

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
18th Legislative Day
Thursday, May 25, 2023

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

Prayer by Pastor William Alley, The Rock Church, Bangor.
National Anthem by Addison Avery, Auburn.
Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, May 23, 2023 was read and approved.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Ellsworth, Representative Worth, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **WORTH**: Madam Speaker, I am thrilled today to have in the gallery the Ellsworth High School Class B State Champion girls basketball team and the Ellsworth High School State Champion Class B cheer squad. We are extremely proud of these fine young women and I'm just thrilled to have them here so that they can be greeted by the House.

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Licensing Actions of the Emergency Medical Services' Board
(S.P. 39) (L.D. 47)
(C. "A" S-90)

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

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 12: Transportation of Human Remains, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Maine State Board of Funeral Service
(H.P. 225) (L.D. 374)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 114 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 2: Hearing Procedures and Portions of Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions, Major Substantive Rules of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
(H.P. 242) (L.D. 391)
(C. "A" H-130)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 104 voted in favor of the same and 8 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Require Annual Financial Audits of Certain Private Schools Approved for Tuition Purposes
(H.P. 68) (L.D. 100)
(C. "A" H-120)

An Act to Clarify Assessment of Penalties for Tattoo Artists, Body Piercers, Electrologists and Micropigmentation Practitioners and to Change Requirements for the Approval of Public Pool and Spa Plans
(S.P. 75) (L.D. 146)
(C. "A" S-86)

An Act to Provide Funding for Prosecutor Positions
(S.P. 90) (L.D. 186)
(C. "A" S-89)

An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws
(H.P. 261) (L.D. 428)
(C. "A" H-124)

An Act to Prohibit Marriage of Any Person Under 17 Years of Age
(H.P. 276) (L.D. 443)
(C. "A" H-88)

An Act Regarding Licensing Fees for Small Slot Machine Distributors
(S.P. 221) (L.D. 504)
(C. "A" S-96)

An Act to Support Statewide Economic Opportunities Through Strategic Investments of Property and Funds, Including Emergency Relief Funds
(S.P. 341) (L.D. 782)
(C. "A" S-93)

An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers
(S.P. 394) (L.D. 923)
(C. "A" S-91)

An Act Regarding Passing Stationary Motor Vehicles on Public Ways
(S.P. 399) (L.D. 980)
(C. "A" S-100)

An Act to Establish a Mobile Learning Lab
(S.P. 554) (L.D. 1389)
(C. "A" S-97)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study Motor Vehicle Dealer Display Area and Licensing Requirements
(S.P. 103) (L.D. 203)
(C. "A" S-92)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Promote Translation and Interpretation Services in Health Care Settings
(H.P. 263) (L.D. 430)
(C. "A" H-121)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Apply for a Waiver from the Federal Government for the Medicaid Limitation on Payment to a Facility with More Than 16 Inpatient Beds for Psychiatric Treatment
(S.P. 200) (L.D. 445)
(C. "A" S-94)

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

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Change of Committee**

Representative SALISBURY from the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Increase Correctional Officer Salary and Benefits"
(H.P. 355) (L.D. 550)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING**.

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

The Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and sent for concurrence.

Ought to Pass as Amended

Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Expand Good Samaritan Protections for Naloxone Hydrochloride Administration"
(S.P. 421) (L.D. 1052)

Reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-103)**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-103) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-124)** thereto.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-103)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-124) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-103)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-103) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-124) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-103) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-124)** thereto in concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-101)** on Bill "An Act to Improve Educator Certification Response Times"
(S.P. 156) (L.D. 335)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-101)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-101)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-101)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Credit and Debit Card Surcharges"

(S.P. 541) (L.D. 1324)

Signed:

Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
CYRWAY of Albion
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
PRINGLE of Windham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-95)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representative:

SWALLOW of Houlton

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative PERRY of Calais, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase Affordable Housing Development"

(S.P. 624) (L.D. 1593)

Signed:
Senators:

PIERCE of Cumberland
POULIOT of Kennebec
VITELLI of Sagadahoc

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
BLIER of Buxton
CAMPBELL of Orrington
GATTINE of Westbrook
GOLEK of Harpswell
MORRIS of Turner
RANA of Bangor

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-111)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Representative:

LOOKNER of Portland

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Tax Credit for Major Business Headquarters Expansions Regarding Employees' Location and Time of Hire for Purposes of the Credit"

(S.P. 531) (L.D. 1313)

Signed:
Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
CHIPMAN of Cumberland
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush
CROCKETT of Portland
HASENFUS of Readfield
LAVIGNE of Berwick
MATLACK of St. George
RANA of Bangor

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

Signed:
Representatives:

LIBBY of Auburn
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative PERRY of Bangor, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Improve Signature Requirements for Candidates by Allowing Unenrolled Voters to Sign Petitions for Party Candidates"

(S.P. 539) (L.D. 1320)

Signed:
Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
BRENNER of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
MALON of Biddeford
MONTELL of Gardiner
RIELLY of Westbrook
RISEMAN of Harrison
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

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

Signed:
Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris
BOYER of Poland
COLLINGS of Portland
HYMES of Waldo

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative SUPICA of Bangor, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program" (H.P. 442) (L.D. 673)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ARDELL of Monticello
HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MADIGAN of Waterville
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-217)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representative:

NEWMAN of Belgrade

READ.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-214)** on Bill "An Act to Invest in an Educational Technician Training Program to Address Shortages in Public Schools" (H.P. 217) (L.D. 343)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-214)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-214)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Make Student Transfer Agreements Renew Automatically Except in Certain Circumstances" (H.P. 1213) (L.D. 1892)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

READ.

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow a Qualifying Religious Organization to Self-insure for Automobile Insurance" (H.P. 640) (L.D. 1004)

Signed:

Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
PRINGLE of Windham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-216)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion

MORRIS of Turner

NUTTING of Oakland

SWALLOW of Houlton

READ.

Representative PERRY of Calais moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Contrary to what --

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham, and inquires why he rises at this time.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Madam Speaker, I move we table this item.

The **SPEAKER**: The motion is out of order. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Contrary to what some of my senior fellow Members have told me, that it doesn't make sense to waste time to stand up in this room, you won't gain another vote, I'm here with hat in hand asking that the Members listen carefully and consider what I'm about to tell you as we move to act on this motion.

Currently, Ohio, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, Georgia, Wyoming, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Vermont, Texas, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Florida, Virginia, Iowa and Maryland all offer some form of accommodation that allows a religious group to self-insure automobiles. LD 1004 would make that opportunity available to Mennonites who settled in Maine from some of these 18 states the last several years. Mennonites believe they are to provide for their own and that they must stay from under the yoke of the government or insurance companies and not depend on others, such as us, outside of their faith to provide for them. The number of Mennonites in Maine is low compared to other regions of the country. The members of the local group in Central Maine currently own about 15 vehicles. Members of another group in Brownfield own up to 70. I'm not aware of others, but the number of Mennonites relocating to Maine from other states has been growing. In the communities where they settle, they are recognized for their honesty, hard work, integrity and self-reliance. They are good neighbors who care for their families, keep up their properties and improve their farmland, often purchasing old farms that have been abandoned to that use. They pay their taxes and provide for others in need while asking for no help from the government. Their conviction to provide for their own financially expands beyond their local group to others in Maine and beyond State borders when needed.

Current Maine Statute allows any person or group to self-insure. Yes, even us. But it requires that you provide proof of financial responsibility of \$175,000 for each insured vehicle. LD 1004 would allow a qualifying religious group to self-insure multiple vehicles starting at a higher amount, with increases depending on the total number of vehicles covered. A few of the many requirements of LD 1004 include recognition by the federal government as an eligible religious group by meeting Internal Revenue Code Regulations, opting out of Social Security, Medicare and other government benefit programs; as these folks have done; demonstration of past and present financial solvency, depositing with the State an irrevocable letter of credit or deposit of money and securities of \$250,000 for five to 10 vehicles and \$5,000 for each additional vehicle with no upper limit.

If passed, this bill would be as restrictive and more financially burdensome than any other state offering this opportunity. The Mennonites, by this bill are committed to pay any and all damages or claims resulting from any auto accidents from their own financial holdings. Should they fail to do so within 30 days of a judgment, the opportunity to self-insure may be revoked by the Secretary of State and the deposited funds would be held until payment is made. Should the payment not be made, the deposited funds would be used to do so. There is only one reason that Mennonites have continued to have this opportunity for many years in other states; it's because they have not failed to cover claims when they occurred. And that is true even today in the State of Maine for the very few claims and issues that they have had here.

In the 128th Legislature, LD 426, "An Act To Allow Hunters Whose Religion Prohibits Wearing Hunter Orange Clothing to Instead Wear Red" was introduced. Mr. Tim Peabody, the Deputy Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife testified in support of LD 426 and wrote, quote; the Department supports LD 426 as it provides visibility for a hunter and a choice for persons who have a religious opposition to wearing hunter orange. The bill sponsor's testimony, Representative David H. McCrea, included, quote; it is also my understanding that under no circumstances will this group wear hunter orange. I see this religiously-based belief and our current State of Maine Statute requiring the wearing of hunter orange on a collision course. I have attached a copy of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed by the First Session of the 103rd United States Congress in 1993; unquote. The sponsor went on to write, quote; how many times have we been made aware of the fact that many of the early European settlers of our land came here so that they could escape religious persecution and practice their faith as they so desired. In a small way, and with this bill, we as legislators have an opportunity to stand a little bit taller and cast our vote in support of religious freedom. By the way, the bill was co-sponsored by then-Senator Shenna Bellows.

HR 1308, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, sponsored by Representative Charles E. Schumer, prohibits any agency, department or official of the United States or any state, the government, from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability except that the government may burden a person's exercise of religion only if it demonstrates application of the burden to the person furthers a compelling governmental interest and is the least-restricted means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

Representative McCrea in his testimony also stated, quote; I feel that failure to do so will almost certainly lead to a legal confrontation between the State of Maine and this group of

Amish people. A battle that is absolutely unnecessary and one that can almost certainly be resolved in exactly the same manner that LD 426 aims to prevent.

Madam Speaker, I will say that this was not a consideration for the Mennonites that I represented in this bill. They are a non-litigious people. They don't believe in suing the government, their neighbors or anyone else, which is one of the reasons that they require their persons to not have insurance, besides the fact that they would be dependent upon the rest of us to help pay any claims, whether it's medical, homeowners or, in this case, automotive insurance that they may have.

Just in the 131st Legislature, LD 1277, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Property Investment by Credit Unions" was introduced. In the sponsor's testimony, Senator Rotundo wrote, quote, Sharia-compliant financing is financing activity that complies with Islamic Law. That law prohibits riba, which can be defined as interest paid on all loans of money or interest received from a deposit account. Some religious practices within the Muslim community forbid riba, as it is seen as an unethical practice. According to the website, Investopedia, Islam aims to promote charity and helping others through kindness and to remove sentiments of selfishness and self-centeredness which can create social antipathy, distrust and resentment. By making riba illegal, Sharia Law creates opportunities and context at which people are encouraged to act charitably, loaning money without interest. This means that many credit union customers within our Muslim community are not offered the same opportunities to purchase land, businesses or homes unless they choose to violate their religious beliefs.

Testifying in support, Krista Simonis, Director of Governmental Affairs at the Maine Credit Union League wrote, quote; some religious practices within the Muslim community forbid the payment of interest or riba. With traditional models of banking, this leaves many without access to the capital needed to buy homes, expand businesses or even hold savings accounts. Our credit unions have worked with their communities when possible to provide products, like savings accounts, that respect religious beliefs and still provide access to services. However, current law does not allow for the creation of a mortgage product that would allow credit unions to accomplish this goal.

Madam Speaker, testifying neither for nor against, Attorney Gordon Laurendeau of the Bureau of Financial Institutions wrote, quote; it is the Bureau's understanding that the Maine Credit Union League has been working with the sponsor on this proposal, which is intended to make it easier for credit unions to assist those members seeking alternative mortgage products due primarily to the member's religious prohibitions against paying interest on loans. He went on to say, quote; the Bureau supports the general concept of making home ownership available to more Mainers and is willing to work with the sponsor, Committee and industry stakeholders to develop legislation that will achieve this goal.

Madam Speaker, that bill I believe yesterday was passed out of Committee unanimous Ought to Pass. Within a couple of days of the Committee vote of Ought Not to Pass for the bill that I sponsored, I began getting questions from area residents telling me they heard their neighbors were leaving the State and wondering why. First was my town manager. He said I understand the Mennonites are packing up, they need to leave, and he asked me why and I explained to him. During the Committee hearing, they were not inclined to threaten that they might leave the State if this bill was not passed because of the type of people that they are and their faith. However, one of the Committee Members from the other side of the aisle asked me

during the work session, Representative, what do you think will happen if we don't pass this bill? I told them I think they will probably leave the State. Others of my constituents asked me, who visit their businesses, have hired them to do carpentry work, saw out logs, butcher their deer or their cattle, why they're leaving and I've had to explain to them.

With no threat of leaving the State during the bill hearing, they have begun that process. As a matter of fact, the first day that I drove back to Augusta as I went by one of their brand-new buildings that they erected a couple years ago for the opportunity to build sheds and other buildings inside and then sell to the public, I noticed they had a small for sale sign on their sign board out front. It was one like you or I might put on a picnic table out in front of our yard with a few trinkets on it. They had that on their business. This morning when I rode by, they had a brokerage sign in front of that business. I will remind folks that although they decided that they did not want to pursue the litigation route on this, it is clear what Federal Law says.

And, lastly, I will address the fiscal note put forward by the Secretary of State, who opposed this bill. It is unexplainable how her office would need three people to administer such a program. Once this money is set aside for protection of us should something happen and they don't pay, it is held. It is held for up to six years if they should leave the State of Maine or cease the program. Not only that, should they violate even once the program guidelines, the Secretary of State has the ability and probably would likely end the program.

Madam Speaker, I will end this by saying in my first campaign, when traveling the back roads of Dexter with the Honorable Former Senator Paul Davis, we stopped at a house that he knew, it was a new house, and he said these folks will let us put a sign up. When we went in, I noticed all the little fellas running around in their modest clothes and their mother in the kitchen and I said I don't think these folks are going to put a sign out for us, it's not the same people that used to live here. It was Mennonites who had purchased the home and we gave them our materials, spoke with the lady for a moment and as we were leaving, I asked her, I said, if you don't vote for me, I just ask that you vote. And as I suspected, and I told her so, she said we don't vote, we pray. And I said I can use your prayers. And I appreciate that. So, this is not out of gain for me or any other Republican that would support this bill. This is clearly an issue to keep folks who want to be in Maine, who pay their own way, they don't take a nickel from the State of Maine or the Federal Government, and who support their communities in very many ways, who just want to live here in peace and treat others with that same respect that they ask for themselves, to stay here in this State. And this bill, even though some think it's onerous because they won't have coverage should a major accident occur, well, guess what, if we have limited coverage made, say, a half a million dollars of liability, we could be involved in an accident on the way home that would go well above damages of that amount and most of us don't have that much coverage.

So, Madam Speaker, I would ask that you consider this as we move to the motion on the floor, I ask that we vote against the pending motion and I especially ask that we consider not only the two bills that have been passed in this Legislature respecting religious liberties in the State of Maine but others that I have not brought up that may have been passed or may have been voted Ought Not to Pass in respect of religious freedoms for any other group that we may not be familiar with, may not understand their reasons for doing it but, as with us, we respect the opportunity for them to worship and have their religious freedom here in the State of Maine as well, as they do in the rest of the United States. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending the motion of Representative PERRY of Calais to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: I'd just like to say I; my district also --

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member may defer. The table motion is not debatable. The Member may defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe you have made clear that tabling is not debatable.

Subsequently, the Bill was **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative PERRY of Calais to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report and later today assigned. (Roll Call Ordered)

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Choices in Health Insurance Markets by Limiting the Requirement to Offer Clear Choice Design Health Plans"

(H.P. 800) (L.D. 1252)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
PRINGLE of Windham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-210)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
SWALLOW of Houlton

READ.

Representative PERRY of Calais moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

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

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. What this bill is about is it is about helping our small businesses as well as our individuals by ensuring that they have more choices in the health insurance marketplace. The reason for this bill is because, while we have a merged market, the reality of it is the reason that small

business owners and why individuals buy health insurance are for two different reasons, generally, and having only 12 plans limited that are the same offered to both groups doesn't make a lot of sense. What would make more sense is to have two separate 12 clear choice plan designs, and that's what we are seeking to do with the Minority Report.

The issue is that when someone is a small business and they're seeking to buy health insurance, they're seeking based on the plans based on who their members are as well as a recruitment tool to bring in more talent. When someone is buying on the individual market, they're seeking a plan that suits the needs that they have for their family. They're not looking for as rich of a plan design, they're just looking for something that is going to cover what they need covered versus, as I said, with a small business, they may be looking for something as a recruitment tool. So, this would allow those people, allow the Bureau; require the Bureau to design different plans based upon the differing needs of the two groups. So, for those reasons, I encourage this Body to follow my light, reject this motion. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 98

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Galletta, Gattine, Gramlich, Griffin, Libby, Perkins, Rielly, Shaw.

Yes, 78; No, 63; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Study the Scarcity of Licensed Clinical Behavioral Health Professionals Across the State (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 961) (L.D. 1506)

Signed:
Senators:

BAILEY of York
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
MORRIS of Turner
PRINGLE of Windham

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

Signed:
Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion
SWALLOW of Houlton

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-221)** on Bill "An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis"

(H.P. 4) (L.D. 2)

Signed:
Senators:

PIERCE of Cumberland
POULIOT of Kennebec
VITELLI of Sagadahoc

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
BLIER of Buxton
GATTINE of Westbrook
GOLEK of Harpswell
LOOKNER of Portland
RANA of Bangor
STOVER of Boothbay

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-222)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
CAMPBELL of Orrington
MORRIS of Turner

READ.

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

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not wish to ask for a Roll Call but I would like to speak briefly to the motion.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We applaud all the efforts that are going into our efforts here in the Legislature to provide for housing. However, if you look at the Minority Report, the reason we have a Minority Report is because we don't believe that we need to add positions to do this. We have many, many unfilled positions in the State right now and I think when we go forward looking at other bills that do require or ask for positions, we keep that in mind. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-221)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-221)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Reestablish the Marine Recreational Fishery Advisory Council at the Department of Marine Resources"

(H.P. 751) (L.D. 1179)

Signed:

Senators:

RENY of Lincoln
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

HEPLER of Woolwich
CRAFTS of Newcastle
DILL of Old Town
EATON of Deer Isle
LANDRY of Farmington
STROUT of Harrington
THORNE of Carmel

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-208)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Representatives:
DAVIS of East Machias
DOUDERA of Camden

READ.

On motion of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, May 23, 2023, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Consumer Privacy Act"
(S.P. 807) (L.D. 1973)

- In Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.
TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

PENDING - REFERENCE IN CONCURRENCE.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Reauthorize Maine's New Markets Tax Credit Program"

(S.P. 808) (L.D. 1974)

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

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

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)

Minority (3) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 16, 2023.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-57)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Representative PARRY of Arundel moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative TERRY of Gorham **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This was my bill I put in. I thought it was a fairness issue where all candidates would be treated the same on the amount of signatures that they had to put in, no matter if they were Republicans, Democrats or unenrolled. In the original bill, there was a deadline change to make them all the same, which I thought was a good idea also but there was a couple legal issues with that so that's why the Committee pulled that out. So, it's just treating all candidates exactly the same. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of the motion and would just remind our Members and you, Madam Speaker, that we work really hard in our Committees to come out with; even though we may not agree with Majority Reports; to come out with reports that we feel are fair and well-worked. And I would just wonder and ask what, again, is the point of us doing all of this work, taking the time away from our families and our jobs, losing money to be here, if we're going to continuously be running Minority Reports. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Supica.

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to remind you and all the folks that while, yes, sometimes these bills have good ideas, we find out that they have unintended consequences and can create uneven playing fields for folks who are unenrolled, for folks who are not in the two-party system. So, instead of doing a piecemeal approach to trying to address these issues, you know, I believe that we should look at it holistically and bring all parties to the table. That way, we're not disadvantaging some over the others. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Madam Speaker, could the Clerk please read the Committee Report?

Representative PARRY of Arundel **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 99

YEA - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Collings, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt,

Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Boyle, Galletta, Gattine, Gramlich, Griffin, Libby, Perkins, Shaw.

Yes, 64; No, 78; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

64 having voted in the affirmative and 78 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine People from Inflation by Restoring Gold and Silver as Legal Tender"

(S.P. 507) (L.D. 1270)

Majority (11) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-64)** in the House on May 18, 2023.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (2) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

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)

Majority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in the House on May 16, 2023.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Require Funding for African American Studies"

(H.P. 1279) (L.D. 2001)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and Representative: BRENNAN of Portland, Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, LIBBY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Provide Incentives to Schools That Contract for Certain Social Work and Family Therapy Services"

(H.P. 1280) (L.D. 2002)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, MALON of Biddeford, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

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

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.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Libitzki School of Dance, of Ellsworth, founded by Cheryl Libitzki, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in business. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 521)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WORTH of Ellsworth, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Ellsworth, Representative Worth.

Representative **WORTH**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to briefly say how pleased I am to be able to honor Cheryl Libitzki and the Libitzki School of Dance for their 50 years in Ellsworth. We have been greatly improved by her presence and she has made such a great influence on our community and I want it to be known that she has been appreciated all these very many years.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Dodge.

Representative **DODGE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise to add my congratulations to the Libitzki School of Dance, founder Cheryl Libitzki and her whole family; husband Ed and daughters who are so involved in the past successes and spectacular recitals performed by their students. Beyond ballet training, the studio would sometimes offer space to a collection of dancers called the Boogie Buddies, a group of which I am a member. So, five, six, seven, eight, and best wishes to this Ellsworth studio on your 50th year anniversary.

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

Recognizing:

the Penobscot Theatre Company, of Bangor, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Founded in 1973 as Acadia Repertory Theatre, Penobscot Theatre Company was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1983 and is the only year-round, professional regional theatre in Northern Maine. In 1997 the company acquired the Bangor Opera House, which now serves as its base of operations. Over the last 50 years, more than 500 shows have been produced, providing engaging and thought-provoking theatre to the heart of Maine and beyond. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 397)

Presented by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representative PERRY of Bangor, Representative ROEDER of Bangor, Representative SUPICA of Bangor.

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

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise to honor Penobscot Theatre Company today, an organization I feel very close to not only because I used to work there, but because it and I were both established in 1973. It was in 2014, I got a job as the education director of Penobscot Theatre and moved from Chicago to Brewer, Maine. Three months later, I came to my senses and moved to Bangor; sorry, Representative O'Connell. It was at Penobscot Theatre that I both practiced and taught one of the foremost principles of modern theater and one I believe we as legislators could learn from. That principle is this; early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.

Penobscot Theatre's artistic and cultural importance to our State is indisputable. For 50 years, it has delighted and challenged its audiences, but its work is not just about what happens within the building. Penobscot Theatre's impact is felt across the community, through partnerships with organizations such as the Bangor Humane Society, the Maine Science Festival and the Penobscot Nation. The latter partnership resulted in a world premier piece of theater based on traditional Penobscot stories and history. That project was the first, but not the last time, the Penobscot language was spoken on the Penobscot stage.

I wanted to stand here and tell you how this incredible company has influenced my life but it's impossible. It's impossible to overstate the impact made on my life by the young performers I worked with every day in Penobscot Theatre's dramatic academy. It's impossible to describe the beauty of standing on the stage in front of my beloved community, telling the truth about the human condition with the playwright's words. It's impossible to encompass all that this magic place is, has been and will be in one short tribute. Penobscot Theatre is simply priceless.

I'll close with another transferable lesson. Before the closing performance of every show I directed, I shared a quote from a graduate school professor. I'd gather the cast together and say this is the very last time this particular group will be in the same room together. Pay attention, do your best work, make every moment count. So, as we embark on our work in the waning days of the First Session of the 131st Legislature, let us pay attention. Let us do our best work and let us, my beloved Colleagues, make every moment count. Thank you, Penobscot Theatre Company.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 38) (L.D. 46) Bill "An Act to Amend the Statutory Balance Limit on the Finance Authority of Maine's Loan Insurance Reserves" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-106)**

(S.P. 88) (L.D. 184) Bill "An Act to Provide for the 2023 and 2024 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-105)**

(S.P. 104) (L.D. 204) Bill "An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Schools by Implementing Interlocking Door Controller Technology" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-107)**

(S.P. 195) (L.D. 414) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-108)**

(H.P. 51) (L.D. 81) Bill "An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-218)**

(H.P. 55) (L.D. 87) Bill "An Act to Permit Emergency Funding for Food Banks When a State of Emergency Is Declared" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-212)**

(H.P. 140) (L.D. 219) Bill "An Act to Promote Equity in the Permitting Appeals Process" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-204)**

(H.P. 794) (L.D. 1246) Bill "An Act to Include Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat in the Definition of 'Significant Wildlife Habitat' Under the Natural Resources Protection Act" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-205)**

(H.P. 806) (L.D. 1258) Bill "An Act to Increase the Personal Property Tax Exemption for Farm Machinery" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-215)**

(H.P. 814) (L.D. 1266) Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Producer Licensing Act to Authorize Licensure as a Pet Insurance Producer" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-219)**

(H.P. 829) (L.D. 1304) Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Barriers to Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-220)**

(H.P. 837) (L.D. 1322) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-213)**

(H.P. 1077) (L.D. 1678) Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study and Report on Soil Carbon Sequestration Incentive Programs Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-211)**

(H.P. 1083) (L.D. 1684) Bill "An Act to Invest in the Health and Wellness of Older Maine Residents by Expanding Coordinated Community Programming" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-206)**

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative DHALAC of South Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1281) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, RANA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING APRIL 2023 AS THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

WHEREAS, genocide is a human tragedy inspired by the most repugnant elements of hatred, intolerance and inhumanity; and

WHEREAS, the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda has been internationally recognized as the massacre of nearly 1,000,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that genocide, millions of men, women and children were murdered or experienced forced migration; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, the world has commemorated the genocide against the Tutsi in April to honor the memory of the men, women and children who died and to express solidarity with the survivors; and

WHEREAS, the genocide against the Tutsi has left a solemn reminder that we must work together to protect the vulnerable, uphold human rights and prevent genocide; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing, remembering and educating ourselves in all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do not occur and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, recognizing April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month preserves the memory of its victims, honors survivors, assists the struggle against future genocides and fosters a peaceful coexistence between diverse communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2023 as the 29th Anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month, and we invite the citizens of the State to join in activities commemorating this solemn observance and to recognize how much more we must do in the struggle against this evil crime against humanity.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative THORNE of Carmel, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1282) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook)

JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND RECOGNIZING MAY 29, 2023 AS MEMORIAL DAY

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was first observed as Decoration Day on May 30, 1868, as an occasion to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers; and

WHEREAS, after World War I, Decoration Day was expanded to honor service members killed in all of our Nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and in 1971 Congress established Memorial Day as a federal holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May; and

WHEREAS, as we observe Memorial Day, it is important to reflect upon the contributions and sacrifices the men and women of our armed forces have made in upholding the principles of democracy and liberty while in service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the heroic men and women who perished as a result of their service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize May 29, 2023 as Memorial Day and encourage all citizens to honor those men and women who lost their lives while serving to protect our Nation.

READ.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak on Memorial Day coming up on Monday. We're all familiar with the phrase all gave some, some gave all. Every other calling and profession is able to operate because members of our Armed Forces are there to provide security, stability and support the values and unity of our nation. They protect our values. They are our heroes. President Kennedy once said a nation reveals itself not by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers. Today, we remember and honor the many men and women that our country produced and their sacrifices on our behalf. While it is impossible to remember every hero individually, today I will mention just one; Gary Gordon from Lincoln, Maine, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and who some of you may remember in the movie *Black Hawk Down*.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award of valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Only a little over 3,500 recipients in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard have ever been awarded the acknowledgment of extraordinary achievement in military service.

Gary Gordon's official citation reads as follows: Master Sergeant Gordon, United States Army, distinguished himself by actions above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1993, while serving as sniper team leader, United States Army Special Operations Command, with a task force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. Master Sergeant Gordon's sniper team provided precision fire from the lead helicopter during an assault and at two helicopter crash sites while subjected to intense automatic weapon and rocket-propelled grenade fire. While Master Sergeant Gordon learned that the ground forces were not immediately available to secure the crash site at the second location, he and another sniper, without hesitation, volunteered to be inserted to protect the four critically wounded personnel, despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on that site. After his third request to be inserted, Master Sergeant Gordon received permission to perform his volunteer mission. When debris and enemy groundfire at the site caused them to abort the first attempt, Master Sergeant Gordon was inserted a half mile south of the crash site. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon and his fellow sniper, while under intense small arms fire from the enemy, fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. Master Sergeant Gordon immediately pulled the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft, establishing a perimeter which placed him and his fellow sniper in the most vulnerable position. Master Sergeant Gordon used his long-range rifle and sidearm to kill an undetermined amount of attackers until he depleted his ammunition. Master Sergeant Gordon then went back to the wreckage, recovering some of the crew's weapons and ammunition. Despite the fact he was critically low on ammunition, he provided some of it to the dazed pilot and then radioed for help. Master Sergeant Gordon continued to travel the perimeter, protecting the downed crew. After his team member was fatally wounded and his own rifle ammunition exhausted, Master Sergeant Gordon returned to the wreckage, recovering a rifle with the last five rounds of ammunition, gave it to the pilot with the words good luck. Then, armed with only a pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon continued to fight until he was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Master Sergeant Gordon's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Hard to imagine, isn't it, Madam Speaker? Master Sergeant Gordon's actions and what they represent is the reason we gather on the last Monday of every May. Memorial Day is celebrated so that we will not forget the sacrifices of those who have served our country, many of whom paid the ultimate price of the freedom that we all enjoy today. May God bless those men and women and the countless families who sacrificed along with them. May God bless Maine and our United States of America. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waldo, Representative Hymes.

Representative **HYMES**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today and thank you, Representative Thorne, for your kind remarks for the men and women that have given their lives for this country. Every morning I wake up, Madam Speaker, with

one thought on my mind, and I encourage everybody in this building to think the same thing and to start thinking this, especially this coming weekend as we remember Memorial Day; be an American worth dying for.

In my 20 years of service in the Navy, I spent eight years with Joint Special Operations Command doing things in Iraq and Afghanistan. As Memorial Day approaches, it's one of those things that we really need to spend time reflecting on what we have and what we're blessed with because of the people that died in our nation's battles.

Thirty-eight is my number, Madam. Thirty-eight is the amount of brothers that I had to bury during my time in the military. Thirty-one died during an unfortunate helicopter crash in Afghanistan, two were shot, one stepped on an IED, one drowned and two of my brothers were not able to deal with the unintended wounds of being in Iraq and Afghanistan and took their own life. So, every Memorial Day, I remember those 38 individuals. And the reason I do that is it's a struggle almost every day when I come in here because we get so wrapped up in things that really, in the grand scheme of things, don't matter because we forget that we have the freedom to have this discussion in here. We forget that we have the freedom to come together and have constructive debates and criticisms on the bills and laws that we pass into the State of Maine.

So, I just want to encourage everybody this weekend, we have a nice three-day weekend; some of us do, some of us don't; I encourage you to take actual time this weekend and go to a cemetery, whether it's a veteran's cemetery or one of your local cemeteries, find a headstone of a veteran and to spend five to 10 minutes reflecting their sacrifice so that you can be here today, fighting for the State of Maine and fighting for that flag that we stand for every single time that we come in here. Because there's a lot of blood that's been spilled over the years so that we get to do this every single day. So, again, please be an American worth dying for. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, when my father was diagnosed with a service-related illness that was terminal, I reached out via Facebook to his shipmates on the USS Kawishiwi. There is a Facebook group and the gentlemen of the USS Kawishiwi welcomed me in as the daughter of one of their shipmates. I joined that group to see if anyone else on the ship had suffered the same kind of illness as my father, knowing that his case for disability would be stronger if they had. They had not but, when my dad's case was determined to be one for disability, everyone in that group and everyone on the ship was able to access those benefits more easily. But beyond that, those gentlemen lifted me up when I was losing my dad and every week another member of that group has gone. So, for the members we've lost from the USS Kawishiwi, fair winds and following seas.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I stand to honor a person I talked about earlier without a name; Loring Watson. We were schoolmates long ago and far away, 1967 at Brewer High School. He was a great athlete and, at that time, the Vietnam War was raging and we all scrambled to enlist. There was a draft and he decided he just wanted to be drafted. So, he was. They enlisted him in the Army. Then he was shipped to Vietnam. Loring Watson was a great kid. Athletic, competitive and he was ready to go. He went and he died days after he arrived in theater. Those are the people we speak of on

Memorial Day. The heroes that have given their all. This is a special day. Let's honor it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 25)

ORDERED, that Representative Amy Bradstreet Arata of New Gloucester be excused May 11 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative James A. Boyle of Gorham be excused May 16 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative David G. Haggan of Hampden be excused Jan 4, 10, 17, 24 and 31, Feb 2, 7, 14, 16 and 28, Mar 2, 7, 9, 23 and 28, Apr 11, 12, 18 and 25 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Daniel J. Hobbs of Wells be excused May 16 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Michel A. Lajoie of Lewiston be excused Apr 18, 20, 25 and 27, May 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 16 and 18 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Lucas John Lanigan of Sanford be excused May 11 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Walter N. Riseman of Harrison be excused May 11 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Tiffany Roberts of South Berwick be excused May 16 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Kathy A. Shaw of Auburn be excused May 18 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 184)

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

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Robert Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA 20065, I am pleased to appoint the following Senators to the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission, effective the date of this letter.

Senator Joe Baldacci

Senator Marianne Moore

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 185)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

May 25, 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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety has approved the request by the sponsor, Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1949 An Act to Establish an Affirmative Defense to the Crime of Criminal Trespass and Aggravated Criminal Trespass That the Person Was Unhoused and Seeking Shelter

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Housing has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Lookner of Portland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 705 An Act Concerning the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and Expenditures by the Maine State Housing Authority

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 186)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

May 25, 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:"

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

L.D. 1812 An Act to Provide a Source of Funding for the Construction and Implementation of a Food Security Hub (EMERGENCY)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 433 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to Establish a Working Group on the Relocation of the Division of Juvenile Services (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 1133 An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters

L.D. 1545 An Act to Reduce Drug Overdoses and Death by Expanding the Crime of Aggravated Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs by Including Compounds, Mixtures or Substances

L.D. 1878 Resolve, to Create the Council to Transition Long Creek Youth Development Center

Education and Cultural Affairs

- L.D. 992 An Act to Create a Fund for the Abatement and Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in School Construction Projects
- L.D. 1113 An Act to Require Transparency Regarding School Construction Spending
- L.D. 1567 An Act to Create a Training Program for School Board Members and Establish School Board Meeting Standards
- L.D. 1571 An Act to Provide Meaningful Public Participation at Local School Board Meetings
- L.D. 1697 An Act to Implement Background Checks for School Board Members
- L.D. 1842 Resolve, to Support Energy Upgrades at Maine Public Schools and Ensure That New School Construction Meets Current Energy Efficiency Standards

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

- L.D. 303 An Act to Provide Health Insurance, Reduce Administrative Burdens, Reduce Costs and Improve Health Outcomes
- L.D. 590 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Health Care
- L.D. 1387 An Act to Ensure That All Maine Children Have a Healthy Start by Providing Single-payer Health Care Insurance to All Children

Judiciary

- L.D. 585 An Act to Allow Equitable Tolling of Post-conviction Review Filings
- L.D. 848 An Act to Expunge Certain Nonviolent Drug Crimes
- L.D. 1536 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Amend the Governor's Power to Reprieve, Pardon and Commute Sentences and Remit Penalties
- L.D. 1637 An Act to Prohibit the Revocation of a Professional or Occupational License for Lapsed Child Support Payments
- L.D. 1646 An Act to Vacate or Adjust Sentences and Expunge Arrests, Convictions and Adjudications for Cannabis-related Offenses
- L.D. 1764 An Act Regarding the Charge for Research Time by State Agencies for Freedom of Access Act Requests
- L.D. 1870 An Act to Require the Payment of Child Support by an Intoxicated Driver Who Kills a Parent

State and Local Government

- L.D. 1734 An Act to Clarify the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Short-term Rentals
- L.D. 1772 An Act to Require Voter Approval of Certain Borrowing by Government-controlled Entities and Utilities and to Provide Voters More Information Regarding That Borrowing

Taxation

- L.D. 667 An Act to Impose a Tax Surcharge on Certain Incomes
- L.D. 971 An Act to Establish the Income Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents
- L.D. 1268 An Act to Provide for a Local Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons
- L.D. 1631 An Act to Establish the Gas Tax Fairness Credit
- L.D. 1651 An Act to Reduce the State Income Tax
- L.D. 1681 An Act to Encourage Residential Water Testing by Providing an Income Tax Deduction

L.D. 1717 An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption for All Veterans over 62 Years of Age
Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 365 An Act to Support Compliance and Establish Graduated Sanctions Under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act

L.D. 1331 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Change Term Limit Time Periods and the Frequency of Elections of Legislators

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 524)

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

May 23, 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:

- David M. MacMahon of Poland for reappointment, to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees,
- The Honorable Michael H. Michaud of East Millinocket for reappointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees,
- Patricia A. Riley of Brunswick for reappointment, to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Protect Access to Maine's Intertidal Zone"
(S.P. 825) (L.D. 2003)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 824)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, May 30, 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 Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Westbrook has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, the Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **SALISBURY**: As most of you know, this is EMS Week and there will be a memorial that starts at 1:30 over at the EMS memorial display. And, if possible, I'd like to read the Proclamation that was submitted by the Governor.

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide life-saving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of May 21st through the 27th, 2023, as Emergency Medical Services Week with the EMS Strong theme, *EMS Week: Where Emergency Care Begins*, and I urge all citizens to honor and celebrate our EMS professionals and recognize the contributions they make every day.

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

On motion of Representative EATON of Deer Isle, the House adjourned at 12:01 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 30, 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. 824) and in honor and lasting tribute to Rob McCall of Brooklin.