O'CONNELL of Brewer, SACHS of Freeport, THORNE of Carmel, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update Provisions of the Department of Corrections Laws Regarding Operation and Administration of Jails, Women's Services and Juvenile Detention"

(H.P. 8) (L.D. 4)

Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren. Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Require a 72-hour Waiting Period After the Sale of a Firearm"

(H.P. 35) (L.D. 60)

Sponsored by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, WHITE of Waterville.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission"

(H.P. 19) (L.D. 15)

Sponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast. Submitted by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Provide Ongoing Funding for up to 2 Years of Community College for Certain Maine Students"

(H.P. 22) (L.D. 18)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representative: LaROCHELLE of Augusta,
Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Service to Grant Associate Degrees" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 23) (L.D. 19)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Bill "An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements"

(H.P. 26) (L.D. 51)

Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford.

Cosponsored by Representative: PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain School Employees to Carry Firearms on School Property"

(H.P. 27) (L.D. 52)

Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter.

Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Bill "An Act to Ensure In-state Tuition for Postsecondary Students Who Are Registered to Vote in the State"

(H.P. 39) (L.D. 64)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Number of Educational Professionals by Accepting Out-of-state Certification"

(H.P. 42) (L.D. 67)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Bill "An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of 'State Agency Client' and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services"

(H.P. 49) (L.D. 79)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Electrical Supply Cost Transparency"

(H.P. 44) (L.D. 69)

Sponsored by Representative CARMICHAEL of Greenbush.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, DUCHARME of Madison, THORNE of Carmel.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Processing Time Limits for Permit by Rule Applications Under the Site Location of Development Laws"

(H.P. 13) (L.D. 9)

Sponsored by Representative BOYLE of Gorham.

Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Plants"

(H.P. 14) (L.D. 10)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.

Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Postsecondary Education for Low-income Parents"

(H.P. 9) (L.D. 5)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Temporary Protections for Children Living in Dwellings with Identified Lead Hazards"

(H.P. 15) (L.D. 11)

Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by Developing a System to Ensure Child and Family Well-being" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 25) (L.D. 50)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Inclusion of the COVID-19 Vaccine in the Universal Childhood Immunization Program"

(H.P. 34) (L.D. 59)

Sponsored by Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, Senator: STEWART of Aroostook.

Bill "An Act to Improve Family Economic Security Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program"

(H.P. 50) (L.D. 80)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program"

(H.P. 51) (L.D. 81)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Children's Behavioral Health Services"

(H.P. 52) (L.D. 82)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Move the Headquarters for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife"

(H.P. 30) (L.D. 55)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and Representative: LaROCHELLE of Augusta.

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species List"

(H.P. 32) (L.D. 57)

Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town.
Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish Seasons That Do Not Overlap for Hunting Bear over Bait and Hunting Bear with Dogs

(H.P. 33) (L.D. 58)

Sponsored by Representative DAVIS of East Machias.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require That Printing Services Provided to the General Public by the University of Maine System Be Provided at Market Rates"

(H.P. 40) (L.D. 65)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Further Protect Survivors of Economic Abuse"

(H.P. 24) (L.D. 20)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to Article X of the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Publication of Maine Indian Treaty Obligations

(H.P. 48) (L.D. 78)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Severance Pay to Cover More Types of Employers and Include More Workers"

(H.P. 16) (L.D. 12)

Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Define 'Mail' in the Employment Security Law to Include Electronic Notification"

(H.P. 17) (L.D. 13)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Simplify an Assessment Notice Requirement Under Department of Labor Laws"

(H.P. 18) (L.D. 14)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Accountability for Workplace Harassment and Assault by Removing Intentional Acts and Omissions from Workers' Compensation Exemptions"

(H.P. 28) (L.D. 53)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representative: LIBBY of Auburn.

Bill "An Act to Require Compliance with Natural or Agricultural Resource Protection Ordinances"

(H.P. 29) (L.D. 54)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, SHAW of Auburn.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Cap on Retirement Benefits for State Employees and Teachers to Which a Cost-of-living Adjustment Is Made"

(H.P. 45) (L.D. 70)

Sponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HEPLER of Woolwich, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, PLUECKER of Warren, SALISBURY of Westbrook, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws"

(H.P. 20) (L.D. 16)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Conserve Coastal Habitat by Restricting Rockweed Harvesting on Private Property"

(H.P. 36) (L.D. 61)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, Authorizing the State Tax Assessor to Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory

(H.P. 10) (L.D. 6)

Sponsored by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Update References to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Contained in the Maine Revised Statutes" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 11) (L.D. 7)

Sponsored by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Taxation of Drinking Water"

(H.P. 41) (L.D. 66)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BOYER of Poland, LANIGAN of Sanford.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Nonprofit Organizations from the Sales and Use Tax and the Service Provider Tax"

(H.P. 43) (L.D. 68)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, HEPLER of Woolwich, KUHN of Falmouth, MATLACK of St. George, TERRY of Gorham.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Membership Requirements of the State Claims Commission"

(H.P. 21) (L.D. 17)

Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Waterville.

Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Require Antipinch Sensors on School Bus Doors"

(H.P. 37) (L.D. 62)

Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, JAUCH of Topsham.

An Act to Clarify That Certain Imported Motor Vehicles Are Not Off-road Vehicles

(H.P. 38) (L.D. 63)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Department of Environmental Protection

Representative GRAMLICH for the **Department of Environmental Protection** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 171: Control of Petroleum Storage Facilities, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 46) (L.D. 71)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Maine Turnpike Authority

Representative WILLIAMS for the **Maine Turnpike Authority** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2024"

(H.P. 47) (L.D. 72)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative ANDREWS of Paris, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 7)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 312 to read:

Rule 312. Fiscal Notes.

Every bill or resolve that affects state revenues, appropriations or allocations or that requires a local unit of government to expand or modify that unit's activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues and that has a committee recommendation other than "Leave to Withdraw," "Ought Not to Pass" or "Referral to Another Committee" must include a fiscal note prepared by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. ~~For a bill or resolve not yet reported out and upon request of a majority of the committee, the Office of Fiscal and Program Review shall, after notice by the committee to the sponsor of the bill or resolve, meet with the committee at a work session to present its analysis and provide copies of the written public materials relied upon by the office to prepare that fiscal note. The fiscal note must be complete, available to the public and attached to any bill before the committee votes on it and the bill is reported out of committee.~~ The fiscal note must accompany the committee report before it is reported out of committee. Any amendment introduced that

would affect the fiscal impact of the original bill must also include a fiscal note. The Office of Fiscal and Program Review has the sole responsibility for preparing all fiscal notes.

READ.

Representative ANDREWS of Paris **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE** of the Joint 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 Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a rule change for the 131st that would simply require a fiscal note before any committee votes on any bill in the Legislature. It will be a large move towards fiscal accountability because oftentimes we're voting on things in committee without a price tag. This would change that, hopefully, and I would appreciate your support. Thank you.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the Joint Order was **REFERRED** to the **Joint Select Committee on JOINT RULES** and sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative ANDREWS of Paris, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 53)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 213, first paragraph to read:

All expressions of legislative sentiment must conform to guidelines issued by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and must be presented in a manner standardized by the Revisor of Statutes. Approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House is not needed for joint resolutions.

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by striking out all of Joint Rule 214.

READ.

Representative ANDREWS of Paris **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE** of the Joint 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 Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is another rule change that would allow any Member to submit a Joint Resolution to go to the floor without approval of the presiding officers. I feel this would really protect Members' First Amendment rights, and particularly us in the minority.

Everyone should be allowed to submit and pass Joint Resolutions or no one should. Allowing only one party to submit Resolutions because they're in the majority is the height of partisanship and I am hoping that this will clear the air. If everybody's allowed to have a voice to say what they want, I think that will go a long way to us being more bipartisan and productive. So, thank you.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the Joint Order was **REFERRED** to the **Joint Select Committee on JOINT RULES** and sent for concurrence.

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

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

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

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 43)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the returns of votes for the Governor, given in the several cities, towns and plantations of the State for the political years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026, be referred to a Joint Select Committee of 7 on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

At this point, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee on Gubernatorial Vote on the part of the House:

Representative SUPICA of Bangor
Representative RIELLY of Westbrook
Representative COLLINGS of Portland
Representative MALON of Biddeford
Representative MONTELL of Gardiner
Representative ANDREWS of Paris
Representative BOYER of Poland
Representative HYMES of Waldo
Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield
Representative RISEMAN of Harrison

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Open Burning Under a Red Flag Warning and Regulate Recreational Campfires"
(S.P. 16) (L.D. 24)

Bill "An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks"
(S.P. 17) (L.D. 25)

Bill "An Act to Require the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain Public Restrooms at State Parks"
(S.P. 49) (L.D. 77)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Impede the Transfer of Firearms to Prohibited Persons"
(S.P. 14) (L.D. 22)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Juvenile Code"
(S.P. 31) (L.D. 39)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Commissioner of Corrections' Role in Death Benefit Determinations and Regarding Training for Corrections Officers"
(S.P. 34) (L.D. 42)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Licensing Actions of the Emergency Medical Services' Board"
(S.P. 39) (L.D. 47)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Career and Technical Education Opportunities for Middle School Students"
(S.P. 25) (L.D. 33)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Cost of Electricity by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Resources of Energy"
(S.P. 35) (L.D. 43)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Streamline Rulemaking for Revisions to Screening Levels for the Solid Waste Beneficial Use Program"
(S.P. 20) (L.D. 28)

Bill "An Act to Reduce Air Emissions at Petroleum Storage Facilities"
(S.P. 21) (L.D. 29)

Bill "An Act to Update the Responsibilities of the Clean-up and Response Fund Review Board"
(S.P. 46) (L.D. 74)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Align Maine's Lead Abatement Law with Federal Definitions and to Clarify Lead Abatement Licensing and Certification Requirements"
(S.P. 19) (L.D. 27)

Bill "An Act to Establish Adult Protective Services Training Requirements for Professionals Mandated to Report Suspected Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation to Enhance Protection of Incapacitated and Dependent Adults"
(S.P. 27) (L.D. 35)

Bill "An Act to Require Bottled Water Companies to Monitor for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"
(S.P. 45) (L.D. 73)

Bill "An Act to Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels Under the State's Drinking Water Rules to Prohibit Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"
(S.P. 47) (L.D. 75)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make Corrections to the Maine Insurance Code"
(S.P. 28) (L.D. 36)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update the Maine State Grant Program" (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 24) (L.D. 32)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Statutory Balance Limit on the Finance Authority of Maine's Loan Insurance Reserves"
(S.P. 38) (L.D. 46)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Limit Public Access to or Dissemination of Electronic Citation Information"
(S.P. 15) (L.D. 23)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Hourly Reimbursement Rate of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Lawyers to \$150 per Hour" (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 33) (L.D. 41)

Bill "An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions"
(S.P. 37) (L.D. 45)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Deorganization of Drew Plantation" (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 41) (L.D. 49)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application"
(S.P. 29) (L.D. 37)

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

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

Resolve, Designating Maine Turnpike Approach Road in South Portland as Samantha Smith Way
(S.P. 13) (L.D. 21)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Statutory Fee for Defensive Driving Courses"
(S.P. 22) (L.D. 30)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Commissioner of Transportation to Reduce Speed Limits at Construction Sites with Input from Municipalities and Utilities"

(S.P. 23) (L.D. 31)

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Freeport the Matthew MacMillan Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 30) (L.D. 38)

Resolve, to Rename the Bridge Between Bingham and Concord Township on Route 16 the Jason Dore Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 36) (L.D. 44)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Width of Road Shoulders

(S.P. 48) (L.D. 76)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide Postage Prepaid Return Envelopes to Voters Who Send Absentee Ballots by Mail"

(S.P. 18) (L.D. 26)

Bill "An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting"

(S.P. 26) (L.D. 34)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Cannabis Laws"

(S.P. 32) (L.D. 40)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Provisions of the Cannabis Legalization Act Regarding Labels, Packaging and Testing"

(S.P. 40) (L.D. 48)

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

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

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 44)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a Committee of 3 on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Janet T. Mills and inform her that she has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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

At this point, the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to the Committee to wait upon the Honorable JANET T. MILLS, and inform her that she has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026:

Representative STOVER of Boothbay
Representative PAULHUS of Bath
Representative COPELAND of Saco
Representative DHALAC of South Portland
Representative ABDI of Lewiston
Representative GREENWOOD of Wales
Representative ADAMS of Lebanon
Representative POMERLEAU of Standish
Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle
Representative RISEMAN of Harrison

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Third-party Liability Requirements for the MaineCare Program"

(S.P. 51) (L.D. 84)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Maine Turnpike Authority to Study Adding Exits off the Maine Turnpike to Aid Economic Development

(S.P. 52) (L.D. 85)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Clarify State Policy Regarding the Use of Cannabis Paraphernalia in the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 50) (L.D. 83)

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 20)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

January 4, 2023

Honorable Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 43, the Speaker appointed the following Representatives to the Joint Select Committee on Gubernatorial Vote on the part of the House:

Representative Laura D. Supica of Bangor
Representative Morgan J. Rielly of Westbrook
Representative Benjamin T. Collings of Portland
Representative Marc G. Malon II of Biddeford
Representative Karen L. Montell of Gardiner
Representative John Andrews of Paris
Representative David W. Boyer, Jr. of Poland
Representative Benjamin C. Hymes of Waldo
Representative Shelley Rudnicki of Fairfield
Representative Walter N. Riseman of Harrison

Pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 44, the Speaker appointed the following Representatives on the part of the House to the Committee to wait upon the Honorable Janet T. Mills, and inform her that she has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026:

Representative Holly B. Stover of Boothbay
Representative Sean C. Paulhus of Bath
Representative Lynn H. Copeland of Saco
Representative Deqa Dhalac of South Portland
Representative Mana Abdi of Lewiston
Representative Randall Adam Greenwood of Wales
Representative Jeffrey Sean Adams of Lebanon
Representative Kimberly J. Pomerleau of Standish
Representative Joseph F. Underwood of Presque Isle
Representative Walter N. Riseman of Harrison

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 18)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

January 4, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

In compliance with Joint Order (S.P. #43), I am pleased to appoint the following members to the Gubernatorial Vote Committee:

Senator Craig Hickman of Kennebec, Chair
Senator Stacy Brenner of Cumberland
Senator Tim Nangle of Cumberland
Senator Joe Baldacci of Penobscot
Senator Jeff Timberlake of Androscoggin
Senator Jim Libby of Cumberland
Senator Russell Black of Franklin

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 19)

**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

January 4, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
Two State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

In compliance with Joint Order (S.P. #44), I am pleased to appoint the following members to inform the Honorable Janet T. Mills that she has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026:

Senator Eloise Vitelli of Sagadahoc
Senator Matthea Daughtry of Cumberland
Senator Marianne Moore of Washington

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 22)

**STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON GUBERNATORIAL VOTE**

January 4, 2023
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

The Joint Select Committee of the One Hundred and Thirty First Legislature on returns of votes for Governor given in the several cities, towns, and plantations of this State for the political years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 has attended to its duty and asks leave to report that the tabulation of the return of votes cast for Governor at the General Election held on November 8, 2022 as reported by the Secretary of State Bellows, is a true and accurate account.

Sincerely,
S/Senator Craig Hickman
Senate Chair
S/Representative Laura D. Supica
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 42)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and PASSED in concurrence.

**ENACTOR
Emergency Measure**

An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program

(H.P. 5) (L.D. 3)
(C. "A" H-1)

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

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **REQUESTED** a Roll Call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.**

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 Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative LIBBY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Over the last month, we've talked a lot about the process by which the Chief Executive's heat relief bill was brought forward. Many of us advocated for the full legislative process to take place, and I was glad to see a public hearing occur for this iteration, even though it appeared to be more of a rubber stamp.

With only 10% of LD 3 going toward direct heat relief, it's disingenuous to call it a heating relief bill. I heard a fellow legislator call it, "the bill to kick the can down the road," and that would be more accurate as it attempts to band-aid significant ongoing issues.

Over the last couple of decades, the Maine Legislature has passed policies that will make our utility costs continue to rise, with another increase in the price of electricity on the horizon. I can't fault one single party for those core policies, as many of them were supported by my colleagues on the right in the name of making a bad bill better. Unfortunately, there are no long-term solutions proposed in this bill. The majority of LD 3 is the \$398 million appropriated for \$450 checks that will be sent to 800,000 Maine citizens. Who wouldn't want a \$450 check? You'd have to be crazy to turn that down in the face of record-setting inflation, skyrocketing utility costs and a cold Maine winter that is just getting started.

Over the last few years, however, we've seen both our federal and state governments repeatedly send out checks, calling them stimulus or relief checks. And thanks to the federal government printing money for stimulus checks, first under Trump and then under Biden, we are now facing a recession with the worst inflation in 40 years and yet no one seems to make the connection. Why, when we have repeatedly had a surplus at the State level, do we not cut taxes instead of writing checks, thus leaving more money in the pockets of hardworking Mainers in the first place? Because cutting taxes wouldn't fit an agenda to build dependence on the government in order to turn public sentiment in favor of a universal basic income. After all, in 2021, the Legislature appointed a committee to examine and assess the feasibility, economic impact, and poverty reduction effect of providing basic income security through a direct cash payment system. So, rather than cutting taxes in response to repeated projected surplus, excess taxation of Maine people, we keep spending it immediately via relief checks. As was apparent at the public hearing, however, the main point of this bill is the \$21 million appropriated toward homeless housing. As we heard from numerous Southern Maine advocates, we certainly need to address the housing crisis, the homeless waiting lists, the unsustainable hoteling policy, and more, but it should be addressed with transparency, not by attempting to camouflage \$21 million in a heat relief bill.

The bottom line is that without a willingness to address the policies that are driving our utility costs sky high or desire to keep more of Mainers' money in their pockets in the first place, LD 3 promises to be a stopgap that provides no real solutions. As the first act of the 131st Maine Legislature, it sets the precedent that we will continue to pass policy that ignores the real issues. Please follow my light and vote against the pending motion.

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

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 4

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Bell, Blier, Boyer, Boyle, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cluchey, CollamoreA, CollamoreC, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Galletta, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jackson, Jauch, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, MillettH, MillettR, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Nutting, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, PerryA, PerryJ, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Theriault, Thorne, Walker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Babin, Bagshaw, Cyrway, Davis, Dunphy, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Henderson, Hymes, Lavigne, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Ness, Newman, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Underwood, White.

ABSENT - Adams, Arford, Cloutier, Haggan, Landry, Roberts, Sheehan, Woodsome.

Yes, 114; No, 29; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0. 114 having voted in the affirmative and 29 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, 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 House recessed until 6:00 p.m.

(After Recess)

Augusta Civic Center

The Sockalexis Family Singers performed.

The House was called to order by Speaker Talbot Ross.

At this point, the Senate entered the auditorium 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.

On motion of Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, it was ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Chief Justice and Justices of the Maine Superior Court, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court; and the Federal Judges, inviting them to attend the Convention which has been convened for the purpose of administering to the Honorable Janet Trafton Mills, Governor-Elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify her to enter upon the discharge of her official duties.

The Chair appointed:

The Senator from Cumberland, Senator CARNEY
The Senator from York, Senator BAILEY
The Senator from Penobscot, Senator LYFORD
The Representative from Portland, Representative MOONEN
The Representative from South Portland,
Representative RECKITT
The Representative from Cumberland,
Representative MORIARTY
The Representative from Biddeford, Representative SHEEHAN
The Representative from Auburn, Representative LEE
The Representative from Falmouth, Representative KUHN
The Representative from Skowhegan, Representative POIRIER
The Representative from Paris, Representative ANDREWS
The Representative from Hampden, Representative HAGGAN
The Representative from Rumford,
Representative HENDERSON
The Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe,
Representative DANA

Subsequently, Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which they were charged and were pleased to report that the Honorable Members of the Judiciary would attend forthwith.

At this point, the National Guard escorted the Judiciary to their seats.

At this point, the Chair recognized Chief Rena Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribal Nation at Pleasant Point, Chief William Nicholas of the Passamaquoddy Tribal Nation at Princeton, and Chief Clarissa Sabattis of the Houlton Band of Maliseets. The Chair also recognized former Senate President Libby Mitchell and former Speakers of the House: John Martin, Mike Saxl, Hannah Pingree, Glen Cummings and Ryan Fecteau.

The Chair welcomed members of clergy: Rabbi Erica Asch, of Temple Beth El in Augusta and Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. The Chair also recognized the nominees of the Governor's cabinet and their guests.

The Chair recognized the Constitutional Officers-elect and State Auditor of the State of Maine: The Honorable Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State; the Honorable Aaron Frey, Attorney General; the Honorable Henry Beck, Treasurer; and the Honorable Matt Dunlap, Auditor.

The Chair welcomed to the Joint Convention family members of the Governor-elect.

On motion of Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, it was ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Janet Trafton Mills, Governor-elect, and inform her that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to administer to her the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify her to enter upon the discharge of her official duties and receive such communication as she may be pleased to make.

The Chair appointed:

The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator ROTUNDO
The Senator from Oxford, Senator BENNETT
The Senator from Cumberland, Senator DAUGHTRY
The Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator VITELLI
The Senator from Aroostook, Senator STEWART
The Senator from Oxford, Senator KEIM
The Representative from Freeport, Representative SACHS
The Representative from Waterford, Representative MILLETT
The Representative from Gorham, Representative TERRY
The Representative from Lewiston, Representative CLOUTIER
The Representative from Winter Harbor,
Representative FAULKINGHAM
The Representative from New Gloucester,
Representative ARATA

Subsequently, Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and was pleased to report that the Honorable Janet Trafton Mills, Governor-elect, will attend forthwith.

Herald Lt. Colonel Lisa Sessions announced the procession.

The Chair welcomed to the Joint Convention Governor-elect Janet Trafton Mills, accompanied by Chief Justice Stanfill, Adjutant General Farnham and Herald Lt. Col. Lisa Sessions.

At this point, the State Police Pipe and Drum Corps performed the "March to Maine Games."

The colors were presented by the Honor Guard, Maine National Guard.

The National Anthem was sung by Staff Sergeant Crystal Rider.

The Invocation was given by Rabbi Erica Asch.

At this point, Poet Laureate, Julia Bouwsma, read an original work created for the inauguration.

At this point, the Pihcintu Multinational Girls Chorus performed.

At this point, Richard Blanco, fifth Presidential Inaugural Poet and Maine resident, read an original work created for the inauguration.

At this point, Dave Mallett performed.

Thereupon, the Governor-elect, Janet Trafton Mills, before the presiding officer of the Joint Convention, the Honorable Troy D. Jackson, in the presence of both branches of the Legislature and the Justices, took and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution (the Bible being held by her grandchildren) to qualify her to enter upon the discharge of her official duties.

I, JANET TRAFTON MILLS, 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, JANET TRAFTON MILLS, DO SWEAR, THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES, THE DUTIES INCUMBENT ON ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MAINE, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE, SO HELP ME GOD.

The Chair then called upon the Secretary of State, Shenna Bellows, to read the proclamation

PROCLAMATION

The votes given on the eighth day of November last, in the cities and towns and plantations of the State of Maine for Governor, the returns of which have been made to the Office of the Secretary of State, having been examined and counted by the Legislature which has declared a majority thereof was given to Janet Trafton Mills, and that she is duly elected and that she, having in the presence of the two branches of the Legislature in Convention assembled, taken and subscribed the oaths required by the Maine Constitution to qualify her to discharge the duties of that office, I, therefore, declare and make known to all persons in this State who are in the exercise of any public trust, as well as all good citizens thereof, that effective at midnight Janet Trafton Mills is Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Maine, and that due obedience should be rendered to all her acts and commands as such.

GOD SAVE THE STATE OF MAINE

The Chair of the Convention then presented the Honorable Governor of the Great State of Maine, Janet Trafton Mills, to the Convention, amid applause, the audience rising.

Governor **MILLS**: Thank you very much. Oh, please be seated, my goodness.

Mr. President, Madam Secretary of State, Madam Speaker, Madam Chief Justice; I like the way this is going, and Members of the 131st Maine Legislature, members of the cabinet, Rabbi Asch, Bishop Brown, and distinguished guests, it is a profound honor and a privilege to take the oath prescribed by the Constitution and to assume again the mantle of Governor of the great State of Maine.

I am deeply humbled by the trust the people of Maine have placed in me. You know, President John F. Kennedy once said if more politicians knew poetry and more poets knew politics, I'm convinced the world would be a little better place in which to live. I agree and I want to thank, especially, our own poet laureate, Julia Bouwsma and Bethel resident and presidential inaugural poet Richard Blanco, and Maine's poet-musician Dave Mallett, for their very inspiring words. Thank you, too, to the Franklin County Fiddlers and the Sockalexis Singers and the Pihcintu Multinational Girls Choir. And including my young friends, Shy and Natasha, who graced the same stage with their presence four years ago; welcome back. You're more beautiful than ever.

I also want to draw your attention to the empty chair in the military section of the audience, and to honor and recognize all Maine service members who have lost their lives in service to their country.

I would not be standing here today if it were not for my family as well; my brothers, Peter, Paul and David, my sister, Dora, niece and nephew, my five daughters and five wonderful grandchildren. And my husband Stan, gone eight years now, who rose every morning happily proclaiming the best is yet to come.

Traversing this State many times over many months, I have learned more about the character of our people and the worth of our communities, what we give and what we take and what we offer to each other. I've toured clinics and hospitals large and small, schools, warehouses, stores, diners and boathouses, log yards, libraries and factories, houses of worship of all faiths, and I can report from the Can Am at America's First Mile to Maine's first town, the 370-year-old Kittery, from Friar's Brewpub in Bucksport to Bangs Mussels in Portland, from Robbins Lumber in Searsmont to Louisiana Pacific in Houlton, from Geiger Brothers in Lewiston to New Balance, Sappi and Maine Grains in Somerset County, from the lakes and slopes of western Maine to the University of New England, Athena Health, Jackson and Bigelow Labs, the Ferland Center in Orono and the Roux Institute in Portland, great things are happening in the State of Maine.

And I can report as well that across this State, this one Maine, hope is very much alive. Over the last years, you know, there was something that caught our attention, especially during the pandemic; these large, luminous, neon-like signs that began popping up in cities across Maine. Hopeful, they read, in colorful, cursive script. These signs became a symbol not just of survival but of health, renewal, new life. The sign's creator, Charlie Hewitt said, quote, to be hopeful is not a gift; it is a challenge. It's a challenge. To be hopeful requires opening your eyes, it requires making a decision, being part of something, unquote. Maine people know and embrace this. Indeed, we experienced it these last few years. And tonight, like Charlie Hewitt's art deco signs, a flashback to previous decades, at this time the James Webb Telescope is taking us back through time and into the bowels of celestial history like some magical mystery tour of the universe, drawing us both inward and outward through space and time and unlocking mysteries of the past and foreshadowings of the future.

So, I can't help but wonder, if our forebearers a century ago had had a Webb Telescope to view the world down through time, what might they think of where we are today? Would they ever have imagined that the log drives would come to an end? That the narrow-gauge railway would turn into a quiet footpath? That our granite quarries would be rendered obsolete by the invention of concrete? Could they have foreseen cellphones and flat-screen TVs and computers of any size with words that

are written and then disappear on a virtual page as though they had never once become thought?

Well, we do know one thing our forebearers were thinking about; exactly one hundred years ago, Dora Bradbury Pinkham of Fort Kent, Maine, became the first woman to serve in this Legislature. It was big news. Arthur G. Staples of the *Lewiston Evening Journal* wrote about it. He said, quote, it may happen that after years, perhaps 2023, he said, some woman Governor of Maine and some Legislature largely composed of women may desire to know how the first woman legislator carried herself. And, he continued, so, he said, in the year 2023, one hundred years hence, Dora Pinkham is thus presented to you and Maine is ready for her sisters, end quote. Well, Arthur Staples; here we are.

I hope Dora Pinkham would be pleased to know that today half of our Congressional delegation are women, that a black woman from Portland is our Speaker of the House, and that a woman whose own roots lie deep in Pinkham's beloved County has now taken the oath for the second time to serve as Governor of this State.

Today, a century after Dora Pinkham took the oath, our rivers no longer carry logs to sawmills, our food comes in slick packages from around the globe, and we meet with distant friends and coworkers on a screen the size of a writing pad. But what about our descendants? Those generations yet to come? What might the telescope of the future reveal to them about who we are now and where we are going? Will it be good? Will they be proud of us? Will the people of the future see how we fought disease, homelessness, crippling opioid use and a fear of those who are different from us? Will they appreciate that, for their sake and ours, we began to rid our farms and waters of the forever chemicals known as PFAS? Will they see how we promoted health and education, celebrated arts and literature, preserved our precious right to vote and conducted free and fair elections? Will they see how we adapted and evolved during turbulent times, adjusted to technology and innovation? How we explored new sources of energy, electricity, new modes of communication and travel? I hope so.

Perhaps they'll ask other questions, probing questions as well, like what was that daylight savings thing all about? Who the heck was Elon Musk and what on Earth was Twitter? And what were all those tall gray structures that held something called an office? Maybe they'll also ask what took them so long to shelter the unhoused? Why did it take years for them to build a house when we can 3D print a single home in an hour? Why, they may ask, did they wrap everything in packaging material they could've reused and why did they dump waste in the ocean and bury it in the Earth? What were all those parking lots and those tarred roads crisscrossing the countryside, they will ask, and the gasses emitted from structures of vehicles that clogged the air and warmed the planet and melted the ancient glaciers? Why, they will ask, did the scourge of a drug epidemic rob them of so many precious lives? Why didn't they have safe and loving places to care for all their children? Why did they pay so much every time they went to a doctor or a pharmacist? These questions, my friends, may be asked in the future, but the answers will be shaped by our actions in the coming months and years.

Four years ago, I stood before you and promised to work for a healthier, more vibrant, more welcoming State. Who could've known 1,463 days ago that this State, this nation and countries across the globe would face a deadly pandemic reminiscent of the Spanish Flu from one hundred years ago? One that would threaten the safety of every community,

business, family and person, one that would challenge us to reinvent how we learn, work, play, travel and communicate safely. A phenomenon that would test the very core of our character. It was during that time that I heard from thousands of you; emails, cards, letters, notes from people sharing their thoughts and their fears, including ones from children like 10-year-old Savannah, who wrote, quote, Dear Governor Mills, I hope this COVID doesn't affect our hearts being isolated from one another, end-quote.

Well, Savannah, we learned that neither a worldwide pandemic nor any other thing will ever isolate our hearts from one another. For we are a caring people. We in Maine are family and we have found such strength within ourselves we didn't know we had, even, as Dave Mallett puts it, with our backs against the wall. And we have once now come through that horrific time better than nearly every other State in the nation.

With the good people of this Cabinet, with the brilliant leadership of Commissioner Lambrew and CDC director Nirav Shah, and others, we answered the call. Now, experts nationally say that both our public health response and our economic recovery have been among the best in the country.

Four years ago, I committed my new administration to taking us into the future, to welcoming new people to our State and welcoming back those who have left. So, I'm pleased to report after the decades-long exodus of young people from our State, Maine now boasts the seventh highest in-migration rate in the country. We're welcoming new people every day and we continue to listen to the people of Maine.

You said you wanted a government that paid teachers better, that funded public schools, schools where children would learn on full stomachs and a government that made the dream of higher education attainable for more people. So, we fully funded the State's share of public education for the first time in history. We provided universal free meals in the public schools. We provided free community college to recent high school grads. And we enacted one of the most generous student loan forgiveness programs in the country.

You said you wanted health insurance for more people, so we expanded MaineCare to more than 100,000 people, as the voters told us to do. And we've reduced the uninsured rate by more than any state in the country. And we listened to small businesses drowning in health insurance costs and we lowered their premiums for the first time in decades.

You asked us to pay attention to what U.N. scientists have called a red code for humanity and the violent storms across the nation damaging homes and farms and towns and fisheries and wildlife and everything our country holds dear. So, with renewable energy, weatherization, efficiency, alternative heating sources and a focus on resiliency, we have put Maine on a path towards carbon neutrality, with a plan to protect our precious farms, shorelands and towns from the ravages of climate change.

You asked us to expand broadband, recognizing that it is the communications highway of the future and that high-speed internet is as necessary to everything we do as water is to life. So, we created the Maine Connectivity Authority and we've connected more than 48,000 households to the internet. And I pledge that by the end of 2024, every person in Maine who wants a good internet connection will have one.

You asked us to begin to repair the divisions between the State and Tribal Nations. So, we enacted the highest water quality standards in the nation for rivers with sustenance fishing. We expanded Tribal Court prosecution of domestic violence and we negotiated major new revenue sources for the Tribes.

You urged us to protect reproductive health care against the threat, now real, that the Supreme Court would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and we did so. We passed laws that discouraged protesters from blocking clinics, that required public and private insurance coverage for abortion services and made those services available to women in rural as well as urban areas of the State.

You asked us then to preserve some of the special places of our State. And so, without borrowing, we reinvigorated the Land for Maine's Future program and acquired thousands of acres of working waterfront, farmland and wildlife habitat for generations to enjoy in trust a hundred years hence.

You asked us to fight against federal rulings that threatened our iconic lobster industry, and we did, working with Members of Congress securing a regulatory pause as well as funding for new research to protect both the right whale and the lobster industry.

You asked us to manage our budgets prudently. So, State government has lived within its means and we have built up the rainy-day fund to a record high to shelter us from the impacts of inflation and possible recession. And we've continued to fix our highways and bridges worn by time, use and Maine's changing seasons without borrowing.

But our job is far from finished. Today, a workforce shortage undermines our very ability to get things done; from teaching, policing, health care, farming, to manufacturing and selling goods, help wanted signs are everywhere. So, we are expanding workforce training in high schools and community colleges, we're making more child care available for working parents, and we're partnering with towns and businesses to find better housing for workers and shelter for the unhoused and we're putting people to work.

You're asking us to strengthen and diversify our economy, recognizing that we're too dependent on other states and nations and too vulnerable to the volatile winds of worldwide geopolitics. So, we're investing in our fisheries, farms and forest products, to produce more at home, seizing on our spirit of independence and self-reliance while seeking new markets abroad.

You're asking us to diversify our energy sources and loosen the stranglehold that fossil fuel companies have on the wallets of Maine families and businesses. So, we are pursuing renewable sources of energy that will protect both our environment and your family's bottom line instead of big oil's profits.

You're asking us to address the crisis in housing. So first off, we issued the senior affordable housing bonds. First thing. Then we enacted the largest investment in housing in State history. We renewed the historic rehabilitation tax credit and we have funded more than 1,500 new residential units and adding hundreds more in the years to come. We're working every day with cities and towns and developers to stand up emergency shelters and workforce housing in a way that fits the needs of every town.

You're asking us to do our best to stop the ravages of opioid addiction and the waste of human life and human aspirations from drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine. So, we are in earnest providing treatment beds and recovery and prevention measures and distributing naloxone everywhere to save thousands of lives and we will make sure that every school and every community has an effective prevention program to stop the scourge of addiction before it begins.

You're asking us to make sure that every child in Maine is safe. Acknowledging that these same drugs that are killing

adults are endangering children too. So, we reactivated the Children's Cabinet, long dormant. We put more child protection workers on the street and we're adding resources for foster families and every effort that we can to keep our children safe. But that work is never over. We cannot and shall not rest until we eradicate the scourge of child abuse and neglect, drug overdose and domestic violence; acts and injuries and deaths that tear at the very fabric of our society.

You're asking us as well to recognize that children's emotional health also suffered during the pandemic and that hospital emergency rooms and jails are not the right places to treat someone in a mental health crisis. So, we have opened Maine's first comprehensive crisis receiving center. We're investing in residential care and community-based treatment. We're training up more professionals and expanding mental health crisis servicing Statewide.

Ladies and gentlemen, over the next four years, it will be our challenge to address these issues head on, to continue the march of progress we began four years ago and to be prepared for the challenges not yet known to us. And in doing so, we envision Maine as a place where quality health care is unquestioned, where good education from pre-K through graduate school is available and affordable, where good-paying jobs are offered in every corner of the State. Where children are safe and secure in their homes and where anyone can go online from anyplace in Maine to shop, attend a class, conduct business, sell something, get medical help or simply send a message to a friend.

These are our goals; hopeful but real. That hope is built of the hardiness of a people who endure long winters and muddy springs and hot summers and windy falls, people who endure and survive and thrive above it all. Hope is not an easy thing. It's not mere wishful thinking. It's not just trying to do what we did yesterday in the same old, same old way. Hope is disruptive. It is, after all, a four-letter word. It challenges and changes the way we do things and it calls on us to advance and adapt while preserving everything we are as a people and all the values we hold dear. And more than ever before, because of everything we have been through and because of everything we are, hope resides here in Maine. Hope is manifest in the actions you took this very day, actions inspired perhaps by one of humanity's great spiritual guides who said 2000 years ago; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me. For your actions today in housing, heating and helping those in need, the people of Maine are deeply grateful. You, the Maine Legislature, have provided hope.

Hope is about finding new and innovative ways to solve problems using the ingenuity and courage we rediscovered within ourselves these last few years and I see hope all across the State today. There's hope in the work of University of Maine students devising new uses for wood and ways to harness the power of the raw winds of the Atlantic and methods to build homes with bio-based materials from a giant printer. There is hope in the aspirations of inventors and innovators at the Roux Institute, using artificial intelligence and data analytics to solve complex problems. Hope in cities like Waterville, Biddeford and Westbrook, who are evolving from their industrial past, reinventing their downtowns and attracting new families and new businesses every day. Hope in the faces of women shopkeepers in Lewiston and Portland selling fabrics, foods and spices from other countries, these industrious mothers of soccer champions, daughters of another continent. Hope in the vision of enterprising artists, poets, musicians, architects, writers and makers of crafts in every corner of this State. Hope in the far

reaches of the County and Downeast and in the shadows of our western mountains where farmers, foresters, fishermen, hunters, storekeepers and tourists coexist. And there is hope as well in the eyes of those who have forded raging rivers, thick forests, steep mountains and rough seas to seek refuge here in our country, refuge and work in our country and in our State.

There is hope for the future, just as it was hope that saw us through troubled time in the past. The charge, the responsibility we take up today is to choose action over acquiescence and apathy. To make decisions grounded in experience with an eye to the future and always to be part of something larger than ourselves.

And so, on this solemn occasion, let us recommit to working together and acknowledging that health care is a human right and we will fight to preserve it. That education is essential and we will provide it. That climate change is real and we will combat it. And that a decent home is essential and we will build it. And when the people of the future look back on us through their own James Webb Telescope, they will see that we worked together during difficult times and good, that we settled our differences with civility, common sense and compassion. That we took care of one another, that we protected the air, water and land around us and built a State that survived and thrived long into the future. And perhaps, too, they will see some things I believe will never change; the way the surf of the mighty Atlantic pounds the granite shores of our State, the way Katahdin rises up in all its majesty in the western sky, the way the Basilica in Lewiston inspires the people of the mighty Androscoggin, the way so many institutions of higher learning enrich and grace our towns and cities across the State, and the way Moxie tickles the throat as it goes down and the way the wild blueberry finds a place in every tasty meal.

One hundred years from now, people not yet born will turn a telescope back in time and find in the Maine of the 2020s a place where government did everything it could to save the lives and livelihoods of its people, took nothing for granted, but invested wisely to make Maine a clean, healthy and welcoming place where success is attainable. And they will remember one sign, one word that guided our path, our actions and our dreams; hopeful.

It is the highest privilege of my life to serve as your Governor during hard times and good, stormy seas and calmer waters, as we weather the best and the worst of times together, tackling extraordinary problems, through extraordinary times, alongside you, the extraordinary people of Maine. It is an honor to lead a people where everything good is possible and where we believe always deep in our hearts the best is yet to come. Thank you.

At the conclusion of the address, Benediction was given by the Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine.

The Governor then withdrew amid the applause from the Convention, the audience rising.

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

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer, the House adjourned at 8:24 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2023, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 42).