

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
15th Legislative Day
Thursday, March 9, 2023

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

Prayer by Reverend Matthew McDonald, Union Congregational Church, Ellsworth Falls.

National Anthem by David Myers Jr., Gorham.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Lisa Letourneau, M.D., Portland.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 7, 2023 was read and approved.

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Foreclosure Process

(H.P. 651) (L.D. 1015)

REFERRED to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** in the House on March 7, 2023.

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 87)

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

March 9, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 215 Resolve, to Require the Commissioner of Public Safety to Conduct a Study Regarding Cadet Law Enforcement Officers Who Are Injured and Law Enforcement Officers Who Leave the Sponsoring Agency

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 357 An Act to Require the Nonwires Alternative Coordinator to Review and Analyze Plans to Build, Upgrade or Replace a Substation

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

L.D. 261 An Act to Reinstate a Minimum Age for Hunting Transportation

L.D. 334 An Act to Ensure the Full Value of the Balance of Registration Fees Is Retained by the Seller of Used Motor Vehicles

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 88)

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

March 9, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has approved the request by the sponsor, President Jackson of Aroostook, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 723

An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting Discrimination by Insurers Based on Certain Information

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 166)

MAINE SENATE
131st LEGISLATURE

March 7, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

- Gregory G. Johnson of Harpswell for appointment, Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees,
- Susan Krauss Loomis of Castine for appointment, to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees,
- Elizabeth A. True of Sedgwick, for appointment to the Maine Maritime Academy, Board of Trustees.

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

- Jessica D. Linzer of Cape Elizabeth for reappointment, of the Maine Retirement Savings Board,
- Matthew Stephen Colpitts of Winthrop for appointment, of the Maine Retirement Savings Board.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on State and Local Government:

- Avery T. Day, Esquire of Yarmouth for appointment, to the State Civil Service Appeals Board,
- Arthur Kyricos of York Harbor for appointment, to the State Civil Service Appeals Board,
- Holly Pomelow of Vassalboro for appointment, to the State Civil Service Appeals Board,

- Susan P. Herman, Esquire of Mount Vernon for appointment, to the State Civil Service Appeals Board,
- Ryan D. Pelletier of St. Agatha for appointment, to the State Civil Service Appeals Board.

Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act Regarding Calibration Requirements for Certain Testing and Measurement Equipment"
(H.P. 706) (L.D. 1110)

Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.

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 Define the Term 'Solitary Confinement' for the Laws Governing a Jail or Correctional Facility"
(H.P. 681) (L.D. 1086)

Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: HASENFUS of Readfield, MATHIESON of Kittery, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, NEWMAN of Belgrade, NUTTING of Oakland, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Bill "An Act to Remove Restrictions in the Provisions of Law Relating to No-knock Warrants"
(H.P. 682) (L.D. 1087)

Sponsored by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.

Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Allow Persons Who Lawfully Use or Possess Cannabis to Own or Possess Firearms or Ammunition"
(H.P. 698) (L.D. 1103)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HASENFUS of Readfield, LIBBY of Auburn, MATHIESON of Kittery, SUPICA of Bangor, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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 Enhance Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Sporting Heritage by Making the Elements of a Hunter Safety Course a Part of Public School Curriculum"
(H.P. 679) (L.D. 1084)

Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Authorization of Public Charter Schools"
(H.P. 684) (L.D. 1089)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, PERRY of Calais, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions Regarding Immunization Requirements"
(H.P. 693) (L.D. 1098)

Sponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HENDERSON of Rumford, JAVNER of Chester, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, Senator: KEIM of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Require Transparency Regarding School Construction Spending"
(H.P. 709) (L.D. 1113)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

Cosponsored by Representative: LAVIGNE of Berwick.

Bill "An Act to Enact the Curriculum Transparency Act"
(H.P. 714) (L.D. 1129)

Sponsored by Representative SAMPSON of Alfred.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, DRINKWATER of Milford, JAVNER of Chester, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, SMITH of Palermo, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

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 Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System"
(H.P. 696) (L.D. 1101)

Sponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction"
(H.P. 707) (L.D. 1111)

Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

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.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Its Rules Regarding Campgrounds in Order to Ensure Campground Health and Safety
(H.P. 686) (L.D. 1091)

Sponsored by Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, DILL of Old Town, MADIGAN of Waterville, MONTELL of Gardiner, PERRY of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Expand Services for Women Who Experience Gender-based Trauma and Violence"

(H.P. 687) (L.D. 1092)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ARATA of New Gloucester, DHALAC of South Portland, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MADIGAN of Waterville, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, RANA of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Allocation of Funds Awarded to Maine Due to the Opioid Settlement"

(H.P. 689) (L.D. 1094)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MEYER of Eliot, PERRY of Calais, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Protect Vulnerable Populations in Residential Facilities from Extended Power Outages"

(H.P. 694) (L.D. 1099)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, COPELAND of Saco, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, THORNE of Carmel, Senators: RENY of Lincoln, TIPPING of Penobscot.

Resolve, to Amend the MaineCare Hospital Readmission Protocol (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 700) (L.D. 1104)

Sponsored by Representative PRINGLE of Windham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: PERRY of Calais, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Improve the Transition to Adult Services for Children with Intellectual Disabilities"

(H.P. 702) (L.D. 1106)

Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, JAVNER of Chester, MOONEN of Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, RECKITT of South Portland.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Annual Medical Eligibility Determinations of Need for Families of Children with Disabilities"

(H.P. 710) (L.D. 1114)

Sponsored by Representative JAUCH of Topsham.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, GOLEK of Harpswell, LEMELIN of Chelsea, PRINGLE of Windham, RANA of Bangor, SAYRE of Kennebunk, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Support Continuity in Perinatal and Emergency Care by Requiring Notice of a Voluntary Hospital or Facility Closure or Reduction in Services"

(H.P. 716) (L.D. 1131)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.
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 Increase Transparency of and Lower Health Care Costs"

(H.P. 680) (L.D. 1085)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.
Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, NESS of Fryeburg, SWALLOW of Houlton, Senator: BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Lower Costs and Consumer Protections for Patients by Prohibiting Certain Billing Practices"

(H.P. 701) (L.D. 1105)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, NESS of Fryeburg, SWALLOW of Houlton.

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Economic Development Funds for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes"

(H.P. 711) (L.D. 1115)

Sponsored by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, LANDRY of Farmington, PARRY of Arundel, Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, LAWRENCE of York, POULIOT of Kennebec.

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 Reduce the Burden of Asset Recovery on Family Caregivers"

(H.P. 715) (L.D. 1130)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Public Sector Bargaining in Public Schools by Providing an Exemption to the Time Limit on Negotiations"

(H.P. 690) (L.D. 1095)

Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Help Retired Teachers and State Employees Keep Pace with Inflation by Matching the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Social Security Benefits"

(H.P. 691) (L.D. 1096)

Sponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, CROCKETT of Portland, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, PLUECKER of Warren, WARREN of Scarborough.

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Individuals

(H.P. 703) (L.D. 1107)

Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BLIER of Buxton, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GERE of Kennebunkport, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Provide Workers' Compensation for Temporary Employees"

(H.P. 708) (L.D. 1112)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

Bill "An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers"

(H.P. 712) (L.D. 1116)

Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FAY of Raymond, GERE of Kennebunkport, GUERRETTE of Caribou, JAVNER of Chester, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: MOORE of Washington, POULIOT of Kennebec.

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 Replace Participation Thresholds in Municipal Referenda with Lower Approval Thresholds"

(H.P. 692) (L.D. 1097)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta. (BY REQUEST)

Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and Representatives: LaROCHELLE of Augusta, MONTELL of Gardiner.

Resolve, to Modify Security Screenings in the State House and Implement Security Screenings in the Burton M. Cross Building

(H.P. 695) (L.D. 1100)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, MEYER of Eliot, O'CONNELL of Brewer, PERRY of Calais, SUPICA of Bangor, WHITE of Waterville.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a Recall Election for a School Board Member"

(H.P. 697) (L.D. 1102)

Sponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham.

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, HYMES of Waldo, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RISEMAN of Harrison, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators"

(H.P. 713) (L.D. 1117)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GREENWOOD of Wales, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RISEMAN of Harrison, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create a Seasonal Gas Tax Exemption and Rate"

(H.P. 688) (L.D. 1093)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, DUNPHY of Embden, PERRY of Bangor, PLUECKER of Warren, QUINT of Hodgdon.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested.

On motion of Speaker TABLOT ROSS of Portland, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Driver Education Programs to Include Education Regarding the Risks of Impaired Driving Due to the Use of Alcohol, Cannabis or Other Substances"

(H.P. 685) (L.D. 1090)

Sponsored by Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update the Gambling Laws to Allow Once-annual Casino Nights for Charitable Purposes or Registered Political Committees"

(H.P. 683) (L.D. 1088)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, COLLINGS of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, PERRY of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Require All Candidates for Any State or County Office to Follow the Same Rules for Submission of Signatures Regarding Deadlines and the Number of Signatures"

(H.P. 704) (L.D. 1108)

Sponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, COLLINGS of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland, RISEMAN of Harrison, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Create Consistent Election Dates for Citizen-initiated Referenda in Even-numbered Election Years

(H.P. 705) (L.D. 1109)

Sponsored by Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, CARLOW of Buxton, DUCHARME of Madison, LANDRY of Farmington, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SARGENT of York.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative SARGENT of York, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 699) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ARATA of New Gloucester, BRENNAN of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DHALAC of South Portland, RECKITT of South Portland, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2023 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been celebrated since 1911; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have contributed greatly to the State's, the country's and the world's history; and

WHEREAS, those Maine women include Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to the United States Cabinet; Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; Olympia Snowe, the first woman to serve in both chambers at both the state and federal levels; Edna St. Vincent Millay, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, the first registered Maine guide; Samantha Smith, an international peace advocate; Gail Laughlin, the first woman in Maine to practice law; Dorothea Dix, a nurse and advocate for the mentally ill; Frannie Peabody, an HIV/AIDS activist; Judith Isaacson, a Holocaust survivor and educator; Mary Low, one of the first American women to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree; Elizabeth Russell, a groundbreaking geneticist; Florence Whitehouse, a suffragist, activist and novelist; Rena Newell, currently serving as Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe; Rachel Talbot Ross, the first African American woman to serve as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives; Valerie Stanfill, currently serving as Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court; and Janet T. Mills, the first woman in Maine to serve as Attorney General of Maine and the first woman to serve as Governor of Maine; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for American Women and Politics, in 2023 a record 32.7% of the 7,386 seats in the 99 state legislative chambers in the United States are currently held by women, including 44.1% of the seats in the Maine Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Maine is one of 16 states with a woman serving as a presiding officer of its Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Maine women throughout our history, the ongoing march toward gender equality, both in Maine and around the world, and the designation of March 8, 2023 as International Women's Day.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Sargent.

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Women and Men of the House. I rise today as a proud daughter of Maine to join our Maine voices with people around the world who celebrate International Women's Day. It's appropriate that Maine should be represented among the voices because, as you see enumerated in this Resolve and we see in all of our communities, the power of pioneering Maine women. One hundred years ago this very winter, 1923, Dora Pinkham, representing the County, was the first woman elected to the Maine Legislature. I think about how she must have felt --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. Please direct all of your comments through the Chair. The Member will proceed.

The Chair reminded Representative SARGENT of York to address her comments toward the Speaker.

Representative **SARGENT**: I wonder how she must have felt as she walked into this Chamber and looked around to see that she was the only female. As I walked into this Chamber this morning to proudly take my seat, I was reminded that, indeed, this Legislature has 44.1% women, it has representation in all leadership, it has women serving beside our enlightened men Members in all of the committees. And that we set an example. Maine is a beacon and has been for the march toward equality and I ask my fellow Members for us not to become complacent, that the march continues. The World Economic Forum now projects that it will take 132 years at the current pace toward equality for women to achieve parity. Thankfully, Maine is way ahead of that. But we cannot forget that we are the role models and we are the workers that project this to future generations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **RECKITT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today having spent the last two evenings accidentally tripping over a documentary on Netflix entitled "Feminists: What Were They Thinking?" It's a very interesting retrospective of the 1970s and up through today. I recommend it highly and it inspired my remarks today.

I have to say that in 1973, 50 years ago, almost to the day; I didn't research whether it was actually the day; but this month, I first set foot in this State House. Not as a legislator but as a 20-something young woman in the women's movement, lobbying for the ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment, which I might remind you all has still not been ratified to this day. Fifty years ago, I was terrified, I was totally intimidated by the numbers of people in this House. I barely dared open my mouth, I know you find that hard to believe, many

of you, but I really was intimidated but glad to be here. But I was not glad to lose the battle that year. But some of you may know, I'm a tad stubborn, and so, I was back the next year, Madam Speaker, and that year, we won. And I think that there's a pattern there that I'd like to repeat soon.

I want to just mention that we've been asked to speak relatively briefly so, I'm going to try to do that, although it sort of goes against my nature, but I would want to tell you a couple of things. I asked the other day for someone to research exactly what the composition of the House and the Senate was in terms of women and there were some very interesting statistics and I'm going to give you the total. I'm going to give you the nonpartisan picture. In 1973, there was one woman in the Senate, in the Maine Senate. In 1973, there were 18 women in the Maine House. Today, there are 14 women in the Maine Senate and there are 68 women in the Maine House. And as you have already heard, that approximates about 44% of this Body is women. And the thing that you may or may not know is sociological studies have shown that whenever a body who is trying to work together gets to the level where it's 30% women, then the whole tone of it changes. And I like to think that the collegial and frankly collaborative tone of this Body and this Legislature as a whole is helped by the fact that on both sides of the aisle, there are substantial numbers of women and I'm thrilled to be here in this Body today and I'll save my longer dissertation for another day when we're not short of time.

But, anyway, I'm pleased to be here, I'm pleased that 50 years later I'm standing in this spot instead of shaking with nerves in the hallway and I think that all of us who are here today, both men and women, should be grateful of the numbers we have. We're close to parity, which of course would be my goal, anyway, and I hope that we will all continue to work collaboratively and collegially together for the balance of this session. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 12)

ORDERED, that Representative Danny Edward Costain of Plymouth be excused Feb 28 and Mar 2 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative W. Edward Crockett of Portland be excused Jan 24 for health reasons and Feb 28 and Mar 2 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sean C. Paulhus of Bath be excused Feb 28 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Joseph F. Underwood of Presque Isle be excused Feb 28 for health reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Hall-Dale Middle School Girls Basketball Team, of Farmingdale, which won the Capital Area League Championship after a perfect 15-0 season. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 171)

Presented by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea, Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Montell.

Representative **MONTELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Members of the House, I rise today to congratulate the Capital Area League Championship Team which is part of my district in Farmingdale, the part of the students that go to Hall-Dale Middle School, the girls. I congratulate not only them but their parents and their coaches. And I spoke to a parent in the hallway today and I asked what do you think was the secret formula to this winning season, has this always been a very successful team, and the parent told me that it was actually last; their last season, they lost to a team but this year they came and they won; they beat that team by just two points in the regular season and then had to face that team again in the Championship.

So, I just really appreciate their tenacity, their hard work. I'm told they're a talented team but they're obviously a team that knows how to work together, they know how to communicate, and they know how to be successful and win. So, again, congratulations to all of them. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hallowell, Representative Shagoury.

Representative **SHAGOURY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it is my very great pleasure to welcome the undefeated Hall-Dale Middle School girls basketball team to the State House today. This season, the Bulldogs had an incredible 15-0 record and it is because of their years of hard work and dedication that they have excelled in basketball as individuals and more importantly as a team. And, since they're only middle schoolers, I look forward to great things from them in the years to come on the court.

As a parent who watched his kids play sports at Hall-Dale all through school, I know that the hard work and dedication these athletes have shown on the court will serve them well in the future. Madam Speaker, the Hall-Dale community is incredibly proud of this team and its athletes. Please join me in congratulating the Bulldogs on an undefeated season and their Capital League Championship win.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services Pursuant to Resolve

Representative MEYER for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Membership of the Rare Disease Advisory Council" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 678) (L.D. 1083)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 177, section 8.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

Sent for concurrence.

Change of Committee

Representative SACHS from the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Permit Emergency Funding for Food Banks When a State of Emergency Is Declared"

(H.P. 55) (L.D. 87)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

Sent for concurrence.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Postsecondary Education for Low-income Parents"

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

ENACTORS
Acts

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Storm Water Management to Provide an Exemption for Trails for Hiking and Other Similar Activities

(H.P. 137) (L.D. 216)

An Act to Raise from 12 to 24 the Annual Limit on the Number of Public Events and Meals Nonprofit Organizations May Have That Are Exempt from Certain Rules and Regulations

(H.P. 155) (L.D. 234)

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

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 183) (L.D. 285) Bill "An Act to Remove the Requirement for Wild Blueberry Transportation Permits" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

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

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 460)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 14, 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.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to comment further on the Resolution about being National Women's Day on March 9th. I realize no list is absolutely comprehensive but I would also like to at this time recognize Jessica Meir, who was born in Caribou, Maine, and was on space missions, Expedition 61, Soyuz MS-15, and Expedition 62 into space as a Maine-born citizen. Thank you.

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

On motion of Representative RECKITT of South Portland, the House adjourned at 11:20 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2023, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 460) and in honor and lasting tribute to George Linwood Lougee of Detroit and Harland E. Storey, Sr. of Cumberland.