

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
24th Legislative Day
Monday, June 12, 2023

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

Prayer by Honorable Charles A. Skold, Portland.

National Anthem by Ali Mclaughlin, Waterville.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, June 8, 2023 was read and approved.

Pursuant to her authority under House Rule 401, Section 12, the Chair excused Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston from all House deliberations and roll calls until further notice.

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants

(H.P. 60) (L.D. 92)

(C. "A" H-363)

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. 110 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

An Act to Extend the Time for Youth Deer Hunting

(H.P. 299) (L.D. 482)

(C. "A" H-262)

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. 117 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

An Act to Validate Certain Proceedings Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes by the City of Rockland

(H.P. 573) (L.D. 917)

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. 107 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

An Act to Provide a Cost-of-living Increase to State Retirees

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

(C. "A" H-313)

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. 107 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

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility Restrictions for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses

(H.P. 940) (L.D. 1444)

(C. "A" H-367)

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. 120 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

An Act to Clarify Statewide Laws Regarding Affordable Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units

(H.P. 1095) (L.D. 1706)

(C. "A" H-345)

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. 113 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District

(H.P. 1241) (L.D. 1933)

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 Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company

(S.P. 793) (L.D. 1950)

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. 111 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 Portions of Chapter 33: Rules Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education
(H.P. 244) (L.D. 393)
(C. "A" H-391)

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. 113 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, Directing the Department of Education to Analyze Data on the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula and Allocation Methodology
(H.P. 732) (L.D. 1160)
(C. "A" H-353)

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. 110 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, to Ensure that Eligible Customers Receive Payments from the Energy Rate Relief Fund
(S.P. 805) (L.D. 1971)
(C. "A" S-196)

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. 107 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.

**Pursuant to the Constitution
Public Land**

Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of Interest in Certain Lands Owned by the State in Piscataquis County
(H.P. 1238) (L.D. 1930)
(C. "A" H-315)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 23 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 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.

Acts

An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws
(H.P. 20) (L.D. 16)
(H. "A" H-354 to C. "A" H-284)

An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2024
(H.P. 47) (L.D. 72)
(C. "A" H-366)

An Act to Allow Members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System With Service in Multiple Plans to Defer Retirement Service Benefits Until Normal Retirement Age to Avoid a Reduction in Benefits
(H.P. 74) (L.D. 106)
(C. "A" H-376)

An Act to Increase the Governor's Salary
(H.P. 106) (L.D. 165)
(C. "A" H-292)

An Act to Address Employee Retention at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and the Computer Crimes Unit in the Department of Public Safety
(H.P. 121) (L.D. 197)
(C. "A" H-312)

An Act Regarding Airboat Noise
(H.P. 142) (L.D. 221)
(C. "A" H-334)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bonding Restrictions for School Administrative Units
(H.P. 153) (L.D. 232)
(C. "A" H-365)

An Act Regarding Replacement Candidates Under the Maine Clean Election Act
(S.P. 113) (L.D. 247)
(C. "A" S-188)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Advisory Committee on the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination
(H.P. 187) (L.D. 289)
(C. "A" H-324)

An Act to Ensure Municipalities Receive a Higher Percentage of All-terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Registration Fees to Cover Increased Expenses
(H.P. 194) (L.D. 296)
(C. "A" H-333)

An Act to Require Transparency in Public Utility Advertising Expenditures
(S.P. 146) (L.D. 325)
(C. "A" S-155)

An Act to Allow Signs at Outdoor Athletic Facilities
(H.P. 248) (L.D. 397)
(C. "A" H-298)

An Act to Support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects
(H.P. 289) (L.D. 472)
(C. "A" H-302)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefit Reductions for Certain Employees Currently Included in the 1998 Special Plan
(H.P. 300) (L.D. 483)
(C. "A" H-293)

An Act to Address Battery Storage System Decommissioning and Clarify Solar Energy Development Decommissioning
(H.P. 313) (L.D. 496)
(C. "A" H-288)

An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Providing Tuition Waivers to Eligible Students

(S.P. 229) (L.D. 512)
(C. "A" S-167)

An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing Grants for Safety Equipment

(H.P. 321) (L.D. 516)
(C. "A" H-317)

An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or Livestock

(H.P. 375) (L.D. 598)
(C. "A" H-265)

An Act to Make Electric Breast Pumps More Accessible by Providing for MaineCare Reimbursement

(H.P. 380) (L.D. 603)
(C. "A" H-356)

An Act Regarding Guidelines for Free Telephone Calls by Individuals Incarcerated in Department of Corrections Facilities

(H.P. 386) (L.D. 609)
(C. "A" H-192)

An Act to Enhance Safety for Animal-drawn Vehicles on Highways

(H.P. 455) (L.D. 686)
(C. "A" H-266)

An Act Regarding Eligibility of County Jail Inmates for a Community Confinement Monitoring Program

(H.P. 461) (L.D. 692)
(C. "A" H-316)

An Act to Increase Opportunities for the Development or Preservation of Low-income Housing

(S.P. 282) (L.D. 724)
(C. "A" S-178)

An Act to Clarify the Criteria for State Approval of Alcoholic Beverage Container Labels

(S.P. 298) (L.D. 740)
(C. "A" S-187)

An Act to Provide Energy Efficiency Program Outreach and Assistance to Manufactured Housing Residents

(H.P. 504) (L.D. 815)
(C. "A" H-323)

An Act to Provide for the Management of the Waste Components of a Solar Energy Development upon Decommissioning

(H.P. 515) (L.D. 826)
(C. "A" H-275)

An Act to Support Individuals with Personality Disorder or Disorders Associated with Primary Emotional Dysregulation by Requiring Reimbursement Under the MaineCare Program

(H.P. 529) (L.D. 840)
(C. "A" H-344)

An Act to Exempt Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedicine Programs from Home Health Care Provider Licensing Requirements Under Certain Circumstances

(H.P. 549) (L.D. 883)
(C. "A" H-304)

An Act Supporting the Rural Health Care Workforce in Maine

(H.P. 560) (L.D. 904)
(C. "A" H-343)

An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing

(H.P. 642) (L.D. 1006)
(C. "A" H-358)

An Act Regarding Payments to Recipients of Restitution
(H.P. 650) (L.D. 1014)
(C. "A" H-311)

An Act Regarding Water Testing Related to Storage Facilities

(H.P. 655) (L.D. 1019)
(C. "A" H-297)

An Act to Expand the Higher Education Tuition Waiver for Persons Who Have Resided in Foster Care

(H.P. 664) (L.D. 1028)
(C. "A" H-269)

An Act to Increase the Minimum Teacher Salary

(S.P. 433) (L.D. 1064)
(C. "A" S-176)

An Act to Streamline Label Registrations for Malt Liquor, Wine, Hard Cider and Low-alcohol Spirits

(S.P. 442) (L.D. 1073)

An Act to Address Legislative Salaries

(H.P. 727) (L.D. 1155)
(C. "A" H-267)

An Act to Establish the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund

(H.P. 755) (L.D. 1183)
(C. "A" H-272)

An Act to Facilitate Property Redevelopment and Encourage Affordable Housing by Allowing the Conveyance of Unfinished Commercial Condominium Units

(S.P. 526) (L.D. 1289)

An Act Regarding the Legal Use or Possession of Cannabis or Marijuana Under Conditions of Bail, Pretrial Release or Probation

(H.P. 836) (L.D. 1311)
(C. "A" H-310)

An Act to Modernize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Mobile Services

(H.P. 855) (L.D. 1341)
(C. "A" H-295)

An Act to Address Educational Technician Shortages in Public Schools by Establishing an Alternative Certification Pathway

(H.P. 880) (L.D. 1366)
(C. "A" H-392)

An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education

(H.P. 881) (L.D. 1367)
(C. "A" H-270)

An Act to Increase the Limits on Awards for Compensatory and Punitive Damages Under the Maine Human Rights Act

(H.P. 919) (L.D. 1423)

An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Provide Financial Assistance to Low-income Households in Emergency Situations

(H.P. 923) (L.D. 1427)
(C. "A" H-276)

An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation

(H.P. 931) (L.D. 1435)
(C. "A" H-194)

An Act to Amend the Definition of "Farming" Under the Motor Vehicle Laws to Include Equines Not Raised for Racing

(S.P. 581) (L.D. 1463)
(C. "A" S-148)

An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources

(S.P. 592) (L.D. 1473)
(C. "A" S-182)

An Act to Establish a Teacher Shortage Coordinator
(H.P. 946) (L.D. 1491)
(C. "A" H-351)

An Act to Establish a Qualifying Condition Review Board
to Provide Benefits to Certain Service Members
(H.P. 978) (L.D. 1523)
(C. "A" H-306)

An Act to Allow for a Suspension of Licenses and Permits
Issued Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws for a
Deferred Disposition or Written Filing Agreement
(H.P. 980) (L.D. 1525)
(C. "A" H-368)

An Act to Permit the Expenditure of Accumulated Tax
Increment Revenues
(H.P. 1054) (L.D. 1644)

An Act to Create the Maine Experiential Education
Program
(H.P. 1081) (L.D. 1682)
(C. "A" H-314)

An Act to Provide for Civil Recovery Based on
Nonconsensual Removal of or Tampering with a Condom and
Considering Sexual Assault in Evaluating Parental Rights
(H.P. 1082) (L.D. 1683)
(C. "A" H-283)

An Act to Amend the Maine Equal Pay Law by Prohibiting
Pay Discrimination Based on Race
(H.P. 1092) (L.D. 1703)

An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment
Centers
(H.P. 1106) (L.D. 1719)
(C. "A" H-390)

An Act to Implement Changes to the Laws Relating to
Judicial Separation and Divorce Regarding Preliminary
Injunctions as Recommended by the Family Law Advisory
Commission
(H.P. 1109) (L.D. 1730)
(C. "A" H-281)

An Act to Protect Employee Freedom of Speech
(S.P. 702) (L.D. 1756)

An Act to Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Boothbay-
Boothbay Harbor Community School District
(H.P. 1149) (L.D. 1786)
(C. "A" H-393)

An Act to Improve the Maine Workers' Compensation Act
of 1992
(S.P. 728) (L.D. 1803)
(C. "A" S-181)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Boater
Safety Education
(H.P. 1152) (L.D. 1807)

An Act to Ensure Fair and Timely Payment in the
Harvesting of Forest Products
(S.P. 750) (L.D. 1849)
(C. "A" S-191)

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, Requiring Progress Reports from the Department
of Health and Human Services Regarding the Implementation of
Secure Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
Services
(S.P. 85) (L.D. 181)
(C. "A" S-190)

Resolve, to Require That Alcohol Misuse Be Disclosed as
a Contributing Factor to Death on Death Certificates
(H.P. 149) (L.D. 228)
(C. "A" H-380)

Resolve, to Evaluate Options for the Recycling of Solar
Panels and Wind Turbine Blades
(H.P. 283) (L.D. 466)
(C. "A" H-274)

Resolve, to Study Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging
Stations
(H.P. 284) (L.D. 467)
(C. "A" H-264)

Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Study
Educator Credential Requirements
(H.P. 302) (L.D. 485)
(C. "A" H-290)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and
Community Development to Study Methods to Encourage the
Development of Accessory Dwelling Units
(S.P. 271) (L.D. 654)
(C. "A" S-177)

Resolve, to Study the Creation of a State Employee and
Legislative Child Care Center
(H.P. 550) (L.D. 884)
(C. "A" H-291)

Resolve, to Reduce Workforce Barriers for Mental Health
Professionals in Maine
(H.P. 633) (L.D. 997)
(C. "A" H-342)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to
Establish a Working Group to Review the State Board of
Education's Membership, Responsibilities, Functions and
Staffing
(H.P. 654) (L.D. 1018)
(C. "A" H-289)

Resolve, to Direct the University of Maine System to Study
the Feasibility of Establishing a Dental Therapy Degree Program
at the University of Maine at Augusta
(H.P. 662) (L.D. 1026)
(C. "A" H-273)

Resolve, to Review the MaineCare Hospital Readmission
Protocol
(H.P. 700) (L.D. 1104)
(C. "A" H-341)

Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study Post-
traumatic Stress Disorder in Lineworkers
(H.P. 827) (L.D. 1302)
(C. "A" H-321)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Report
on School Internet and Student Data Collection Best Practices
(H.P. 847) (L.D. 1333)
(C. "A" H-325)

Resolve, to Ensure Efficiency and Effectiveness in Maine's
Licensing and Certification of Behavioral Health Services
(H.P. 913) (L.D. 1417)
(C. "A" H-357)

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Role of Critical Minerals as a Resource in the State

(H.P. 950) (L.D. 1495)
(C. "A" H-359)

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve the Educational Experience of People Who Are Resettling in Maine

(H.P. 1091) (L.D. 1702)
(C. "A" H-352)

Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine

(H.P. 1242) (L.D. 1934)

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

An Act to Modify the Visual Impact Standards for Offshore Wind Port Development and Establish Labor Standards for Wind Power Projects

(S.P. 748) (L.D. 1847)
(S. "A" S-211 to C. "A" S-183)

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

On motion of Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, was **SET ASIDE**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I do stand in opposition to this particular bill as amended. I think what happens, the amendment kind of jeopardizes the main bill to an extent that it's unfortunate. The amendment will possibly delay the implementation of the bill. It also will drive up costs. I'd like to remind people that the contents of the amendment will drive up costs and it would also exclude way too many Maine employers and employees from being able to bid on these projects and that's to the detriment of both the employers and employees and the taxpayers of the State of Maine. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 161

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

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrwing, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Eaton, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby,

Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Newman, O'Connell, Paulhus, Perry A, Pringle, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 73; No, 64; Absent, 13; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE Pursuant to Statute Revisor of Statutes

Representative MOONEN for the **Revisor of Statutes** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 94 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1289) (L.D. 2010)

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Reference was made to Bill "An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program"

(H.P. 442) (L.D. 673)

In reference to the action of the House on June 7, 2023 whereby it Insisted and Joined in a Committee of Conference, the Chair appointed the following members on the part of the House as Conferees:

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook
Representative MADIGAN of Waterville
Representative NUTTING of Oakland

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 Brunswick High School Boys Track and Field Team, which won the Class A Boys State Track and Field Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; (SLS 743)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Arford.

Representative **ARFORD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to recognize the Brunswick High School Boys Track and Field Team, who have worked very hard and performed exceptionally all season and won the Maine Class A Boys State Track and Field Championship on June 3rd. In addition to the State Championship, they won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Championship on May 27th. This past weekend, the Boys 4x18 team competed in the New England Championships where over a hundred teams were competing and placed fifth, setting a school record.

I had the good fortune of meeting the assistant coach this weekend. I asked him what he would like the Legislature to know about his team. He shared, as a coach of the team, his admiration for the members, saying that as a team, they scored 33 more points; and that's how they recognize the winners; than they were expected to score as based on the times and distances they had done up to that point. They were expected to score 43 points and we scored 76. On the biggest stage, he told me, they performed their best. He was extremely proud of them. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to join with you and the entire Body in congratulating the entire team on their well-deserved, hard-earned victory.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** in concurrence.

Recognizing:

Lizzy Gruber, of Gardiner, a senior at Gardiner Area High School and a player on the girls basketball team, who recently scored her 1,000th career point and 1,000th career rebound. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 443)

Presented by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

READ.

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

Recognizing:

Lizzy Gruber, of Gardiner, a senior at Gardiner Area High School, who has been named Miss Maine Basketball for 2023 by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 444)

Presented by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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. Madam Speaker, Honorable Members of the House, I rise today to speak about the accomplishments of Lizzy Gruber. Lizzy is now a graduate of Gardiner Area High School, but just a few short months ago as a student and a standout athlete at Gardiner High School and as a three-sport athlete, Lizzy played volleyball, basketball and lacrosse. But today I'm here to talk about Lizzy's accomplishments in basketball.

Lizzy's hard work and dedication, constantly working on improving her game and often going directly from one practice session of one sport to travel an hour away to her AAU basketball practice, and doing all this while juggling her schoolwork, all the while often crediting her teammates for making everything running smoothly on the court. Not only did Lizzy surpass 1,000 career points, only the second Gardiner girls' basketball player to do so; I think there was just one boys' basketball player that did accomplish that; but she also recorded over 1,000 rebounds. I don't think that's ever been accomplished at Gardiner High School. If that wasn't enough, she capped off her 20 point-, 15 rebound-per-game senior season by winning the prestigious Miss Maine Basketball Award. And Lizzy went on to say, after receiving that award, that she thought it was a three-way tie. She loved the women that she competed with and she believed they all deserved it.

Lizzy worked tirelessly to accomplish these milestones, with her high school coach saying that she's not afraid of the moment and that she's met every challenge that anybody could possibly throw at her. With these stellar accomplishments, Lizzy was pursued by numerous Division 1 schools. I think there were 13 schools that sought to have Lizzy attend their schools. Lizzy chose to attend St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, saying that she loved Philadelphia because it's a beautiful, beautiful city with great people and that she is excited to become a Philly girl. In addition to playing basketball for the competitive Atlantic 10 Conference Hawks, Lizzy will major in child psychology, hoping to give back by helping children and young adults after her time at St. Joseph's ends. Madam Speaker, I know she's going to represent our community well and make her family and friends proud. To Lizzy, congratulations and good luck. I know you are going to do great things on and off the court. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Bill Patterson, of Dexter, who has been inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame. Mr. Patterson is in his 50th year as a member of the Eastern Maine Baseball Umpires Association and has worked over 1,500 high school baseball games. He is also a member of the Collegiate Baseball Umpires Association of Maine. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 459)

Presented by Representative FOSTER of Dexter.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FOSTER of Dexter, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 832)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that Bill, "An Act to Authorize Vaccine Administration by Pharmacy Technicians and Reduce Vaccine Administration Training Requirements for Pharmacists," H.P. 555, L.D. 899, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the Senate.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Restore the Former State of Maine Flag"
(H.P. 54) (L.D. 86)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-232) in the House on June 6, 2023.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-232) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-146)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **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: 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. 162

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Arford, Bell, Boyer, Brennan, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, O'Connell, Paulhus, Pringle, Reckitt, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.
75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Reduce Plastic Packaging Waste"
(H.P. 1055) (L.D. 1645)

Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-360)** in the House on June 7, 2023.

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

Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INSIST**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 163

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, O'Connell, Paulhus, Pringle, Quint, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 77; No, 61; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.
77 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, to Remove the Prohibition Against Live Plants in State-owned Buildings

(S.P. 829) (L.D. 2008)

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in the House on June 6, 2023.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I really, truly believe all bills have the right to have a public hearing. Although I was shut down once before, I think a bill has a right to be referred to Committee and for that reason, I will be voting against this motion. Thank you.

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. 164

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Arford, Babin, Bell, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cyrway, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eaton, Faulkingham, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, Montell, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Osher, Perry J, Poirier, Reckitt, Rielly, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Skold, Strout, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Copeland, Costain, Cray, Davis, Ducharme, Dunphy, Fay, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mastraccio, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Moonen, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Neil, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Perry A, Pluecker, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Rudnicki, Sachs, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Sheehan, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, O'Connell, Paulhus, Pringle, Quint, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 64; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 204)

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

June 12, 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 Committee has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Taxation

L.D. 1386 An Act to Require That a Completed Form for the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Be Provided to a Person Purchasing a Home

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 615)

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

June 8, 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 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

- John Neptune of Indian Island for appointment to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council,
- Roger G. Grant of Ellsworth for appointment, to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 70) (L.D. 131) Bill "An Act to Clarify and Correct Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-216)**

(S.P. 137) (L.D. 316) Bill "An Act to Examine Hazardous Occupations for Minors" Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-217)**

(S.P. 262) (L.D. 594) Bill "An Act to Address the Shortfalls of the Current Resource Parents' Bill of Rights Policy" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-228)**

(S.P. 315) (L.D. 757) Bill "An Act to Expand Telemonitoring for MaineCare Patients" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-213)**

(S.P. 457) (L.D. 1123) Bill "An Act to Create a Presumption That a Cardiovascular Injury or Disease or Pulmonary Disease Suffered by Certain Law Enforcement Officers Is in the Course of Employment" Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-205)**

(S.P. 482) (L.D. 1186) Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Hunting and Fishing Software Application Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-214)**

(S.P. 538) (L.D. 1319) Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-215)**

(S.P. 649) (L.D. 1632) Bill "An Act to Require Proper Storage of Forensic Exam Evidence" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-218)**

(S.P. 669) (L.D. 1664) Bill "An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-209)**

(S.P. 685) (L.D. 1722) Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-229)**

(S.P. 726) (L.D. 1801) Resolve, to Increase Transparency and Evaluate Emergency Response Through a COVID-19 Review Commission (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-230)**

(S.P. 784) (L.D. 1922) Bill "An Act to Allow Bargaining Agents for Public Sector Unions to Merge" Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-197)**

(S.P. 794) (L.D. 1951) Bill "An Act Regarding Marine Finfish Aquaculture" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-219)**

(S.P. 803) (L.D. 1969) Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Funds to Support Land Conservation" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-233)**

(H.P. 1175) (L.D. 1843) Resolve, to Name a Bridge in the Town of Bremen the Kitty Breskin Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 129) (L.D. 208) Bill "An Act Concerning Home Care Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-427)**

(H.P. 384) (L.D. 607) Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Examine the Feasibility of Extending Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-411)**

(H.P. 571) (L.D. 915) Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-408)**

(H.P. 604) (L.D. 957) Bill "An Act Requiring Water Bottle Filling Stations in New and Renovated Public Schools" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-410)**

(H.P. 639) (L.D. 1003) Bill "An Act to Increase Access to Behavioral Health Services for Children and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-407)**

(H.P. 792) (L.D. 1244) Bill "An Act Regarding Timely Payment of Undisputed Insurance Claims" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-398)**

(H.P. 815) (L.D. 1267) Bill "An Act to Provide Alternative Methods of Payment to Health Care Providers" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-420)**

(H.P. 934) (L.D. 1438) Bill "An Act to Require Standard Procedures to Protect Stalking Victims and Access to Certain Criminal Complaints" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-394)**

(H.P. 1072) (L.D. 1674) Bill "An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-412)**

(H.P. 1132) (L.D. 1768) Bill "An Act to Update the Alternative Base Year Payment Method for Federally Qualified Health Centers" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-406)**

(H.P. 1188) (L.D. 1858) Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Newly Born Male Infant Circumcision by Requiring MaineCare Coverage" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-405)**

(H.P. 1204) (L.D. 1879) Bill "An Act to Align Laws Governing Crossbow Hunting with Those Governing Archery Hunting" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-409)**

(H.P. 1230) (L.D. 1925) Bill "An Act to Clarify and Improve the Laws Relating to the Background Check Center and the Maine Certified Nursing Assistant and Direct Care Worker Registry" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-404)**

(H.P. 1244) (L.D. 1936) Bill "An Act to Allow Certified Nurse Practitioners to Provide In-home Care Without a Home Health Care Provider License" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-399)**

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 or PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Ought to Pass as Amended**

Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Political Action Committees Relating to Union, Business and Nonprofit Organizations"

(S.P. 284) (L.D. 726)

Reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-186) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-227)** thereto.

The Report was **READ**.

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

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-223)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Minors from Exploitation by Adults for Violation of Privacy"

(S.P. 54) (L.D. 115)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-224)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

ARDELL of Monticello

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-223)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-223)** 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-223)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Detention of Juveniles for Certain Acts"

(S.P. 77) (L.D. 148)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MADIGAN of Waterville
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-231)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **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 Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the Committee for this bill, we had quite a bit of discussion and it was pretty thoughtful, but we were worried about the unintended consequences of this bill. And we had quite a bit of testimony from the prosecutors and, you know, discussions about what is reckless and what is negligent, and I thought we had pretty well relieved any concerns about what the side effects might be but this bill is actually designed to target those that, you know, hide or store illicit drugs or leave illicit drugs in the; with access to; wrong bill? Oh, I'm looking at the wrong bill. My apologies, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill is actually brought forward because of unintended consequences of a bill that we passed last year; or two years ago, I'm losing track of time at this point. But it's not just about Fairfield and Rockland and the juveniles. Those are the two towns that have gotten a lot of publicity because of issues that have taken place with juveniles and the fact that juveniles have been causing havoc in my town, I know in Rockland and other towns. And that's what this bill is addressing some of the juvenile issues. This was presented by Senator LaFountain, who is actually my Senator for the Fairfield area and it really is something that we're all going to actually; it's going to affect all of us at some point. If you're in any of these towns and these

kids are running rampant and even if they are stopped by the police, nothing is happening to them and it's coming back and they're continuing to cause havoc. They are scaring the senior citizens in my town. I can just let you know that when I was out knocking on doors because there's a group of kids, a group of juveniles out there causing havoc. If I saw them on the street when I was knocking on doors in town, I walked on the other side of the street. They have been causing havoc all through my town and other towns across the State based on unintended consequences by not following; by a bill that we passed. So, this bill is just to correct that. I really wish you'd follow my light and actually vote this bill passing. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative Geiger.

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is very tough for me and I have full sympathy with Representative Rudnicki. My town, Rockland, is also going through quite a time with adolescents. I would like to support this bill. I think we need something much more than we have now. However, this bill goes too far for me. It says that we're going to guess which adolescents are likely to commit crimes and confine them to Long Creek and that just seems wrong to me. At the same time, I fully believe we have an opportunity, and we must take it, to change what we did last year, to acknowledge that we made a mistake because we put nothing else in place. I completely agree with Representative Rudnicki that we have a group of adolescents who have discovered there are no consequences for their behavior. That has to change. They need help, they need strong help, they need ACT teams, they need assessments. We need to find places for them to live when they run away from foster homes. There's a huge issue here. I just wish this bill did it. I would like to support it, but I cannot.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would like to remind Members that it is against decorum to use other Members' names.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I concur completely with the Good Representative from Fairfield, and I happen to have some pretty much firsthand information is that this affects not only adults but young people as well who are trying to go to school, want to enjoy their experience in getting their education, and they're concerned about these gangs that are going around and they're really intimidating. We can't allow that to continue to happen. If we don't change something, the status quo will remain the same, we'll have the same situation, the problem we have right now. So, I hope you can join me in voting against this motion and vote the Minority Report. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just wanted to; I was on Criminal Justice and we dealt with this and we voted divided on this bill that got passed and we went from 300 juveniles that was in Long Creek, which we all agree there was too many as juveniles in Long Creek, but we also felt that this was going too far the way it went. And so, now we're down to 25 or 22, actually, I think the latest number is in Long Creek. So, no one is going to Long Creek unless it's a very, very serious crime.

The problem is, as you've heard, and I've sat in on some of these meetings, what's happening is now law enforcement is getting blamed for not doing anything for these juveniles. I was right there and they were blaming the Chief of Police in Fairfield

and there was probably about 90 people all up in arms because our juveniles are threatening them. They're standing in front of cars in the roadway, they're threatening with knives, all kinds of things, and also defacing property and doing a number of fights, it's just the list goes on and nothing is being done. Now, you know, as an officer, I was a juvenile officer for 25 years here in Kennebec County and in juvenile cases, you have to call the probation officer and the probation officer has to weigh it all out on that individual and work with the parents. If it seems that the parents are not able to get this under control then they have to talk sometimes even to the DA and decide what they want to do and once it's started, they figure out what's best to do for that juvenile. We're trying to get them so that they actually become successful, not get worse. And this is making them worse.

And so, we really need to go against this motion on this bill because it is not the answer. We're going to have it continually getting worse. And so, I'm just asking for the peoples' safety and yourselves and for the kids. I'm really looking for an answer to help the kids to be able to do what's right. And I really think that we kind of missed our opportunity here. I think what our opportunity should have been is look at; we own Long Creek, we could make that half the facility of maybe holding and the other half of rehabilitation and be able to help those kids get back in the community and do what's right and be able to be successful. And I think that, you know, where we own it, why not take advantage of it. I know Commissioner Liberty, I've talked to him about that, and he's on board with doing something like that. So, I think, why not take those opportunities. So, I think even if we could, you know, if you're not going to vote in opposition to this, then we should probably even table it and get it redone. But, anyway, right now, I do believe that this is not going to be the answer the way we've got it set. So, thank you, Madam Speaker, for listening, and I think that just for public safety for everyone, we should be in opposition to this bill.

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

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What kind of message are we sending to our State's youth if when they act out, as youth often do, if they're experiencing homelessness, if they have parents or communities who cannot support them, that our best option for them is to send them to jail? Is that the kind of State that we want to live in? Our State is under; or has been notified by the Department of Justice that we are failing in our over-reliance on incarceration for youth with disabilities. So, this is the wrong approach. We need alternatives to incarceration for youth who are experiencing trauma and experiencing emotional difficulties. Incarceration is not the right approach. So, please join the Ought Not to Pass motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative Madigan.

Representative **MADIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Some of you may be aware that I became the newbie on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Many years ago, the Good Representative from Albion and I worked on a youth diversion program together for at-risk kids who had done stupid stuff. It's really not a newsflash to say that sometimes young people do stupid stuff. It's sort of job security for folks like us and myself and the Good Representative from Albion.

On this Committee, on this bill, I was sort of shocked. Being a clinical social worker, I was like huh, when parents aren't doing what they need to do to supervise their children correctly and keep them out of trouble, people are going to think that's a child welfare issue, it's actually not a criminal justice issue. It's also a mental health issue. Long Creek is a correctional facility,

not a mental health facility. And if we want actually to be fiscally responsible, we might think about funding some of the things we used to have like youth shelters. We might think about doing the things that we've done so far. The Health and Human Services Committee has had a lot of conversations about, about funding increased mental health services for at-risk youth. In fact, we talked a lot about that and expanding that and making sure that people in all areas of the State, those families have access to that. The Office of Child and Family Services is doing something that we used to do that was very effective called wraparound starting up in the next year.

The other thing I would also say is that when we do things like that, it's actually more fiscally responsible because most of those are billable by MaineCare, which means that two-thirds of it is paid by the federal government, not by the taxpayers, as opposed to Long Creek, which is entirely on us. We don't get that reimbursement for that. So, I would urge everyone to; I don't ever want to say follow my light, like, can I just say that, you know; but I'm asking you to vote with me that Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oakland, Representative Nutting.

Representative **NUTTING**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise because although I don't disagree with my colleagues, the Representative from Rockland and my colleagues on the Criminal Justice Committee, I agree that this isn't probably the best solution, that the solution may lie in mental health issues or recreational issues for our youth. But by the same token, I don't see that happening right now today here in this House and I don't hear about it happening on the appropriations table, either. My concern is with a young man who lived in one of my communities years ago and was involved in the confrontation that this type of activity might very well lead to again. Somebody didn't like his approach and he was shot. He spent years lying in bed with his parents and nurses taking care of him 24 hours a day and he passed away a couple of years ago. So, my fear is not just that we'll be doing something wrong for these young people, but my fear is that somebody is not going to put up with it and something serious is going to happen to one of them. I can almost assure you that something serious will happen. So, although we haven't; we can't fix the problem with this bill and there may be better solutions, until we find them, I suggest that you vote no on the proposed motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monticello, Representative Ardell.

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill was proposed specifically to address juvenile crime that involved a group of juveniles that were involved in stopped traffic, threatening assaults and even sexual assaults. I believe this bill, while not necessarily ideal, does fill a gap that helps protect our public and potentially even the juveniles themselves from their own actions. I ask this Body to oppose the Ought Not to Pass motion. Thank you for your time.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to rise and state that the bill before us proposes to lock up kids because they don't have parental supervision and because they might hypothetically commit future offenses. When I was thinking about this over the weekend, it brought to mind an old movie which my friend from Fryeburg might not recall; it predates him, I think. A movie coincidentally called "Minority Report" where some human-like water creatures can predict the future and they can prevent murder from happening and, spoiler alert, it doesn't go well. It's not an ethical thing to

do. There is no metric in the bill that I'm aware of that can; that explains what future offenses might warrant some child being detained by the State. I think this is a dangerous bill. I'm going to pull one, too, please follow my light and vote against the proposed legislation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to get up one more time. I concur with Representative Nutting and also, you know, I have worked with Representative Madigan and I'm very fortunate because I think she's done a lot of good as far as her mental health work and substance abuse work. I do think that there's two levels. I mean, this is not juvenile jail. You're talking about a youth center. And the reason; the juvenile system is out, really, to help the juveniles become successful. But there are times when you have to separate them because; for their safety and others. And some of them get out of control where they do not have the control at home. And so, this kind of; sometimes it may be as little as just going there for a day and then brought back in front of a judge and the judge says look, you know, this is what we're going to have to do and maybe get you some counseling, this happens, this happens, and don't be doing it again. And that's fine. It's just enough to get them back, you know, saying woah, what am I doing. But if we don't have this and we don't get them away from the situation, then we're failing our juveniles and we're failing our society.

So, we really need to have that and so, what we're doing here is with this bill that Senator LaFountain had put in, it's giving a chance for juveniles to get that chance to actually get back to successful type situations. Sometimes love is tough love and you have to use that in order to get what you really need to get them their help. And so, you know, by opposing this motion, I think that we can do that. It's just one step that we can start doing that. I used to do the Thumbs-Up Program with Representative Madigan and we really did some good. It was for first-time offenders and we gave them a choice that they could get a charge or go to this program for a weekend, and it really worked. But not all kids have that, we don't have that throughout the State. So, it's something maybe we can work at but at least for now we have something. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will once again remind Members that it is against decorum to use Members' names.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Brennan.

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Men and Women of the House. I appreciate the concerns that have been raised and I have spoken to Representatives from Rockland, from Skowhegan, other parts of the State, that have expressed concerns about some of the actions of their young people in their community. As a result of that, this Body in the future, very near future, will be considering alternatives, programs and resources to address those very issues in a way that is evidence-based and proven to be effective. And that's why LD 148 is not necessary, because we will have an opportunity to address those issues in ways that will involve the community, will involve the youth and hopefully resolve these issues without involving incarceration. So, I hope this Body at some point will step up and that we will be able to work together to address the issues that people have raised.

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. 165

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, O'Connell, Paulhus, Pringle, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 65; Absent, 11; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-220)** on Bill "An Act to Prevent False Reporting Leading to Evacuation, Shutdown or Lockdown"

(S.P. 186) (L.D. 405)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ARDELL of Monticello
HASENFUS of Readfield
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MATHIESON of Kittery
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representative:

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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-220)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-220)** 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-220)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Crime of Endangering the Welfare of a Child and to Create the Crime of Aggravated Endangering the Welfare of a Child"

(S.P. 319) (L.D. 761)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MADIGAN of Waterville
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Came from the Senate with the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-222)**.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-202)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Require Net Energy Billing Credits to be Nonlapsing"

(S.P. 226) (L.D. 509)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BOYLE of Gorham
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

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-202)**.

READ.

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

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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. This bill as amended will allow the previously unused net energy billing credits to remain in effect. The current program is that if they are not used within a 12-month rolling calendar, they do lapse. Now, that saves the ratepayers who are not participating in net energy billing those dollars, whatever they may end up being. This bill will now require that the PUC, any of those that would lapse, that they take those credits and put those into a fund to go to low-income assistance ratepayers.

Now, I do and have supported many bills that would help out our low-income electric ratepayers who are increasingly in need. However, this bill in doing this would take these net energy billing credits paid for by non-net energy billing ratepayers and they would go to the folks who need this assistance. And the unfortunate quagmire that we're in right now, partially because of net energy billing, is that we see an increasing need for people who can no longer afford their electric bills. So, what we in effect will be doing is helping them out, meanwhile the net energy billing participants will be not paying any of this while that other ratepayers will continue to pay. And, unfortunately, Madam Speaker, I will stand in opposition to the current motion and ask that you follow my light.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 166

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner,

Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - 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, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Paulhus, Pringle, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 77; No, 63; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-202)** 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-202)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-203)** on Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure

(S.P. 395) (L.D. 924)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
BOYLE of Gorham
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-203)**.

READ.

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

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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. I stand in opposition to the pending motion. In the 130th Legislature, the majority passed LD 170. This Resolve that we are considering here now is a result of that legislation. That bill was passed to require that the Legislature would have to approve any future construction of a nonessential transmission line. You probably all remember how that bill was instigated, what instigated it, but in this case, I don't see that we are following what the intent of that bill was, and that would be to protect Maine ratepayers, to require benefits and other details be known about the transmission line, its location, its costs, its benefits, who's going to pay for it and how.

Although I'm not entirely sure I would be against this power line, I quite frankly don't know enough about it and I believe that the original intent of the legislation that resulted from LD 170 was that the Legislature would have a full understanding of what this large power line, which will be going up into Aroostook County, would look like, how much it will cost, where it's going to be sited, what lands are affected and so on. That is not the case. In my judgment, we are rushing this approval and, quite frankly, we don't have enough information to make an educated decision on it. So, therefore, I would ask that you follow my light and oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I struggled with this decision more than any other vote that I had to take in the EUT Committee this session. And in the beginning and for a long time, I was in opposition to this. However, myself and the Senator from Hancock were able to negotiate with the winning bidder of this power line to provide a roadmap of transparency in how they are going to engage the Committee. That document is available upon request and it was sent to our Committee.

I do agree with the Representative from Dexter that legislative approval really is a sticky situation. I must correct him in that it was not LD 170 from the 130th that puts that requirement into law, but it was a referendum passed by the Maine people that requires legislative approval with any high-impact transmission line. I believe that we must deal with that particular law because it creates a lot of gray area in terms of, you know, what needs to be known when giving legislative approval. But we also have to understand that people need to make huge investments and need certainty from this Body in order to make those investments.

The main reason that I had a change of mind around this was that we, the people, asked for this and, really, it's much different from the CMP Corridor. They are going to be providing a cost-benefit analysis and public disclosure, hold at least six informational meetings. They'll be evaluating the potential routes in a very public manner. We also know that this is different than the CMP Corridor in that this has gone out to bid and it was a competitive bid. The PUC knows how much this costs and they have let us know that it is expected to cost the

average residential ratepayer about \$1 per month over the next 10 years. So, I feel okay about it but we must continue working on this legislative approval process when it comes to high-impact transmission lines. I hope you support the pending motion.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the Good Representative from South Portland, part of Cape Elizabeth, for that information, some of it which I was not aware of. I will agree with the Good Representative that this is different than the CMP Corridor. This corridor is going to, in fact, look like what you saw in the TV ads that were on against the CMP Corridor. It will be much, much wider, the towers that will hold these transmission lines will be much, much taller, and it will be going quite a long distance. So, again, Madam Speaker, if I may pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FOSTER**: I would ask that Members of this House, especially those that represent the area where this line may be placed, if they are aware if the line is going through any part of the district or any communities that they represent at this time as they prepare to vote for this measure. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, rise in opposition to this motion. Having grown up in Aroostook County, I'm well aware of what the difference is between the CMP; as it's referred to; Corridor, the New England Clean Energy Corridor, and this one. This one would lead to a cheap date, cheap land up in Aroostook County that can be covered with windmills, solar panels that the rest of the State; CMP doesn't care about; speculation, my opinion. It will be bigger than the first one that was touted to ruin the beauty of the State of Maine. Aroostook County does matter. This is a bigger corridor proposed, there are no details around it, build it and they will come. The difference is the energy source that this will lead to will be provided and paid for by American companies, not Canadian. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Embden, Representative Dunphy.

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This corridor is, indeed, different than the NECEC corridor, as was mentioned earlier. There were comments about benefit to Maine. The NECEC provided significant benefits to the State of Maine as well as to the grid. This particular corridor will provide intermittent energy with a capacity factor of I think they determined around 36%. There was possibility of taking land by eminent domain. I asked the question in Committee and the response was we have that authority but we don't know if we'll have to exert it.

I guess a question that I'd like to pose is would anyone buy a \$1.5 billion home without really knowing what the benefits are and exactly what the cost is? I would suggest we would not. A dollar a month, the net energy billing program was supposed to save us millions and it's costing us \$220 million a year. I am opposed to this and I would hope that with the lack of information we have available, with the lack of past performance from promises, I would suggest that perhaps we should all vote against this until we can get some honest information. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 167

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

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Landry, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Shaw, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Pringle, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 80; No, 61; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-203)** 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" (S-203)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of the Electronic Benefits Transfer System Outside of Maine, Massachusetts or New Hampshire to Obtain Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Benefits"

(S.P. 216) (L.D. 498)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-189)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

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

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

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is an accountability bill. In the last 12 months, \$64 million has been withdrawn in cash from EBT cards distributed from the State of Maine. I would like to pose a question, if I may, through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm wondering if anyone in this Chamber can categorically tell me that none of these funds are being utilized for nefarious purposes. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer.

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. 168

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

NAY - 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, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 63; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents Under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program"

(S.P. 337) (L.D. 778)

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 to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

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

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

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is a simple work requirement for SNAP benefits and I do believe that the federal government actually just agreed with us on this. 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. 169

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil,

Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - 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, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 63; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Visitation Policies for Long-term Care Facilities, Hospice Providers and Hospitals"

(S.P. 632) (L.D. 1601)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-212)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

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

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

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is an extremely compassionate bill. All of us have known or had family members know someone that passed away during the pandemic alone. Died in a hospital room because no visitors were allowed. This bill would make us travel in the right direction to ensure that that never happens again.

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

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wasn't going to get up and speak but this hits me hard at home. During COVID, I wasn't able to see my father for almost a year. My sister and his wife were able to see him once. He was at the Veterans Home in Scarborough and had dementia. Before that period of time, he knew us about 80% of the time. After that period, he knew us about 20% of the time. We just lost my father last year but we really lost him during COVID. This is the biggest travesty in, I will say, State history, that we allowed family members to pass away, to not be around family and to lose them in other ways. I don't know if this bill is the vehicle but we have to do something. And, to me, this bill is the vehicle. We need to make it so our loved ones are not lost during any episode. For those of us that have lost loved ones or lost them mentally, if you have not gone through that, you don't understand the pain and anguish. And I would really hope that we could vote against the pending motion and at least send a signal that we will never allow this to happen again. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wasn't going to speak on this, either, but one of the towns in my district, the librarian retired. She'd lost her husband probably four or five years before she met our family and once she left the library, she didn't have, you know, any other family in the area, being from California, and she lost all the contact that she had with the people that would come to the library each day. We kind of adopted her as a member of our family. We'd have her over to our home a couple times a week for dinner, we invited her to holidays and she became quite close to us and to our children. And she only had one adult child out in California, who she was estranged from. And then when the pandemic came, with all of our policies, you know, she ended up in a nursing home and we weren't allowed to see her because we weren't family. And she eventually passed in that nursing home, but she passed alone, Madam Speaker, without anybody. Not knowing, you know, that we were there waiting to see her but couldn't. And it's a shame and, you know, at the most; one of the most critical times in your life, which is your passing, you're denied access to the people that truly love you and could give you comfort when you go. So, I would also vote that we not support 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. 170

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Osher,

Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - 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, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White B, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, Madigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 77; No, 64; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-226)** on Bill "An Act to Require Private Insurance Coverage for Donor Breast Milk"

(S.P. 126) (L.D. 267)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
RENY of Lincoln

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
SWALLOW of Houlton

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

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-226)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-226)** 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-226)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Charter a Maine State Bank That Accepts Deposits and Issues Gold Currency Celebrating Maine's Heritage"

(S.P. 652) (L.D. 1635)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
RENY of Lincoln

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
SWALLOW of Houlton

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-225)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

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 Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect a Woman's Right to Withdraw Consent for an Abortion"

(S.P. 330) (L.D. 771)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland
KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
MORIARTY of Cumberland
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris
HAGGAN of Hampden
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-210)** Report.

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-201)** on Bill "An Act to Reduce the Benefit Penalty Imposed on Career Educators Who Retire After 35 Years of Service"

(S.P. 89) (L.D. 185)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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-201)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-201)** 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-201)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-200)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Training Repayment Agreements by Employers" (S.P. 299) (L.D. 741)

Signed:
Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:
Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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-200)**.

READ.

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

Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Is the intent of this bill to prevent employers who have paid for training for certain employees not to be able to recoup their costs should that employee decide to go somewhere else?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Having been on the board for ambulance services and rural health care centers, I can tell you this is going to be destructive to our already failing health care services that, you know, service our rural areas. There's been many times where ambulance services will offer free EMS training, including all the way up to paramedic training in return for just a term of service after. And this allows people to get into a career field that they may not otherwise be able to afford. It allows them to get some training without incurring any debt and, in addition, offers some additional services to that community. The federal government also uses similar programs even all the way up to medical school. In return for service, working in rural health care, the federal government allows us, you know, they'll pay for, you know, you to become a doctor. And, you know, again, it allows someone to become a doctor with no cost, you know, without

incurring debt, while still providing a service and passing this bill would limit the ability of organizations that can really, you know, put this to public service from benefitting from that.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. You know, we keep hearing a lot about how we need workforce growth here in Maine and how much we need training programs. And notwithstanding the amendment, this particular bill is going to discourage anyone from offering a training program if the person they're training can simply at the end say thanks a lot, I'm going down the road, I'm going to go work for your competitor. I ask you how many businesses would actually keep; continue offering training programs and paying for training programs if this were the case? It doesn't make sense, Madam Speaker. I certainly wouldn't do it and I don't think most employers would do it. I urge you to join me in voting against this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, during the hearing process and the work session process, we considered a number of factors, including folks that had come to us talking about transferrable certifications and licenses. And I just wanted to note the amendment which says; the amendment specifies that unless training costs are related to the attainment of state licensure or another transferrable credential, the cost or value of training provided by the employer does not constitute a loan, debt or advance. So, one example that was given to us were commercial driver's licenses. That, of course, would be exempted by this amendment. We found that the amendment addressed a majority of the concerns that we had heard in our testimony. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize for rising again but I think I should respond. Not all training programs result in credentialing or transferrable certifications. There are a lot of them that don't and those are the people that I'm talking about here. Employers would be very discouraged from offering any program, any training program that we need to get our workforce back into gear. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 171

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

NAY - 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, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 63; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-200)** 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-200)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-149)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Uniform Protections from Retaliation for Maine Workers in Connection with the Exercise of Rights Protected Under the Laws Governing Employment Practices"

(S.P. 326) (L.D. 767)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

GEIGER of Rockland

GERE of Kennebunkport

MALON of Biddeford

RUSSELL of Verona Island

SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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-149)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-149)** 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-149)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets"

(S.P. 489) (L.D. 1193)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford

GALLETTA of Durham

GEIGER of Rockland

GERE of Kennebunkport

MALON of Biddeford

RUSSELL of Verona Island

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

SKOLD of Portland

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

READ.

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

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

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

SENATE REPORT - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) - Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Political Action Committees Relating to Union, Business and Nonprofit Organizations"

(S.P. 284) (L.D. 726)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative TERRY of Gorham pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-227) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) as Amended by **Senate Amendment "A" (S-227)** 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-186)** as Amended by **Senate Amendment "A" (S-227)** thereto in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Index Unemployment Benefits to the Unemployment Rate" (S.P. 509) (L.D. 1272)

Signed:
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot
Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-179)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Representatives:
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Auditing for Work Search Requirements of Claimants of Unemployment Compensation" (S.P. 534) (L.D. 1316)

Signed:
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot
Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-180)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec
Representatives:
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-199)** on Bill "An Act to Include Certain Crisis Outreach and Crisis Services Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement" (S.P. 707) (L.D. 1760)

Signed:
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot
Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:
Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec

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-199)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-199)** 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-199)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-198)** on Bill "An Act to Include Certain Mental Health Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement" (S.P. 708) (L.D. 1761)

Signed:
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot
Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

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-198)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-198)** 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-198)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application"

(S.P. 29) (L.D. 37)

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
QUINT of Hodgdon
RANA of Bangor
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-204)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

LIBBY of Auburn

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Align the Minimum Rate of Pay for Manufacturers of Maine License Plates at the Maine State Prison with Maine's Minimum Wage Laws" (S.P. 336) (L.D. 777)

Signed:

Senators:

FARRIN of Somerset
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor
ALBERT of Madawaska
MASON of Lisbon
O'CONNELL of Brewer
PARRY of Arundel
THERIAULT of Fort Kent
WHITE of Waterville
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Representatives:

ANKELES of Brunswick
CRAFTS of Newcastle

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

READ.

On motion of Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Eleven Members of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-193)** on Bill "An Act to Increase Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

(S.P. 576) (L.D. 1458)

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
SAMPSON of Alfred
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-194)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

Came from the Senate with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-193)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-193)** 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-193)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance"

(H.P. 483) (L.D. 714)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

HASENFUS of Readfield

LOOKNER of Portland

MADIGAN of Waterville

MATHIESON of Kittery

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-396)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

HARRINGTON of York

LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

NEWMAN of Belgrade

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **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 Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is a bill that's been requested of me to put in by the Brewer Police

Department. They've got several issues from the past that they would like to correct, so, this is a by request and they would appreciate your support. Thank you.

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

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This Legislature passed the expanded Good Samaritan bill last Session and when we did so, we sent a strong message that we value the lives of people in our State who are struggling with opioid use disorder. We also said that we want law enforcement to be partners in our State's efforts to save lives in this ongoing crisis of opioid overdose deaths, not obstacles in those efforts. People who use opioids and other drugs often struggle with various mental health issues and law enforcement are not always the most appropriate entities to respond to these situations in an overdose situation. Sadly, due to the ongoing criminalization and resulting stigma that has gone along with decades of our State and country's approach of criminalizing people who struggle with opioid use, many people are still skeptical and hesitant to call 9-1-1 when they're experiencing an overdose or the overdose of a friend and people are dying as a result. So, we need to maintain these protections, we need to save lives in our State. I know everybody here; excuse me, Madam Speaker; I believe everybody in the Legislature wants to save lives and do everything we can to get our arms around this crisis and prevent more deaths. So, this is not the right approach, just increasing criminalization and stigmatization will only drive people further into the shadows and, sadly, we've seen that far too many don't ever reemerge. So, I hope you join us in supporting the Ought Not to Pass.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill doesn't attempt to change the Good Samaritan Law, you know, whole cloth and chop it up. What it does intend to do is just fine-tune it and fix some of the unintended consequences that came when we passed that law. We heard testimony from one of the DAs that one of those unintended consequences was they're having problems in prosecuting OUI crashes, drug-involved OUI crashes, and those involved crashes that could involve with death or an injury from an innocent person in another vehicle and we're just trying to clean up those gaps and clean up those holes, Madam Speaker. So, I ask you not to support this motion but rather the Minority amendment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today as someone who is in long-term recovery from an opioid use disorder. I've been in the situation that the Good Samaritan Law seeks to address and has been very helpful, I think, to the communities who suffer with substance use disorder since its passage in the 130th. Adding any drug trafficking or any drug charges to the list of crimes that people could be prosecuted for or arrested for when someone is having an overdose adds time to a situation that needs an immediate response. We don't have time. We need an immediate response. I'm begging people to please vote for the Majority Report on this, Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this pending motion. Last session, a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers and advocates, including Senators Maxmin, Moore, Pouliot, Representatives Crafts,

LaRochelle, McCrea and Warren came together to draft, debate and negotiate the expansion of the Good Samaritan Law. Advocates from across the State rallied, calling on this Body to help them save lives. They knew that the Good Samaritan Law passed in the 129th Legislative Session was not working and that the most important thing that can happen at the scene of an overdose is for someone to call 9-1-1 so that the person can get the help that they need. They were closest to the crisis and they knew what would make a difference. That Law gave us a clear, simple Law that makes sure that people feel safe calling 9-1-1, a Law that saves lives.

When I say that this Law was negotiated, it really was. They worked diligently to get this Law to a point that nearly everybody could get on board. The advocates gave up things they wanted, so did the Committee Members, Members of the House and the Senate, and the Chief Executive, which is a hallmark of good negotiation. That is why I'm saddened this session that a few naysayers are attempting to roll back key provisions of the Law via LD 714, which is "An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance." If LD 714 passes as written, we will be right back to square one and people won't call 9-1-1. People could die. And with so many of our loved ones dying, we simply do not have the time to be debating or negotiating this Law again. It's a done deal.

We agree that if law enforcement is called to the scene of an overdose, the person who is overdosing and anyone who is helping that person cannot be arrested or prosecuted for most crimes, including all drug crimes. They also cannot be arrested on warrants or have their bail, probation, community confinement or deferred disposition revoked. We already agreed that the only exceptions are for crimes against children, sex crimes and violent crimes. And, in the end, together we sent a clear message that in Maine, we value the lives of people who use drugs and want them to get the help that they need. Now, we need to implement the Law and educate people who use drugs, law enforcement and defense and District Attorneys and community leaders. That work has begun, including by the Options program and by the advocates across the State.

It is important that we keep this bill as it stands. The bill is saving lives. It makes common sense, it's backed up by research. In 2021, the federal Government Accountability Office reviewed 17 studies of the Good Samaritan Laws. The federal government found that despite some limitations, the research findings show a pattern of lower rates of opioid-related overdose deaths among states that have enacted Good Samaritan Laws, both compared to death rates prior to the Law's enactment and death rates in states without Good Samaritan Laws. Let me be clear; Good Samaritan Laws are not an attack upon our good law enforcement officers who save lives when they are called. As many of you know, I have family members in law enforcement and I know why they serve; to make our community safer and to save lives. When they work, Good Samaritan Laws build trust between law enforcement and the recovery community but if overdose-driven 9-1-1 calls lead to prosecutions, then that trust erodes and lives can be lost. In contrast, every time the government rewards someone for being a Good Samaritan, the trust is rebuilt. More trust means more people calling 9-1-1 when it's needed. We need to keep that trust and our Good Samaritan Laws going. Fewer people who call 9-1-1, potentially more people will die. Please join me in voting Ought Not to Pass.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question that I'd like to ask through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you. Since most of us have not sat on this Committee to hear a lot of these scenarios, if someone is under the influence of one of these drugs and is driving under the influence and kills somebody, what ends up happening?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: I didn't hit the button, but I'll be glad to speak, Madam Speaker. It's my angel.

So, Madam Speaker, there's one thing everybody keeps talking about saving lives and saving lives. There's one little aspect, and it's critical, that nobody has mentioned and nobody wants to talk about. And that is the drug dealers. We, through the Good Samaritan Law, have given the drug dealers free reign in Maine. If I am a drug dealer, unless I am a fool, okay, I will never and can never be arrested in Maine, no matter what. Because I'm going to sit there and I'm going to bring a person who is addicted to drugs in my car with me and I'm going to have my guy in the back seat. And no matter what, if the Maine DEA has me on the list and they're doing a sting operation even on the highway, the moment I see them trying to pull me over, I dial 9-1-1; what's your emergency; I have a person in my passenger seat overdosing. I pull over, I start doing CPR on the gentleman. I can't be arrested, you can't touch me. And I go on and on and on. I can go on forever, Madam Speaker. You can never touch me. I can go to the drug houses, I can supply them with drugs; doesn't matter. I have my phone right here, Madam Speaker. 9-1-1, what's your emergency; I have somebody overdosing. I perform CPR, I'm free to go.

We have opened up the door. This bill hasn't been passed long enough and without passing this bill to let some things through, we're opening up the flood gates. It just hasn't been reported yet but very soon, it's going to be reported. You will never in Maine see a drug dealer or drug lord arrested, ever. It's impossible. I have friends in the DEA of Maine. They're laughing. They're like, this is incredible. What's our job? They don't have one because they can't stop anybody, they can't arrest anybody. The Good Samaritan Law.

So, Madam Speaker, we have to give this some thought. We have to realize that even though the bill sounds fantastic, we have to think about the consequences of our actions. And, Madam Speaker, we're not doing that. Why? Because we have blinders on to the fact that this is a Good Samaritan Law, we're going to save a life. Yeah, maybe so, but we are increasing; and I've said this a million times; we have the worst drug crisis on the planet and this is why. We pass bills that allow the criminals to do their jobs. So, I encourage everybody just to sit back, just give it some thought. Realize that there might be some extreme consequences to our actions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm rising to answer the question that was posed earlier. According to testimony provided to us by one of the District Attorneys, if someone is operating OUI on drugs right now and they hit somebody and seriously injure, maim or kill that person but someone; either they or someone else in their vehicles contacts law enforcement or emergency services and says that they are having a drug emergency prior to anybody else

responding, the driver is immune from prosecution even if it results in the death of someone else in that vehicle.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to pose a question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SALISBURY**: I just wanted to confirm if it was true that if you did CPR on a person not in cardiac arrest, you might in fact cause them to go into cardiac arrest?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who cares to answer.

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. 172

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 78; No, 65; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Penalties for Maintaining Drug-involved Premises"

(H.P. 820) (L.D. 1295)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland

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

Signed:

Senators:

HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-395)** on Bill "An Act to Replace Certain Stigmatizing Language in the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 22, 25 and 34-A with Respectful Language"

(H.P. 1104) (L.D. 1715)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MADIGAN of Waterville
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senators:

HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to let you know we had this similar bill last year in the Senate. We had actually several victims that were actually Senators and they spoke up and they said that they didn't like this bill because it puts them as residents instead of the monsters that they are that did sexual harm to them, and I think that we should be very careful when we go and put something like this into Statute. I can understand maybe policy if they want to and then they can change it but for us to make Laws, to me, this is really harming the victims. We're not really thinking about

the victims, we're just thinking about the person that's there and they've done some serious, serious harm to people. And it's something that you can't erase. You can't erase it from that experience. So, I feel that we should really be thinking twice when we make these laws like this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to take a moment to say that; in response to my friend from Albion, Representative from Albion, that many of the folks who are residing in the Department of Corrections are victims of crime and many people who are victims of crime also support this piece of legislation. Additionally, the Department of Corrections was supportive of this legislation. All it does is puts our Maine Statute in line with their policy. So, please support this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 173

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

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 63; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-395)** 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-395)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Reimburse Training Costs for Emergency Medical and Public Safety Dispatchers"

(H.P. 1189) (L.D. 1859)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

HASENFUS of Readfield

LOOKNER of Portland

MADIGAN of Waterville

MATHIESON of Kittery

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

NEWMAN of Belgrade

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **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: 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. 174

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

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 75; No, 67; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly 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 Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Armed Security in Schools"

(H.P. 323) (L.D. 518)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-414)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative BRENNAN of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative SAMPSON of Alfred **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 Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill would not arm teachers, this bill would not arm custodians, lunch ladies or school support staff. This bill would not arm parents and this bill would not hire Blackwater or some other battle-scarred mercenary to roam the halls of elementary schools with a black rifle. What this bill would do is allow for school districts who choose to do so to be proactive in addressing their school security needs by hiring armed and qualified professionals to meet their school's security requirements. These needs may be long-term, short-term, event-specific or to address a specific threat to a specific school. The professionals hired, who would be employees of a security company hired by the school district. These companies already exist in Maine with great reputations. They have already been contacted by school districts in the past but have had to decline offers due to State Law prohibiting these professionals from working in an armed capacity on school grounds, even with the district's permission. These school security professionals would be trained and qualified at a level on par with law enforcement in schools. School resource officers are great and serve their districts well. Unfortunately, there is usually only one officer to serve many schools. Districts do not have an SRO at every

school or patrolling after hours. This bill would allow districts to supplement their SROs with trained security professionals at an equivalent level of training.

Teachers and staff are nurturers by nature and we cannot expect them to fulfill the security needs of a school facing an active shooter. We have to let schools hire professionals to fill the gap in this emergency scenario. And I fully understand and support trying to address the problem of school shooters by changing behaviors and addressing the emotional needs of at-risk students to prevent a shooter from coming from within a school community. When a shooter shows up at a school, the time for meeting emotional needs is over. It is time to meet force with force because innocent lives depend upon it. Enacting LD 518 will allow schools that choose to do so to have professional and armed response on site when the wolf shows up on their doorstep. Please give our kids a chance and give school boards and administrators a fighting chance to hire people who can defend them when the bullets start flying. Every time there is a school shooting, I hear lawmakers say this can never happen again or we must do something before it's too late. You, as an elected Representative of teachers, parents and students in your district, must actually do something to allow schools to protect themselves. You must enact LD 518 to give our schools a fighting chance to survive an active school shooter. If you vote against this today, every parent in your district should vote you out of office because you are putting partisanship and ideology over their children's lives. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monticello, Representative Ardell.

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As part of my 25 years as a federal criminal investigator, I routinely carried a concealed firearm in schools. That school, whether it was a parent-teacher conference, a choral presentation or a band concert, a basketball game or a class in which I was presenting, was safer as a result of my armed presence. That is what armed security is; safety and protection from harm. The ability to meet force with equal or greater force. We as legislators, unable to be armed while in this State House, are protected by the Maine Capitol Police. We enjoy and rely on this service and why not extend those protections to our children in school? Please oppose this Ought to Pass Report and I thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I just want to remind everybody here that armed guards failed to stop the mass shootings at Columbine and last year in Uvalde, Texas. After the 2018 slaughter of 17 people in Parkland, Florida, the high school's armed guard faced charges for hiding outdoors with his handgun while gunshots from a semi-automatic rifle rang out inside. I don't believe we need armed guards in school. I believe what we need to do is pass legislation that keeps guns out of the wrong hands. Thank you.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be brief. I know I've said it here before and I will remind you and the Members of this House again; the only thing that stops a bad person with a gun is a good person with a gun. As much as we hate to admit that, that's the truth of it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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. 175

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 78; No, 65; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly 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 Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Rating System for Books in School Libraries" (H.P. 644) (L.D. 1008)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-415)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative BRENNAN of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative SAMPSON of Alfred **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 Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the book of Proverbs, 21:11, I'd like to just quote a passage here; when the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge. In simple terms, the wise man learns from the mistakes of others.

Ted Bundy, the day before he was executed gave an interview to Dr. James Dobson, and I'm going to quote him here; I was born into a healthy home, not physically harmed, not sexually abused, not emotionally abused. I don't blame my family for my behavior. I'm not blaming pornography. I'm not saying that it caused me to go out and do certain things and I take full responsibility for the things I have done. The issue is how this kind of literature contributed and helped mold and shape this kind of violent behavior. There it is, Madam Speaker; the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of others.

LD 1008 was a simple way to rate books and put them into an age-appropriate area of the library. Hermon figured it out. They've agreed to put them in a restricted area and it will take a permission slip from the parent or parents to access those books. This was not a book-banning bill. Let me repeat; not a book-banning bill. Did you catch that? It doesn't ban books as some have tried to make it out to be. I repeat, nowhere in the bill can you find language that bans books. It simply sought to place books in an area that is age-appropriate.

This Body has passed many laws to protect kids. Can't buy alcohol until 21. Same with cigarettes. Attempting to ban flavored tobacco again. The headline from the *Bangor Daily News*, June 9th, "Maine Bans Marriage Under the Age of 17." Guns cannot be purchased until you are 18. Why not keep pornography out of the reach of minors? I've heard the argument that it's a local control issue. Since when has this Body stopped infringing on local control? We've mandated pay raises for local schools, we even have gone so far as tinkering what time school should start. Also, if allowing kids to have in their possession sunblock at school is okay. So, I ask myself, why are we allowing pornography to be accessible to underage children? Is this part of a bigger agenda? Looking at the many bills this Session that promote abortion, transitioning, parental rights in schools, leads me to believe that Maine is losing its moral compass.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, we open every session with prayer. Second Chronicles 7:14 says; if my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.

Madam Speaker, this bill just simply wanted to say put books in an appropriate area for the appropriate age groups. And I was hoping that we could come together in the Education Committee, maybe make some amendments and say this is a good path forward for our schools. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me first start by saying I am so glad my kids are out of school, because of what we're seeing that's actually being pushed in our schools now.

I'm going to read you some excerpts of one of the books that's being pushed in our schools. It's from *Gender Queer*. That's the name of the book. "Hiding my period became extremely important to me. For two entire school years, I successfully avoided using the school bathroom. I'd often wear the same pad for so long that dried blood turned to dry crumbs resembling coffee grounds. To this day, a huge number of my nightmares involve menstrual blood." Now, this is actually a picture of a boy. Boys don't menstruate. "I feel the familiar sensation of hot blood gushing from my body. When I make it to the bathroom, I'll find my legs smeared with blood from waist to knees." How about this one? "In seventh grade, my mom bought me my first bra. I liked that it flattened my tiny boobs into nonexistence but I hated that I needed it at all. I started daydreaming about getting breast cancer, thinking it would give me the perfect excuse to have my breasts removed since there have been several cases of cancer in my family, so, I know how terrible that sounds. I like to say I never think about that anymore but that would not be true. The boys around me seem as yet unravaged by puberty. I wish I was one of them. If I could have removed the vagina out of my body after that experience, I would have. In lieu of that, I promised myself that nothing would ever enter it ever again."

These are things that are being read by our 10-year-olds, 12-year-olds, 9-year-olds, because there is no rating system. Here's some more. "In fact, I'm shocked when a friend says, I'm not really into slash or gay comics. What? Really? I thought gay porn was universal. Later, she described herself as heteroflexible and tried to explain why she liked lesbian porn more than gay porn. I think it's because I just don't know how to assign a sensation to that part of my body I don't have. I assign sensation to a body part I don't have all the time. Sometimes I can almost feel where it would be, resting against my thigh."

Here's some more; these are comics, too. "When I was 14 or so, I told a close friend I think I'm asexual. You can't be, I've seen you lust after people. Well, yeah, but not very often and I don't enjoy it. I remember my first year at SF Pride thinking that the asexual groups had the best signs; why have sex when you can have cake, how about we just cuddle. Asexuals have other things on their minds." Again, these are comics and there's actually comics here of two men having sex. And these are books that are in our schools right now.

Here's another one. "In 2013, I discovered Erika Moen's web comic 'Oh Joy, Sex Toy.' In a comic from November from that year, she talks about the first sex toy she ever purchased, a ten-dollar bullet vibrator. Moen writes; my first orgasm is still one of my most vivid, lovely experiences. It was the first time I ever loved my body. The way she talks about orgasms makes me wonder if it's actually; if I've never even had one. I guess I should get one of these and try it."

Again, these are things that are being read to our kids. These are in the books that are in our schools that we're saying that no, we don't need to rate these books. How about this? "That's no big deal, I've literally all the hair on every part of my body. And these are comics. Have you ever shaved your pubic hair? No. That's so brave. Brave? I always thought it was lazy." This one is; "fast-forward, we've been dating for two months, we've made out, we've had sex, we've moved on to sexting at work. I got a new strap-on harness today. I can't wait

to put it on you; that will fit my favorite dildo perfectly. You're going to look so hot." This comic; welcome to the library. "I can't wait to have your cock in my mouth. I'm going to give you the blowjob of your life, then I want you inside me. This is the most turned on I've ever been in my life and I'm dying."

These are books that are in our schools and that people think is okay. These are comic books, there's pictures. And we think this is okay? This is why we need a rating system. "Later, talking to my best friend; I hate it, I hate having boobs and a period, I hate buying bras and underwear, I hate feeling like I have to shave my armpits and have a perfect tan. I hate feeling like I'm supposed to wear makeup and like boys and act girly. Meyer, you're one of the least girly people I know. Even if you wear a dress and a ton of makeup, even if I don't think people will find you girly. Thank you." This is a boy and a girl.

Here's another one. "When I finally got old enough to not be embarrassed talking about this stuff with my sister; it never really occurred to you to put something into your vagina, not even a finger? It really didn't. So, you've never tasted yourself? What? No? Ew. Wait, you have? Haha, of course. You should try some vagina slime."

Really? This is what we want our kids to read? This is what we think is okay? Remember, all we're asking at this point is to have a rating system. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'm kind of glad I'm not in school today after hearing that and I think reading, writing and arithmetic would be so refreshing right now. Anyway, we're finding out that parents really want to know what their children are getting in school but we can't anticipate or even realize they have a lot of problems maybe knowing what is out there, what content is in the books. They're not all experts. A rating system like this would be very beneficial to them and that's all we're asking. A rating system so that parents can help determine what their kids should be receiving in school. They're responsible for feeding them physically, they should also be responsible for feeding them mentally, socially, culturally, spiritually. It belongs to the parents and this will help that happen. So, I hope you join me in voting against this bill so we can pass the Minority Report. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree that we need a rating system and I just wanted to add to what the Good Representative from Fairfield said, the same book that she referenced, *Gender Queer*, points the students to a website called kink.com and I just would ask that you go and click on that and tell me if that's appropriate for 8-year-olds, high schoolers. The site, before you click into it, says you must be 18 years old to enter. So, why is this book in our schools? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to say, you know, growing up, I think one of the books that kind of sticks in my mind was "National Geographic." So, but; I'm just saying that today's world has gotten so much beyond that. I think what kids need to do is be able to play and not have to think about adult type information and be able to just play with kids and not worry about the respect value of losing respect for each other. And I think that the rating system here we're just looking at is, to me, not really asking for much. I think if you go to the; used to go to the store, the grocery store, they'd

put the magazines out of reach of children, at the top so that, you know, it was kind of like their own rating system you have in the store. So, I think that that's all they're asking in the school is just some type of rating system so that we can show respect for the young kids and I think that's all we're asking. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **SKOLD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I pose a question to the Legislature?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SKOLD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is in reference to the Bible. Given stories of sex, incest, rape, murder; my question is, what rating we imagine the Bible might receive under such a system?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to address that question, I would encourage all the Members to read the Bible so they know what's in it and Proverbs is a good place to start. Also Psalms. But I'd like to also just plant a seed, Madam Speaker. How many of our libraries allow the Bible in our libraries? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Palermo, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, would answer that question in saying that in any church I have ever attended, we have Sunday School classes for kindergarten, first and second grade, third and fourth, and those subjects would, indeed, probably be saved until they were later, until they were of a later age. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also rise to answer the pending question. I wasn't really bothered by this debate too much until that question. I've got to admit, that question did kind of trigger me. I would answer that question by saying are you serious? Have you looked at these books that everybody's talking about today? They're cartoon, they're illustrated, animated books with this content, targeting small children. And if you're going to talk about rating the Bible, then yes, go ahead and hold it to the same standard as the other books in this and rate it. And when it comes to small children being presented Bibles, there are age-appropriate Bibles that are brought to that level. So, then, yes, hold it to the same standard as the other books. But we're talking about literally pornographic books in the schools with what we had to listen to before. This is a simple thing to rate these books for our schools. How is this not common sense? I don't understand it, Madam Speaker. That's my answer.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. And this is one that's affected me very much in my representation of the people of Hermon and Carmel, unfortunately. We have a great town. It's growing, it's expanding. We have great people and I'm proud to represent them. But I do go to the school board meetings and I have gone to the school board meetings for years now and listened. And I had constituents that wanted me to say something. Representative Thorne, you represent us, say something. And I believe that it was a local issue. And the one time that I spoke was to introduce this bill that I'm a co-sponsor on and LD 1518

that gives parents rights. To say that I am offended that the comments that the Good Representative from Fairfield made and compare that to the Bible; I'm only Catholic, I'm not in for sainthood, but I do respect and I know nowhere in the Bible did it mention strap-on dildos.

We have a moral issue in our schools and it's not about good and bad, it's not about evil and saintliness, it's about decency and what's appropriate and what's not appropriate. And I can tell you, it's spoiled us for a long time because it's been the center of attention at town meetings in Hermon, School Committee meetings in Hermon. And the last school meeting we went to, the principal offered to the School Committee the chance to correct it in his own way. We have established a restricted area and as of this fall, no student will have access to these books that are in the restricted area unless they have a written permission from their parents. And all the people that have showed up for all those years to mention their concerns to the School Committee said at last. At last, a compromise that is moving in the right direction, that moves the needle to some sort of appropriate reading for appropriate ages. Therefore, I would urge you to vote against the pending motion and follow my light. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to say a couple of facts here. As I was just listening to the testimony from my colleagues here, I looked to see where this book is available in my school system and there is one copy available at the high school. This is not in the middle schools or lower in my school district. So, I don't see where this content is being pushed on little kids. I can tell you that my 12-year-old daughter is having way larger exposure to issues that we're talking about today just through access to the internet and these are topics that I hope that parents will discuss with their children if they see that their child is reading that book, hopefully you can have an open discussion about that.

I wanted to also say that the book is available at the South Portland adult graphic section and at the Bailey teen nonfiction, so; and I just wanted to also say, to piggyback off of the Representative from Winter Harbor's comment, that this should be common sense. There is a really great resource called Common Sense Media in which it is a rating system that does not require government overreach. So, I would highly recommend checking that out. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I grew up in a very rural part of the country, very conservative part of the country. And when I was 14, my conservative Catholic speech teacher pointed me to the Bible as an example of why we shouldn't ban books. Because the Bible did have a number of passages that would be considered risqué, that would be considered inappropriate for young children. But the Bible, to her, was important enough that we should not ban books. I took that to heart. And one of the things that she also did was provide her students with a list of all of the books that folks are trying to ban across the country. Guess what we read? Every single book on that list. And, in closing, to the Good Representative from Carmel, I suggest he look at Ezekiel 16:17. Thank you.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, this conversation is very pertinent to me. I have a 13-year-old going into high school this year and I am thankful

that my husband and I have the luxury to have her in a school where I have no concerns that she will run into *Gender Queer* or any other literature that is wildly inappropriate for someone of that age. Again, this is about rating books, Madam Speaker, and not banning books. So, I want to be very clear on that because there seems to be a lot of confusion on that in this Chamber today. Thirdly, giving the benefit of the doubt to the Representative from Portland whom I attended church with for so many years, I just would like to clarify that that pithy comment comparing *Gender Queer* to the Bible was perhaps tongue in cheek because I shudder to believe that that was an honest question, Madam Speaker. So, that's my question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Skold.

Representative **SKOLD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just in response; the Good Representative before had quoted two passages from the Bible to lead our conversation off. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Sayre.

Representative **SAYRE**: I had not intended to speak on this motion. I do support the motion before us and I think the Good Representative from Carmel reinforced my support for this bill. The Representative articulated how a reasoned approach within his local community came to a sound solution with significant public buy-in. And I think that's exactly how communities should go about this. That's exactly how parents who are concerned about their children's education should go about this, and that the State imposing a statewide rating system that we develop and then somehow create a board to assign these categorizations to all of the literature potentially available to students in schools is exactly the kind of overreach into our individual rights and our children's individual rights to access content that's age appropriate is just, you know, that's not what we should be about here. That's my opinion and what happened in Carmel is exactly where this kind of decision should take place. So, I'm proud and happy to vote in support of this motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to remind people that there are many small school districts in this State that share the same library K-12.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know; Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Normally, I'm really happy to be sitting next to my father in this Chamber, but today's pretty humiliating, not so much fun. I just want to relate an experience that I had with our school district. My son was assigned a book, which I just happened to pick up before he read and opened to the correct pages and it; it described the ultimate sexual act, which is not something that's really described in the Bible, and it depicted rape and incest as being something pleasurable, desirable. And, you know, I'm trying to raise decent young men who respect women and this undermined that. The school was undermining that effort that I was putting in to raising my son. So, I just; I can see where this vote is going to go but I think everyone should keep in mind that there's a lot to this. We have a problem in this State. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and to the Members of the House. In regards to the comment from the Representative sharing that the book is only available at their high school, I would just like to bring to everyone's attention that during the public hearings on this bill, a grandmother talked about a situation where her granddaughter came home from being on the bus where this book was passed around to all the kids on that bus that were exposed to some very, for some individuals, what was extremely inappropriate material. And this child was very emotionally upset, upon what was shared with us, when she got home from school. I think we have to remind ourselves and me, especially, I'm sure many of us here, that have given their life to public education that we are talking about public schools. It's paid for by public tax dollars and the public needs to be heard and respected in regards to this matter as well as many others. Thank you.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A bit of a diversion here. I've sat in this Body over good sessions with two Members from the town of Carmel. So, for those of you who are from away, it is Carmel, not Car-Mel. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I sat through hours of public hearings not only on this bill, but on similar bills. And I can tell you, Madam Speaker, as well as Members of this Chamber, this bill is unnecessary, unwarranted and is before this Body in a way that will not achieve any of the things the previous speakers have talked about. And you know why? It's because every local community, every school board, has the authority to decide now what type of material, what type of books will be in their schools, will be in their curriculum, will be in their library. In fact, almost every week or every month, you can pick up the newspaper and read about a local school district that is making a decision about what books will be utilized through the school, what books will be set aside in the library, what books will be available to their young people. That's their authority. That's the right that they have in the State of Maine as elected officials at both the School Committee level and at the administrative level within schools.

Why would we pass a bill that would assert or take away that authority from parents and from the local municipality to make that decision? I certainly don't want to do that. And, ironically; ironically, what this bill would do is allow publishers of major book-publishing companies in New York and California to have rating systems and decide what people in communities and students in communities in Maine would have the ability to read and provide a rating system that would then be utilized and reviewed by the Department of Education to decide what we would allow citizens in the State of Maine to have available to them. Talk about cumbersome. Talk about bureaucratic. And talk about censorship. And that's what this bill is about. I don't think this bill should move one step forward because we already have the protections in the State of Maine that people say they want and we are doing the job that we should be doing making those decisions in our own community. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There's been a lot of spirited debate on this. I think at the end of the day, we need to stop sacrificing common sense on the

altar of politics. You know, as a parent, I really think we need to let kids be kids as long as possible and protect their innocence as best we can and I believe that voting down this motion would go a long way towards doing that. So, please follow my light. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just would like to make note of the fact that this bill has an amendment that removes the publisher. There is no publisher involved. That the individual School Administrative Unit could put a list and categorize them, just like movies would, you know, are categorized G, PG and all the way up. So, this is all this is asking to do, to make the books so that the content is in an appropriate age level. And that's all it is. It's not getting rid of any books; it's not doing anything but just putting it in a proper category. Thank you.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I do stand in opposition to the pending motion. However, I would also like to say it has been several years now since I spent my 12 years on my local school board. And in answer to one of the questions that the Good Representative from Portland raised on why would we want to put this on to local school districts, because we don't believe in taking over what should be local control. In the 12 years I was on the school board, we were faced with many things that came out of this Legislature that told the Department of Education to make sure that we covered certain materials in various subject matter in our school district. And I believe that that has not changed since 2012. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise not to talk about this debate but the process here. This has been about the third or fourth time where in debate we've been discussing and the original bill is referenced rather than the amendment and it's just really disheartening and feels like intellectual dishonesty. The numbers are the numbers, the votes are the votes, but let's just be honest about what we're talking about and not try to, you know, shift it around. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Osher.

Representative **OSHER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Challenges to books in America last year reached an all-time high with 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources according to the American Library Association, which began tracking the issue more than two decades ago. But that's nearly double the 729 challenges reported in 2021. And last year, the Association found that 2,571 unique titles were targeted for censorship, a 38% increase from 1,858 unique titles targeted in 2021. Most of the books were written by or about members of the LGBTQ community and people of color. So, the books being banned and challenged around the nation are often written by marginalized people and students in clubs that would read them or in classes, this may be the only way to learn about diversity. So, getting books by people of color or people in the LGBTQ community and others are really important and we have teachers and librarians who can assist students to get age-appropriate materials.

So, this deeply concerns me because this mirrors what happened in Germany in the rise before --

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member may defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: This is clearly calling into question the motives of the people that are in support of this ban. The Representative has insinuated; or as she's referring to it as a ban, this is a rating system on age-appropriate books. The Member has insinuated that the people; the Members in favor of this bill are Nazis. That is out of hand, it's enough of this rhetoric coming from the Member whose side invented the word hate speech, which is to censor the words, the freedom of speech, the First Amendment.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor objected to the comments of Representative OSHER of Orono because she was questioning the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Member has made his point. The Chair will remind all Members to not impugn the character of other Members.

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **OSHER**: It is my understanding that in history, there has been a historical event which was preceded by preventing the population from reading materials by and about LGBTQ people. This, to me, seems like the repetition of a historical event and it concerns me greatly and I am very pleased the Representative from Portland talked about how this has been discussed already many times and I am in support of the motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In response to the Member from Orono's claims, I would just like to point out that *Gender Queer* is not exactly *Huckleberry Finn* or *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bath, Representative Paulhus.

Representative **PAULHUS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll try to be brief. I know we've been talking about this. My wife and I, we're raising four kids ranging from 16, 13, 7, and 2 just recently last week. But I'm going to talk about our 13-year-old, who is very smart and is an amazing reader and reads above her grade level. She's read over 65 books in a school year. And it is very hard sometimes for us to find books because she's a fast reader and everything and with difficulty; it's hard to find appropriate for her age subjects and content. But we have never needed a rating system to put in place in order to determine if a book is appropriate for her. My wife and I, we do research, we talk to her about subjects, talk to her about titles and we've taught our daughter to make good choices in her reading selection because of how advanced she is. She also uses the Common Sense Media, which she's learned from in school.

And so, we feel that a rating system of this kind is not necessary, as it's already been pointed out, because I think, you know, with discussion and with talking with our daughter and with our kids about this, that's where the discussions need to be, not through a rating system being put together here in the Legislature. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wiscasset, Representative Polewarczyk.

Representative **POLEWARCZYK**: Madam Speaker, we; in the public testimony, the public hearing on this bill, we listened to a number of librarians and they made some very fine points about censorship and banning books. One of the librarians was

asked a very simple question; do you believe that pornography should be prohibited in schools? The answer was yes.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be really brief. The Good Representative from Bangor asked us to read a section of Ezekiel. And for those of you that don't know, Ezekiel was a great prophet. So, I thought I would read it since that's what she asked us to do, and it says; the one who sins is the one who will die. 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. 176

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 64; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly 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 Not to Pass** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SAMPSON of Alfred

SARGENT of York

WORTH of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-416)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

READ.

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, 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.**

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-413)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Grants to Promote Innovative Learning Strategies"

(H.P. 965) (L.D. 1510)

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

SAMPSON of Alfred

SARGENT of York

WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

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-413)** 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-413)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Hope and Inclusion Scholarship Program" (H.P. 1173) (L.D. 1841)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-424)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative BRENNAN of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative SAMPSON of Alfred **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 Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of my bill, 1841, "An Act to Establish the Hope and Inclusion Scholarship Program." That is why I oppose the current motion.

The Hope and Inclusion Scholarship is an educational savings account and ESA program that will allow parents and families to use the State portion of their education fund to commute; sorry, customize and individualize learning experience for their household, with qualified students in qualified schools. Education needs to bring hope and inclusion to all students and families. It is my hope that LD 1841 can do just that. Families with an ESA will have access to an account for each of their eligible students in their house. New Hampshire, West Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee have active educational savings account programs with success.

How to qualify for the Hope and Inclusion Scholarship? The student must be under 21, they must live in Maine, the student has not completed a secondary education. With remarks that academics need to take a back seat in education in our State, this is widely concerning for a large portion of families. Parents' concerns are being disregarded both locally and at the State level. For many of those parents, there is a feeling that they have less and less of a voice in public education and see their rights as guardians being eroded. I have heard from more than one of my constituents that this is taxation without representation. These parents have concerns about SEL, obscene materials in the schools and rising property taxes.

In many cases, school boards around the State have chosen to keep wildly inappropriate materials after these month-long processes with biased review committees.

All students, no matter how they identify, need to feel safe and protected. If government-run schools are going to disregard the wishes of numerous percentages of families, we need to find an equitable, inclusive solution. We need to bring hope to these families who feel like they have no hope at all. They need to have a voice and a seat at the table. Do we really want to vote against hope and inclusion? I urge you to follow my light. 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. 177

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 80; No, 63; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Inclusion of the COVID-19 Vaccine in the Universal Childhood Immunization Program"

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

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-426)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is my bill and there is a Committee Amendment that was drafted and attached to the bill, and basically, it describes in the way the sponsor would like, more than the original title did. So, with that, I would just like to say; this bill is to request superintendents and it limits their use to a certain vaccine and limits their ability to require it; as a requirement for anybody to attend a postsecondary education and also the school system, secondary school systems. Basically, that's it and urge the people to; or, vote against the pending motion so we can pass this. And this is a parents' rights bill and I do thank you very much for the opportunity to stand before the well of the House and to speak in favor of a great bill and thank you. Have a great day.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just want to clarify that I would not normally support a bill with this title because it is an optional program. However, a compromise has been proposed and I would love to have an opportunity to debate that. 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. 178

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

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford,

Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 78; No, 65; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Temporarily Prohibit the State from Mandating COVID-19 Vaccinations" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 999) (L.D. 1547)

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 to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I originally brought this bill forward in the 130th Legislative Session in December of 2019. At that time, I was concerned that the COVID vaccine, due to the fear broadcasted constantly in the media, could become mandated. I was told that the bill was not necessary because no one would ever mandate an emergency authorization use product. My concerns were validated and it was mandated.

When I spoke on the bill the last session, I brought forward my concerns that we had no safety data or efficacy data available. We accepted information from pharmaceutical companies that had everything to gain and nothing to lose as

complete and total truth. I'm not going to read all of these pages, but there are over 80,000 pages of data that has now been released speaking of these sorts of complications that we were not told of originally. We were not allowed to question their narrative or safety data. Once again, I had concerns. We were accepting as fact the information given from a pharmaceutical company that had received one of the largest fines in history for fraud. Now we know why they wanted their trial data sealed for 75 years. We have learned their products are not effective, they do not stop transmission nor prevent one from getting COVID. It does not prevent death from COVID. Sadly, once again, my concerns were validated. We know that there are safety concerns. Still, we are not allowed to question. I will never stop questioning and I will never stop insisting that no one should be required to be a mandatory test subject for an emergency authorization use treatment, drug or vaccine when they have no recourse for any injury, complication or death that may occur.

This bill, quite simply, allows five years from the date of a vaccine's first emergency use authorization to provide safety data to Maine citizens. I have brought this bill forward once again for your consideration. The difference is now we have the Pfizer data that has been released and there are some concerning adverse reactions, complications and even deaths revealed in their data. The ever-parroted safe and effective mantra has proven to be false according to the manufacturer's own information. The people of Maine deserve to have a truly safe, studied and effective vaccine available if there is any potential for mandates. I am personally opposed to mandates but that is not the discussion here; safety is. That was my position the last time I presented this bill and that has not changed and never will. We must always allow science to be questioned and proven. If there is risk, there must be choice.

That choice should not include losing your livelihood and ability to support your family while doing the job that you are trained for and you love. As a nurse myself, I know of the loss of phenomenal nurses who walked away from or were fired from jobs due to the mandate on medical personnel. Experienced and caring nurses. Those who stood against the medical establishment administration to protect their own beliefs and safety are the same people who would fight for any patient to be provided that same protection for themselves and for others. Remember, this mandate on medical personnel did not affect just nurses. We lost doctors, administrative staff, maintenance staff and food staff. Important people who keep our health care system operating. Instead, our health care facilities are now on life support, with closed offices, closed beds, closed departments and complete specialty wings or floors in our hospitals closed. We have delayed appointments and procedures as well as astronomical wait times. Emergency services are suffering from the same burdens for all of their workers and their accessory staff. This was all preventable. If there is risk, there must be true choice, not coercion.

The college mandate was another failure. The students we lost to other schools without mandates was great. I kept a running list of non-mandated colleges and universities available to offer to parents that reached out to me over this bill at the time that it was presented. Unfortunately, I had to refer many students out of our State, the likelihood that they would never return. What a loss for a group not at risk. What a foolish decision. What arrogance when this age group has the greatest risk for myocarditis. I have had numerous conversations with constituents who told me that they felt bullied and harassed when they went to their doctors' appointments to get the vaccine. Many changed doctors or just stopped going to their

appointments all together. The trust in the medical community has been greatly diminished by our response to COVID.

Last Session on the House Floor, I spoke of a friend and constituent that I had known for 15 years. She had given me copies of her medical records so that I could help her fill out the VAERS report. You may remember me giving this same speech. She was older and found the process overwhelming and confusing. She had developed many blood clots after receiving the vaccine and was hospitalized. She suffered further complications after release and was again hospitalized. She was one of those who felt pressured while at subsequent medical appointments. She had no choice to stop attending her appointments due to her complications. Several months ago, she spoke with me in the grocery store to tell me that she had received a booster and was feeling terrible. She felt that the doctors were not listening to her concerns. I would love to tell you of her recovery, as I said in Committee. But, instead, I am truly devastated to inform you of her death. Cardiac complications. I am angry. Where there is risk, there must be choice. She did not feel that she had that choice. We did that to her.

This bill allows for a five-year moratorium to allow for safety testing on emergency authorization use products to be completed before they can be mandated. The efficacy or lack thereof; I'm sorry, I've got to hold it up so I can see it better now; the efficacy or lack thereof would have been revealed in this period as well. It is time to remove this mandate. It is not effective and, for some, it has proven to be unsafe, damaging and even lethal. We should never allow this to happen again. Emergency use authorization treatments, products or vaccines should always be by choice, not demanded by others who are completely exempt from the consequences of their decisions. I ask you to follow my light and vote down this pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you. I rise again. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak again, Madam Speaker. The Chief Executive, I should say, and myself, we're both about the same age, we both started our political careers, so to speak, back in the '60s. And back then, there were our troops coming home from 'Nam were mistreated by a lot of protestors. And among one of the sayings that those protestors had was challenge authority. And today, I have learned to implement that phrase, challenge authority. Because all this COVID BS is exactly that; BS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members to watch their language and show respect to other Members in the Chamber as they make their own remarks and as they would want the same.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We need to go one step further than this bill and we need to get rid of this deadly vaccination. Keep in mind that COVID-19 vaccination does nothing to prevent COVID and it has also killed more people in Maine than the virus itself. We must sooner or later fall on our swords and finally give in to the facts. It is okay to say we fell to a scam. It's called humility. Just because 95% of Mainers fell for the scam does not mean we must take a stand and save face. You all got scammed. Get over it. Move forward and help Mainers. We must now act like adults and not force smart people who were not scammed to get their children vaxxed or for adults to get vaxxed so that they can have their jobs back. This is unfair. You got scammed. It hurts, but it's

like the elderly when they're at home and they're scammed. It hurts but they have to get over it and move on. We have to get over this. We need to move on. We got scammed, people got vaxxed, it did nothing, it killed people. We need to move on. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to just share some information that is very pertinent to this particular bill. The FDA requested a court to keep Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine data sealed for 75 years. You and I would be dead by then. Why would they request this if the shots were safe and effective like we were told? Fortunately for humanity, the court rejected their request, ordering the FDA to immediately begin releasing 55,000 pages of Pfizer vaccine data per month to the public. This began April 1, 2022, when the first batch was released. Thirty-five hundred medical professionals have since been scouring over these documents to organize them in categories and write detailed reports in understandable language. Pfizer tracked adverse events during the first 12 weeks of the vaccine rollout. As Pfizer's own reports indicate, 270 pregnant women reported a vaccine injury but Pfizer only followed 32 of them, of which 28 of their babies died. This reflects an astounding 87.5% fetal death rate. Countless reports confirm Pfizer's findings, with 80-85% spontaneous abortions or fetal death in OB/GYN practices throughout the world. However, did any of you hear this heart-stopping information in the mainstream media? Did our own CDC warn the pregnant mothers? They were well aware of this information, so, where was the transparency?

Increasingly, medical professionals are coming forward pronouncing the COVID-19 shot is the deadliest device, therapy or treatment ever to be rolled out in human history. Compare the reaction to 26 deaths of the swine flu rollout. It was immediately pulled from the market. However, in this case, Pfizer, the FDA and the CDC all knew the truth, yet they doubled down on the manipulating and misleading of Mainers and Americans.

Let me just; I'm not good at doing this while I'm speaking, so bear with me here. So, this troubling narrative has expanded and I'm going to highlight very specific studies that they compiled; not studies but the analysis of the reports that came out. The first one was the COVID-19 vaccine and pregnancy was considered risky business. Unfortunately, as more pregnant women had been vaccinated, serious adverse events are being exposed in both Pfizer documents and in the Department of Defense medical database. Number two; Pfizer, FDA, CDC; they all hid the proven harms to male sperm quality, testes function from the mRNA vaccine ingredients. The mRNA vaccine caused a staggering drop in semen concentration and total motile count. Number three; women have two and a half times higher risk of adverse events than men. Risk to female reproduction function is higher still. The Pfizer documents demonstrate a strong signal that women have far more adverse events than males, particularly when considering reproductive organs and function. Data do not support the safety of mRNA COVID vaccinations for pregnant women. The following analysis will show that no accurate, reliable scientific data was collected and thus, it is not possible to provide useful information about the risk to pregnant women and their babies from the COVID mRNA vaccines. Because of this, medical and public health organizations are remiss in their duties to protect the health and well-being of patients when they endorse the use of mRNA vaccines in pregnant women. Number five; 2021, the CDC and the FDA, misinformation, retroactive editing,

erroneous spontaneous abortion rate calculations and obfuscation in the New England Journal of Medicine. With the first-time use of a novel genetically-active drug never tested in pregnant women, the best science should have been employed to look particularly closely at the spontaneous abortions in the first six weeks. The same is true in pre-term births, congenital deformities, complicated deliveries, placental abnormalities and neonatal deaths. This was simply not done. Number six; the VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, recorded 76% of vaccine-related miscarriages from the past 30 years occurred once pregnant women started receiving the COVID vaccines. If you are pregnant, you are more likely to lose your baby in a miscarriage if you have received the COVID-19 vaccine than if you receive measles, mumps, flu, tetanus or any other vaccine. This and other alarming facts about risks to babies of vaccinated mothers comes from the U.S. government's own Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System. And the seventh report; 9 months post-COVID mRNA vaccine rollout is a substantial birth rate drop in 13 European countries, England, Wales, Australia and Taiwan. They stated the decline in birth rates in Switzerland, for example, was the largest in 150 years, more than during World War; the two World Wars, the Great Depression and the advent of widely available birth control.

So, all this information is straight from the horse's mouth. And I would like to just draw peoples' attention to the fact that these documents came from Pfizer's documents. Pfizer's documents. These aren't things that have been conjured up by, you know, my imagination. So, I would ask that you all don't support this measure, follow my light and let's get this Pfizer mRNA vaccine removed from any schedule anywhere if we want to be responsible human beings. Thank you.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it's so wonderful to be a Member of a caucus that has such a diverse opinion on the vaccine. Many of us are vaccinated, and I know I am and I intend to get a booster once a new one is available. And so, I urge everybody to do their own research and come up with what's best for them. And I want to remind everybody that the question is "An Act to Temporarily Prohibit the State from Mandating COVID-19 Vaccinations." Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I could pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: I'd like to know how many of you got vaccinated and boosted and still got COVID. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Well, tell me if you haven't heard this one before; I wasn't planning on speaking. But, Madam Speaker, here it is right here. United States Court of Appeals. Sorry to use a prop, but this is their decision --

Representative **ROBERTS**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Berwick, Representative Roberts.

Representative **ROBERTS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of Order. The Member is using props.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick asked the Chair if the use of props by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford was allowed during the floor debate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members that props are not allowed to be used in the Chamber.

The Chair reminded all Members that no props were allowed during the floor debate.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, but this is the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. These are health care workers taking the State to federal court to appeal a decision and I'm just going to read one sentence from it. I'm sorry, I'm not going to read 48 pages, I know some of you are disappointed. This is the court, now, but; we conclude that the Plaintiff's complaint states claims for relief under the Free Exercise and Equal Protection Clause as it is plausible based on the plaintiff's allegation. There's relief right there, Madam Speaker. Why do we have to wait for the court to decide? Why can't we decide it here? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Pringle.

Representative **PRINGLE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise because I know how people can feel overwhelmed when they hear all kinds of information. And, as a physician who had patients often coming in with information from media and internet and all over the place, I often sent them to what I thought were reliable websites. And, in fact, there is one that was developed by the National Institutes of Health, which translates scientific language into lay language and it's called PubMed, P-U-B-M-E-D. If you type that in as a search, it will take you to the pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. It's a public website. And you can type in a question, you know, tell me about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, and you can find the Johns Hopkins website, you can find; review articles. I quickly found one that came up with a review of Pfizer, BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, Jansen, are the three COVID-19 vaccines authorized by emergency use. It tells you how they went through the reporting and how many adverse effects; 141,000 individuals suffered one adverse effect but they studied 239.97 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine given. The frequency of side effects was 0.04%. Anyway, there's lots of information, we can all have debates, but the fact is it's not easy sometimes and so, we turn to our experts and we have created a national website that can give you access, type in the questions you have, and then you can look and see if you think that those were reasonable studies.

I got a vaccine, I got boosters, I got them as soon as I could. All the data shows that they are extremely well-tolerated, they've saved lots and lots of lives, they've kept a lot of people out of SCU. And, sure, I got COVID. I was thrilled that I had been vaccinated and boosted and I was able to take Paxlovid and start feeling better in three days and didn't have to be hospitalized, didn't have to go to ICU. I had friends who got sick with COVID before the vaccine was out and they died. And I know that vaccines work. I know that some people have side effects, we keep a registry for them, but it just is very hard for me to hear all one side of information. I felt the need to rise and share where you can go get more information if you want to. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you for allowing me to rise again. My dead friend would disagree. I would like to thank the Member for bringing forward PubMed, though, however,

because in just doing a quick search from PubMed; conclusion, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines increase the risk of ITP relapse and can lead to a prolonged reduction in platelet count in a proportion of ITP patients. They do actually list; this is immune thrombocytopenia, so, this is an immune response of the red blood cells after the vaccine. And so, there are studies on PubMed that show beneficial and also detrimental issues concerning the COVID-19 vaccine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative **MEYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Esteemed Colleagues of the House. The vast benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccination far outweigh any of the largely unfounded claims that have been put forth regarding reproductive and other harm. Prohibiting COVID-19 vaccination requirements based on misinformation, disinformation, pseudoscience and conspiracy theories would do a great disservice --

Representative **QUINT**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: I believe that we are disparaging other Members. The information that was brought forward was from Pfizer's own data. To quote Pfizer's own data as misinformation or disinformation, I feel is in error.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative QUINT of Hodgdon objected to the comments of Representative MEYER of Eliot because she was questioning the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind all Members once again to not question the character of other Members in this Body. The Member may proceed.

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

Representative **MEYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Prohibiting COVID-19 vaccination requirements would do a great disservice to the citizens of Maine. In the name of public health, I urge you to support the pending motion.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I really wasn't going to rise on this, and I mean that wholeheartedly. But after hearing the last speaker rise and talk about how this is unfounded accusations when I, as a Member of this Body, have suffered from having had this vaccine because I had to in order to return to campus for work. It is ridiculous. Mandating a vaccine does not stop the COVID-19 virus. I received it before having the vaccine and didn't die and I'm sorry to hear that other people did. That wasn't accounted for. Natural immunity is the best immunity, it always has been. Chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, all of that stuff, natural immunity. We don't even take that into consideration, Madam Speaker. And I was still forced to get both shots and I still have issues with my heart. And this has been since 2020 that I have been having issues with my heart. So, no offense to anybody in here, but please stop calling this unfounded, please stop saying that these are made-up things. I am living proof that it isn't. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The Good Representative from Eliot has my testimony where I shared all of this information. I just said this was not my opinion, it was the FDA

that wanted to keep the Pfizer documents sealed for 75 years. It was a court order that forced them to be released to the public. I provided all of the documents to the Committee when I spoke on this bill. I provided ample links to the actual reports that they put forward, that medical professionals, medical professionals, 3,500 medical professionals have been going through and continue to go through these massive tranches of Pfizer documents that continue to roll out. And they're the ones that are putting this information together for the public so that we can be informed.

Now, we can deny the evidence but it's out there. And for people who actually want to know, it's out there. If you want to go to the Health and Human Services, their Committee website and go to this bill, you will find all of those links, they're live links that will give the actual information. This isn't my opinion. I am just delivering the information. Everything I stated to you from those reports were quotes, salient points out of those documents. So, it's rather disgusting that someone would make those accusations and I deeply am offended by that.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to pose a question to the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you. Does bodily autonomy apply to vaccine mandates?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Fredericks.

Representative **FREDERICKS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to emphasize one additional topic that hasn't been discussed in regards to this and that's informed consent. And with this emergency use authorization vaccine, the people weren't really informed of the risk and the benefits. Initially, we were all in a lockdown mode, everybody was, and we heard about this vaccine was almost like the cure-all, and there were three of them; the Johnson & Johnson, the Pfizer, the Moderna; and we were all watching the news in regards to its effectiveness and we all wanted to jump right on the bus and get it and then we started to see other data emerging and that was in result of science, people were starting to study this. And they were seeing that the effectiveness of the vaccine was starting to decline. Initially, it was in the 99 and then it was 98, and also, we were getting news of adverse events. As the effectiveness was coming down; over time, over about a two-year period; and adverse events were climbing. And also, the natural immunity was kind of kept in silence, there wasn't much dialogue about that. We were told to hold for this flattening of the curve, we were told six feet would protect us, we were told masking would protect us, we were told lots of things and, again, I emphasize, it was the informed consent that we were robbed of. We weren't told about the risks and the benefits, we were just led to believe, you know, what the lay media was delivering to us, and I do believe, my personal bias, is that it was influenced by Big Pharma. So, I'm just emphasizing to the Body that's another topic to consider and I am opposed to this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and my Good Colleagues of the House, I would like to remind you that we were one of the leading States in the country that prevented most; a great amount of illness. We were one of the leading States in the country to have much less death. Also, remind you that we have one of the oldest populations in

the country. Vaccines prevent severe illness, they don't prevent all illness, they prevent severe illness and they prevent death. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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. 179

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 76; No, 67; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-425)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies"

(H.P. 1003) (L.D. 1558)

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.

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

Representative JAVNER of Chester **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This would prohibit pharmacies and retail establishments containing pharmacies from the sale of tobacco products. This is already occurring. CVS has already made the decision not to sell tobacco products. Others have made the decision too. I would urge this Body to allow the free market to remain free. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 180

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Perkins, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 73; No, 69; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-425)** 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-425)** 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 Ensure Access to Newly Born Male Infant Circumcision by Requiring MaineCare and Health Insurance Coverage"

(H.P. 392) (L.D. 615)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
 BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
 CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
 CYRWAY of Albion
 MATHIESON of Kittery
 MORRIS of Turner
 NUTTING of Oakland
 SWALLOW of Houlton

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-403)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

ARFORD of Brunswick
 MASTRACCIO of Sanford
 PRINGLE of Windham

READ.

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

The same Representative **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 Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Colleagues of the House, I oppose this motion. Decades ago, when the American Academy of Pediatrics released the statement saying that they no longer recommended routine newborn male circumcision, insurance companies were quick to remove coverage for the procedure. In 2012, just a few years later, the American Academy of Pediatrics reversed the previous position and released a new statement saying that they do recommend routine newborn circumcisions and, quote, widely documented health benefits outweigh the risks. They went further to say those benefits are so great that it warrants third-party payment, which would increase access to the procedure for families who choose it. Newborn circumcision has a much lower complication rate and lower cost than circumcisions done later in life. Among those circumcised, there have been documented reductions in urinary tract infections in the first year of life as well as among the elderly. Urinary tract infections in the very young and very old can be quite serious and difficult to treat. Not coincidentally, Johns Hopkins released a study on newborn circumcision in 2012. Along with the noted reductions of UTIs, the results cited reduced incidents of penile cancer, sexually transmitted infections and a decreased rate of HIV transmission.

Lack of insurance coverage for newborn circumcisions disproportionately affects low-income families. Depending on where in Maine a family lives, the cost of the procedure can be anywhere from \$450 to just under \$700. Last year, less than

2% of all newborn circumcisions performed at Maine health facilities were covered by private insurance. An identical bill, LD 1858, requiring MaineCare payment for newborn circumcisions resulted in a unanimous Ought to Pass Report from the Health and Human Services Committee. I ask that you join me in voting no and thank you for your consideration.

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

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. The bipartisan Majority Report on this is Ought Not to Pass. The reason being is that while, certainly, there may be some benefits, the medical; it is not medically necessary, the procedure is not medically necessary, and so, we felt that there was no reason to require that insurance companies cover this.

Furthermore, any new mandate should be studied by the Bureau of Insurance. Because the Committee opposed this, this was not sent out for a mandate study so we don't know what the cost would be. I think it would be irresponsible to pass this without knowing what the anticipated cost would be to those people who buy private insurance. I think that this opens a floodgate to other new mandates of things that are not medically necessary and for these reasons, I would encourage this Body to support the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Woah, sorry, I got a little; Thank you, Madam Speaker. Sorry. No caffeine, it's all right. I apologize.

So, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as the Good Representative from Scarborough mentioned, this was heard in HHS and it passed unanimously so that MaineCare covers newborn circumcision. As a pediatric nurse practitioner, I saw, I knew that this was something that helped prevent infections. We heard from a pediatric urologist who testified in strong support of this measure of pediatric circumcision and, really, to get to the other end of the spectrum, I've never cared for the elderly patients but elderly patients are often having to have circumcisions when they're unable to care for themselves well. So, imagine an 85-year-old having frequent urinary tract infections and needing to have a circumcision at that point in time. So, I listened to the expert, the pediatric urologist, and I believe in prevention, so, I stand in opposition to the pending motion.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you. There are a number of reasons why this decision got made. One for all is that we had a number, in our Committee, of mandates. We had to choose, quite honestly, which mandates to study because we could only carry over so many bills. We chose not to do this one. This has not and, if this gets passed, will not have a mandate study. We do not know what the cost to insurance will do and, unfortunately, what we hear in our Committee is how expensive health insurance is now and the ability to afford the insurance itself. I am going to request that we vote in the Majority and hopefully this will come back and there will be a mandate study on it and we will know better what the exact cost will be.

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. 181

YEA - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Boyer, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gattine, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Landry, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, Millett H, Milliken, Morris, Ness, Nutting, O'Neil, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Perry A, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Williams.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Blier, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Cloutier, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Meyer, Millett R, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Newman, Osher, Paulhus, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, White B, Wood, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 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-402)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care Services" (H.P. 393) (L.D. 616)

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 Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Patients Regarding Hospital Price Transparency" (H.P. 600) (L.D. 953)

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-400)** 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 Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In November of 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services finalized a rule that required hospitals to publish their prices. This fulfilled the directive in an Executive Order signed by President Trump. For too long, the price of care at hospitals in Maine and nationwide has been shrouded from patients, leaving them with unexpected bills after they receive care. This lack of transparency leaves patients in the dark and it renders them unable to make informed decisions about where and when to receive their care. Efforts to improve transparency have been bipartisan and aim to increase consumer knowledge, increase competition and put downward pressure on the prices of medical devices and services. This final rule required hospitals to publish a machine-readable file of five types of standard charges for all items and services and create a consumer-friendly, shoppable list of 300 items and services, including 70 identified by CMS. Unfortunately, hospital compliance with this rule has been sub-par since it took effect. As of February 2023, only an estimated 24.5% of these were in full compliance. So, under the Biden administration, HHS signaled support for these policies by increasing the penalties for hospitals that do not comply in regulation. The higher penalties went into effect from the Biden administration January 1, 2022. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have issued about 350 letters of warning to noncompliant hospitals and have fined four hospitals. Several states, most recently Colorado, have seized this opportunity to

pass price transparency legislation that encourages greater compliance with the rule by hospitals in their state.

This bill requires that hospitals comply with the current price transparency requirements established by the federal government. It provides that upon application of the Attorney General, the Department of Health and Human Services or any affected patient, the Superior Court or District Court has full jurisdiction to enforce the existing price transparency laws and it further protects Maine people by prohibiting a hospital from billing a patient, a patient guarantor or a third-party payer for items or services provided to the patient and requires the hospital refund any payment made for items or services provided on a date that the hospital was not in compliance with these federal rules.

In closing, the federal rules around health care price transparency are only as strong as the individual state's enforcement mechanism and Maine lacks any form of enforcement. Providing direct recourse for Maine citizens is the best mechanism by which to ensure compliance. The only reason for health care facilities to object to LD 953 would be an intent to continue in noncompliance with the federal rules. As Maine citizens struggle to pay their bills and pay for ever-increasing health care costs, improving our statewide compliance with the federal rules would empower Mainers to make educated and informed health care decisions. Please follow my light and oppose the pending motion.

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. 182

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, LaRochelle, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Osher, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisburly, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Golek, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Landry, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Neil, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Russell, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White B, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 67; No, 75; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

67 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative PERRY of Calais, the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-400)** 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-400)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-417)** on Bill "An Act to Advance the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in Maine by Broadening HIV Testing"

(H.P. 1115) (L.D. 1736)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BRAKEY of Androscoggin
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

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 Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-417)** 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-417)** 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-401)** on Resolve, to Study the Establishment of a MaineCare Public Health Plan

(H.P. 1186) (L.D. 1856)

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 Not to Pass** on same Resolve.

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 to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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. This Resolve is really not necessary. There is already a requirement for the Office of Affordable Health Care to study the establishment of a MaineCare public health plan. This Resolve is trying to seek to put that to the front of the line. I don't think that's really necessary. I think there's a lot of things that need to be studied, including the cost of delivery of health care in a rural State like ours, as well as the cost that mandates are doing to drive costs in the system. I think now requiring a potential public health option, I wouldn't study it at all, it's already being studied. I think trying to move it to the front of the line doesn't make sense to me. The Office of Affordable Health Care was just established last year, we just appointed the Chair of it, I don't think that we need to be setting more priorities for it when it's already got its charge. So, for those reasons, we oppose this motion and I would ask that people follow my light and oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Arford.

Representative **ARFORD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. In 2022, the 130th Legislature passed, and the Chief Executive signed into the Law, An Act to Improve Health Care Affordability and Increase Options for Comprehensive Coverage for Individuals and Small Businesses in Maine. The law directed the Maine Office of Affordable Health Care, which is the office we're discussing today, to study policies to improve health care affordability and coverage. The motion before us today would simply direct the Office of Affordable Health Care, while completing the studies, to prioritize consideration of the creation of a public option health plan that takes the form it either a fully publicly administered plan that may be eligible for advance premium tax credits through the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace or a buy-in to the MaineCare program. The Resolve also requires the office to consider other models to address the availability and affordability of health coverage in the State and ways that the State may leverage available federal-State innovation waivers

to improve affordability for consumers. The Resolve directs the office to submit its report on a public option health benefit plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than January 31, 2024. In the current Law, the date is January 1, 2024. The Committee may then submit legislation in response to the report for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. As amended by this Majority Report of Committee, the Resolve also provides for a phased-in submission of the Office of Affordable Health Care's additional reports including on other models to address the availability and affordability of health coverage in the State and ways that the State may leverage federal-State innovation waivers to improve affordability for consumers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 183

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Davis, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 79; No, 62; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-401)** 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-401)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-397)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Penalties for Early Retirement for Certain Members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System"

(H.P. 954) (L.D. 1499)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

GEIGER of Rockland

GERE of Kennebunkport

MALON of Biddeford

RUSSELL of Verona Island

SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-397)** 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-397)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Hitchhiking at Night"

(H.P. 489) (L.D. 800)

Signed:

Senators:

CHIPMAN of Cumberland

FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

ALBERT of Madawaska

ANKELES of Brunswick

MASON of Lisbon

O'CONNELL of Brewer

PARRY of Arundel

THERIAULT of Fort Kent

WHITE of Waterville

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle

WHITE of Guilford

READ.

On motion of Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Nine Members of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-421)** on Bill "An Act to Ban the Drug Tianeptine" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 517) (L.D. 828)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ARDELL of Monticello
LAJOIE of Lewiston
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Three Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

LOOKNER of Portland
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-422)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

HASENFUS of Readfield

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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 Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in opposition to the pending motion. I'd just like to provide a little bit of information that I have found in my research about this substance Tianeptine that I suspect most people in this room are hearing that word for the first time today. I heard it for the first time when this bill came across my desk in the Criminal Justice Committee. The substance was discovered in the 1960s and since that time three people; three; have passed away as a result of using it. That's not here in the State of Maine, Madam Speaker, that's across the entire country. This bill would schedule the drug as a class W, which is how we as a State schedule cocaine and heroin. Part of why people have been opposed to this drug, or hoping this drug would become a scheduled drug, is because it's being referred to as gas station heroin. I have never seen this drug in a gas station, so, I think that's a false narrative. And this drug does not warrant this heavy-handed legislative approach. I am very opposed to the

pending motion and I hope people will follow my light and vote against this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, like the Good Representative from Blue Hill, the first time I've heard of the drug Tianeptine was in our Committee hearing and, as I always try to do, I try to, you know, compare it to other things. And, unfortunately, there was no testimony by any doctors or anybody who knew the pharmacological effects of drugs. And so, all we had was the proponents would be the Department of Public Safety, the Maine Sheriffs Association, and opponents would be, you know, ACLU and MCDIL, but there was no other information to help us, you know, on the potency of the drug, what its effects are, what its, you know, side effects are, how dangerous it is; none of that information was available to us in the Committee, either in work session or in public hearing, but the bill originally was proposing to schedule it a schedule W drug.

Now, one thing I am a little bit familiar with is the criminal code and there's a number of different schedules from W to Z that drugs can have. A schedule W drug, violation of possession of a schedule W drug is a class B crime. And there's schedule X drug, which is a class C crime, class B crimes are punishable by 10 years, class C crimes punishable by five years, then there are schedule Y drugs and schedule Z drugs that are both punishable by a class D crime which is punishable by under a year. Now, I don't know where Tianeptine fits appropriately in there; W, X, Y, Z; because I don't really know all that much about Tianeptine and I expect that a number of the Members here are still in that category. And I think it's premature to say that Tianeptine, a drug that you can buy on Amazon, that's used in a number of other countries as antidepressant drugs, that without doing proper vetting to figure out where we should classify this drug, I think it's premature to act on this and I wish you would follow my light and vote down the pending motion until we know a little bit more about Tianeptine.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monticello, Representative Ardell.

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I looked at this drug Tianeptine on WebMD and, to quote WebMD, it says, and I quote; it has a high risk of misuse and abuse. Taking high doses of Tianeptine can cause drowsiness, confusion, difficulty breathing, coma and death. Long-term use can cause dependence and withdrawal.

This situation with an unscheduled but dangerous drug reminds me of 2011 when alpha-PVP, known on the streets as bath salts, was an unscheduled, uncontrolled designer drug. By 2013, Maine was awash in the dangerous blend of a hallucinogen and stimulant. Only through the combined efforts of Maine Drug Enforcement Agencies, District Attorneys' offices, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and Homeland Security investigations was the bath salts epidemic stopped by targeting international mail from China and, most importantly, scheduling the drug as a W, a drug subject to abuse and prosecution.

This Body has a unique opportunity to target this threat early, to schedule this drug as a schedule W drug and keep it off our streets. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. I ask this Body to support an Ought to Pass on this bill and I thank you for your time.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you. I think we need to be careful of what we call class W drugs. This is an atypical tricyclic antidepressant. Amitriptyline is an antidepressant as well. This

is over-the-counter, it's already here, and it's been here for a long time. Making it a class W just goes beyond what there might be some actual uses for this. We have St. John's Wort that if you mix certain medications with it, you can die. That's an antidepressant herbal. Should we make that a class W as well? Why don't we do with this what we did with pseudoephedrine? Pseudoephedrine is a cough medicine but it can be used to make an illegal drug. Why don't we instead of make it a class W drug, make it a behind-the-counter medication like we do with pseudoephedrine. So, you would have to go to a pharmacy and ask for the drug and they can give it to you. But I think giving it that class W classification is going by far too far and I think we need to take another look and see what's appropriate. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Lookner.

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also rise in opposition to the motion. We've tried prohibition. It's a failed approach and it results in nothing more than people experiencing mental illness in our State's prisons and jails, which have become the largest provider in the State of Maine for mental health services and substance use disorder treatment. We don't need to be locking people up who are going into gas stations seeking this product. I would reckon that some of these folks are dealing with some pretty severe unmet mental health needs and we need other options for them. But making this a class C or a class B crime, carrying a penalty of up to 10 years, will result in nothing more than more crowding in our already overcrowded prisons and jails. So, I can't support this motion and I look forward to working with people to provide adequate treatment services for everybody in our State suffering from a substance use disorder and; but this is not the way to move forward. We tried it, it's not worked, it hasn't worked for 50 years, it's not going to work this time. So, please join me in voting against the motion.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to stand up because I, you know, I was in law enforcement and I experienced the time during bath salts time and I actually had a 17-year-old going to shoot me with a firearm on bath salts. And I've also had to bring an individual to the hospital, he was on bath salts and he was walking like a chicken on the side of the road and I had to bring him to the hospital and actually scared the nurse because he would follow her and really scared her quite a bit. So, anyway, but I'm saying this, I don't know what public safety has experienced with this drug but I think that as a prescription drug, that's a little different than when you're talking about something that's being abused on the streets. And so, I think from what I see here, our Committee was concerned about the safety on the streets. So, I think that I'm going to follow what the Committee came up with because I don't know; and maybe that's a question I'd like to ask is what public safety has been experiencing. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think from hearing all the conversation so far; I guess that's what I'll call it; I think a lot of people are very, very confused about this new, unknown drug. Tianeptine is currently banned in eight states; Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and most recently as an emergency bill in Kentucky. This drug is not approved by the FDA and is an opioid-like drug.

Yes, it's known as gas station heroin. It is sold under multiple names; TD Red, Zaza Red, Pegasus, Tiana, Nootropic. According to the CDC, the clinical effects of Tianeptine abuse and withdrawal can also mimic opioid toxicity and withdrawal. What makes this drug so dangerous is that it mimics opioids and it is not regulated and can be sold over-the-counter or online by anyone. What also makes it so dangerous is that nobody in this Chamber has ever even heard of it and it's been sold for a long time and it is hurting people. The people that use this are the people who can't find the oxycodone and all the rest of those drugs because they can't afford it. Well, they can afford this, they can just buy it readily right at the gas stations.

When I brought this bill up, Gordon Smith, the Director of Opioid Crisis, came up to me and he said wow, I've never heard of this, what is it, and I explained it to him. He was amazed. He told me afterwards that the Chief Executive is very interested in the bill because she opposes this drug. She is in favor of this bill. The drug enforcement people came at her request and they testified in favor of the bill and law enforcement showed up. Kevin Joyce, the Cumberland County Sheriff, was asked the question about locking people up and about making this drug a serious crime. And he was asked are you not understaffed? He said yes. Are your jails not full? He said yes. Then why would you be in favor of this? And he said are you kidding me? Have you looked into this? Just because I don't have the manpower or because my jails are full does not mean that we can't do what is right and get this drug off the streets.

While gas station heroin doesn't actually have heroin in it, it does offer very similar effects. It is not as potent as heroin but many people are buying and using it so that they can manage or maintain their opioid consumption right behind our backs. We don't even know this is going on. Until I brought this bill forward, not one person in this Chamber even knew this was going on in their State. Bryan Kuhn, who's a Pharmacy D, a pharmacist and poison education specialist at Banner Health in Phoenix, Arizona, said the decision to manage opioid use disorder with an alternative fentanyl-like substance like gas station heroin is not going to maximize your potential to recovery.

Many Members will be concerned about the severe penalty for obtaining this drug. Keep in mind that the states that did ban it; Alabama, Michigan, Kentucky, Mississippi, et cetera; it's; all of them, it's a felony. So, it's not excessive if every other state agrees. That's why I came up with it. If the punishment is not severe enough, who's going to stop? Nobody.

We need to get rid of this drug. It is very dangerous. Whether it's only killed three people or not, why do we want to add to the numbers? We must act before people do get hurt and the goal is not here to punish anyone. The severe penalty is not to put people in jail, we never want to put people in jail. The penalty is just to present incentives for prevention. That's all. But this drug is more dangerous than anybody knows. So, I ask people to rethink their decision and please follow my light and vote for this bill. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Cyrway.

Representative **CYRWAY**: Madam Speaker, I just wanted to finish; and I just wanted to let you know on the bath salts, when that became such a problem, the State acted on it and it made a big difference. It stopped it. You hardly hear about it anymore. It made a big difference and this is what this is doing. You know, when you go and you put a law to stop a drug, it does help. So, I experienced it. Through the years, when bath salts first came out, we had a lot of cases. And when the State stood up and the Legislature acted on it and made it a charge on it that was noticeable, the courts actually was lightened right up the

load lightened up because we didn't have those big situations anymore, it disappeared. And so, hopefully this will be the same result. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative Geiger.

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can I say, I wasn't going to rise and talk about this. But I just want to repeat that this is a tricyclic antidepressant. It is sold now over-the-counter. If we think it's being misused, then we can ban the sale of it in Maine. But to make it a crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison makes no sense to me when you can buy it over-the-counter and you can buy it online. It has been here for 40 years. Like many antidepressants, if you take it regularly, you will have intensive side effects if you try and stop automatically. But for three people to have died in the last several years in the entire country in no way compares to overdoses of Tylenol or aspirin or any other over-the-counter drug we can think of. This is just going way too far criminalizing something. If we think it's a problem, we can follow the Good Representative from Calais's suggestion and put it behind the counter or we can ban its sale. But to go from legal, over-the-counter, freely available, to a punishment up to 10 years for possession makes no sense to me. Please vote this bill down. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you for letting me speak again, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to quickly address the comparison that's being drawn between this drug and bath salts. When bath salts hit the market in 2011, the immediate effects of that issue were apparent in most communities in this State. This drug hit the market in the 1960s and we're talking 60 years later and, as far as I can see, crickets from the issues that it's brought up. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "A" Ought to Pass as Amended. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 184

YEA - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White B, White J, Wood.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Babin, Bell, Blier, Boyer, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Osher, Paul, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Quint, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Swallow, Terry, Theriault, Warren, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Graham, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 54; No, 87; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

54 having voted in the affirmative and 87 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Ten Members of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-418)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Insurance Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations"

(H.P. 1168) (L.D. 1836)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

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

Two Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representative:

SWALLOW of Houlton

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-419)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

MORRIS of Turner

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-418)** 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-418)** and sent for concurrence.

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:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, June 8, 2023, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (9) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (3) **Ought to Pass** - Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program"

(H.P. 227) (L.D. 376)

- **CARRIED OVER** to any special or regular session, of the 131st Legislature, pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 594 on March 30, 2023. Tabled - March 16, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (9) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (3) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)** - Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects"

(H.P. 275) (L.D. 442)

Tabled - May 16, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (5) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-122)** - Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act Requiring the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in New Commercial and Multifamily Parking Lot Construction"

(H.P. 329) (L.D. 524)

Tabled - May 16, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

Representative ZEIGLER of Montville moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

Representative FOSTER: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand opposed to the pending motion. This bill would require that development construction in the State of Maine where; that a parking area of 10 or more spaces or an enlargement of a parking area of 20 or more spaces that's enlarged by 30% or more would require preparation for charging ability for SUVs. That would include, for instance, requiring 10% charging station availability for multi-family lodging, medical facilities, educational facilities, 3% for an office building and 1% for industrial. So, again, for new construction and/or enlarging existing parking areas, it would be

required that the infrastructure be put in place for these charging stations.

Now, this is not just simply putting conduit underneath the parking area. For especially new construction, one would have to consider that this may also add great expense to the electrical infrastructure in the structures themselves. For example, were one to build a multi-unit housing development or a large medical facility or a large industrial building, they would have to look at putting in the required equipment for attaching the vehicle's charging stations to the building but they would also have to consider upgrading the necessary electrical equipment to accommodate the energy required to do so. In other words, think of your own home. If you had a 100-amp entrance and you had a requirement to add to that and you were building that home; although this does not affect single- and double-family buildings; you would still look at it and say, do I want to put in a 100-amp entrance for now and then have to change later on? No. You would most likely say I'd better put the 200-amp in now. These buildings would be faced with a much greater expense as they consider what they have to do along with running the conduit for these spaces. Therefore, in order not to hinder further development in our State, I would request that you follow my light, vote down the pending motion, and I would ask for a Roll Call.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Embden, Representative Dunphy.

Representative DUNPHY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I've talked with a number of my constituents. I live in very, very rural Maine. I talked to a number of my constituents who own small stores, markets, that sort of thing. And this will absolutely, undoubtedly be a burden. If they want to expand their parking lot, if they want to pave their parking lot, if they want to put up a new parking lot, this mandated, I'd like to say nonsense but that's probably inappropriate, is just; we continue to burden our constituents with stuff, whether it's solar, whether it's wind, whether it's parking lots, whether it's building your barn so it will support solar. We can no longer as legislators push our own will, push our own desires on our constituents and then ask them to pay. So, please think about what the burden that we're putting on those who put us here and let's kill this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative RUNTE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Members of the House. LD 524 modifies the Maine Uniform Building Energy Code to require new nonresidential parking lots to prepare a certain number of parking spaces for subsequent installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Now, not every new parking lot warrants this preparation, however, and municipalities would be permitted to grant exceptions where warranted. MUBEC is enforced in towns and municipalities with more than 4,000 residents, so, we're not talking about little villages. This bill does not require chargers be installed.

A major cost of installing an electric vehicle charger in an existing parking lot is site preparation; trenching, often through blacktop and concrete, is necessary, along with upgrading the electrical supply to the building. If the builder installed these upgrades during construction, it on average adds about half a percent to overall costs. Installing a charging station later would cost two to three times more than having the infrastructure pre-

set up. LD 524 is a low-cost means to facilitate the achievement of a critical State climate action goal. It's only one piece of a major program to promote electric vehicle charging and make it easier to access charging. I urge you to support the bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This would not only affect housing units and commercial facilities but nonprofits as well. I'm involved with a number of not-for-profit rural health care facilities and we do building projects all the time. We're trying to extend the reach of rural health care in northern Maine and we're building a new clinic right now and just in the last two years because of the increase in prices with inflation of building materials, the cost of building that one clinic alone has doubled just in the last two years. And everything we do down here that adds to the cost of these clinics reduces what we can add as far as health care. On top of that, since I've been on the board for this organization, we've done two parking lot expansions at our other clinics and, you know, if we have to install these spaces at existing facilities, that would be prohibitive for my organization and it's just; you know, because if we'd have to upgrade the existing electrical. I just don't think that it's a good bill and I was; ask that you not support it. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you. The Good Representative from Dexter mentioned educational facilities as well in this and so, my question would be; does this mean when we have a school in a MUBEC town, which I happen to represent, that needs to be built, that they would be required to have this infrastructure as part of their rebuilding? Because I don't know about you but I don't want my taxes going up because of that requirement. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the chance to speak. And with these electric vehicles, we need to have a statewide referendum on whether; and we can do it ranked-choice voting style, on how much do you like electric vehicles and then we'll take it and proceed and with any more policy decisions based on that ranked-choice voting of a referendum. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And in answer to an earlier question, I will read from the Committee Amendment, if I may. That amendment reads that this will include at least 10% of the total parking spaces in a parking facility for a multi-family dwelling be charger-ready spaces. At least 10% of the total parking spaces for a lodging facility as defined by the Board by rule be charger-ready spaces. At least 10% of the total parking spaces for a medical facility be charger-ready spaces. At least 10% of the total parking spaces for an educational building as defined by the Board by rule be charger-ready spaces. At least 3% of the total parking spaces for an office building be charger-ready spaces, at least 1% of the total parking spaces for an industrial facility be charger-ready spaces, and at least 1% of the total parking spaces in a facility not described in subparagraphs that I just read other than a

parking facility for a single-family dwelling or two-family dwelling be charger-ready spaces. Madam Speaker, I would ask that we follow the Majority and vote against the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've been listening here intently and I can't recall ever in history in this country where we've compelled private businesses to install something to facilitate a mode of transportation. I can't recall that we ever made a bar put in a gasoline tank for gasoline-powered vehicles or a hospital to put in a diesel tank in case someone drove a diesel vehicle to their lot or a store to put in a hay barn so that if someone rode their horse, they would have to feed their horse while they were there. It's always been on the individual that owns the mode of transportation to find their fuel. I can't understand why we're trying to turn this on its head and it'll put this burden on private individuals. So, I will be voting against this. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the Good Representative from Dexter for his answer. So, may I pose one more question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you. So, if we pass this, Madam Speaker, would this not be an unfunded mandate for our school districts?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who can answer.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Minority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 185

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Craven, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pringle, Rana, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Cyrway, Davis, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Landry, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, Millett H, Milliken, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White B, White J, Williams, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 60; No, 82; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

60 having voted in the affirmative and 82 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was NOT ACCEPTED.**

Subsequently, on motion of Representative ZEIGLER of Montville, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (9) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-196)** - Minority (4) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Ensure the Collection of Complete Information by Adding a 3rd Option for Gender on State Forms"

(H.P. 589) (L.D. 942)

TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 186

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 81; No, 61; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-196)** 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-196)** and sent for concurrence.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-195)** - Minority (5) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Right-to-sue Letters"

(H.P. 637) (L.D. 1001)

TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Cumberland, Representative Moriarty.

Representative **MORIARTY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good evening, Fellow Members of the House. This is a fairly short but important bill which amends the Maine Human Rights Commission's internal dispute resolution process and it deals with when a legal action may be brought for a complaint and what the consequences of the timing of such action might be. The process before the Human Rights Commission begins with the filing of a complaint and that, in turn, triggers the Commission's internal dispute resolution processes. And it is the clear policy of Act that the good offices of the Commission should be utilized first and internal dispute resolution mechanisms should be exhausted first before there is an immediate or premature race to the courthouse steps and the filing of a civil lawsuit. But there is not an indefinite period of waiting. Under the law, within 180 days of the filing of a complaint with a Commission, an aggrieved party may file a request with the Commission for a so-called right-to-sue letter which, generally speaking, the Commission will grant because once it does so, the Commission itself is free and clear of any further involvement. The Commission itself may file an action on its own if the parties are not successful in resolving the matter between themselves.

The bill provides, however, a very, very strong incentive for the parties to in fact utilize the Commission's own procedures. Because it states that unless a right-to-sue letter has been received by the complaining party before civil litigation is begun, that party, should they ultimately prevail, may not be awarded punitive damages, compensatory damages or legal fees. So, it serves; the bill serves as a very, very strong incentive to use the process, use the available non-court-related mechanisms first before resorting to filing a civil action in court. And therefore, the right-to-sue letter must be received first if you intend to preserve your potential rights for compensatory damages, punitive damages and legal fees. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill creates one more hurdle to filing a discrimination claim. We don't need technicalities that make it harder to seek justice on discrimination claims. For that reason, I ask for you to vote no.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 187

YEA - Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, LaRochelle, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Dhalac, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Millett H, Milliken, Ness, Newman, Nutting, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rana, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 68; No, 74; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 74 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (3) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-166)** - Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Remove the Cost-of-living Adjustment from the Minimum Wage Laws"

(H.P. 634) (L.D. 998)

TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.

Representative ROEDER of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro **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. When I first was here serving in the Legislature, when I went home and talked with my constituents five years ago, they asked me how things were down here. I told them there are a couple of things that I find are 10 times worse than I had imagined. Now, I'm a Sangerville boy, I grew up there, and kind of a country bumpkin but I've been around a bit and worked for a couple of companies and traveled

the world and so on and so forth, so, I certainly understand the differences between the two Maines. That is one thing that I found is much greater than I had known, which is the difference between the two Maines. And in no way is that more significant than in the financial arena.

A couple of years ago, the numbers put out by the State of Maine indicated that the average wage-earning, that's a worker, in southern Maine; Cumberland, York Counties; made on average \$20,000 more than the wage-earner in the northern part of the State, my area, the Penquis region and north. That has been especially a concern with our minimum wage law which was changed a few years ago to add a cost of living; annual cost of living increase to the minimum wage. Maine's minimum wage of \$13.80 now ranks eighth-highest in the U.S., with only the New England states of Massachusetts and Connecticut among the seven with a higher rate. The average minimum wage of the 30 states wage set above the \$7.25 federal rate is \$12.21 an hour. The average minimum wage in the U.S. is now set at \$10.23 an hour. Again, ours is currently \$13.80.

Probably the most negatively affected segment of our economy was the nursing home and long-term care facilities, their patients and residents and their families. In January of 2019, with a minimum wage increase of \$3.50 in two years, facilities who had been able to attract and retain entry-tier employees with pay somewhat above the 2016 minimum wage were losing them to minimum wage positions at fast food and other businesses. To make matters worse, they also soon learned that State funding was being reduced in the new; at that time, new two-year budget, when they were hoping for more monies to help with increasing costs. These mandatory increases in the minimum wage since 2016 have been very hard on other businesses as well. One small business in my district, a greenhouse and redemption center, used to employ a full-time person, a part-time adult and a part-time student or two. They also employed a developmentally challenged young adult when he stopped by on occasion wanting to help out with the work for an hour or two. Because the husband-and-wife owners now have to get by with fewer hours of labor for the same amount of money, they work more themselves and pay one experienced, hardworking full-time employee and hire an occasional part-time worker. They put their established business up for sale two or three years ago and are still struggling to keep things going.

Madam Speaker, I could go on with several more examples of struggling or closed businesses because of this continued cost-of-living increase, businesses that used to be able to hire, for instance, school students at the minimum wage or new hires that were untrained and the work that they were going to do could carry them for a while before increasing their wage above the minimum. Instead of going on, I will simply ask that you follow my light so we may pass the bill and pause this annual minimum wage increase and allow our small businesses, especially in northern/central/rural Maine an opportunity to catch up. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to share something from the Department of Labor, from their testimony on this bill. LD 998 seeks to entirely remove the procedure by which Maine's minimum wage is adjusted annually to any increases in the cost of living as measured by the consumer price index. Instead, it would set the wage at its current rate of \$13.80 per hour without prospect of regular adjustment. We believe that would be a mistake and an affront to the voters who approved the current system by referendum. 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. 188

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome.

Yes, 81; No, 61; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly 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**.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (3) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-172)** - Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen Work Equity Regarding Employment of Minors and Unemployment Benefits"

(H.P. 846) (L.D. 1332)

TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-178)** - Minority (3) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Create a Livable Wage by Increasing the Minimum Hourly Wage"

(H.P. 890) (L.D. 1376)

TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** 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 Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll keep this short seeing as it's late in the day. I'd like to start out by saying oh, the irony. We've heard just a little while ago about the will of the people. Well, on November the 8th, 2016, let me read the will of the people. Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage? And I'll leave it right there. Fifty-five percent said yes. And they tied it to the CPI which we're still following today. Well, this bill proposes to override the will of the people. I thought I just heard that we should listen to the will of the people. I've heard in some Committee meetings that it's the will of the people, we must follow the will of the people. Well, here we go, let's see how many here are going to follow the will of the people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative Geiger.

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in favor of the pending motion. I am speaking today in favor of LD 1376, a bill I co-sponsored with Representative Collings. I moved to Maine when I was 21 years old and a newly-minted registered nurse. I'd grown up in upstate New York and worked my way through college at a very swanky beauty salon as a receptionist. I made \$5.99 an hour. When I arrived at Penobscot Bay Medical Center for my first RN job, my starting pay was \$3.99 an hour. I assumed the cost of living would match the wages. It did not.

In the decades since, I have observed that Maine has taken a perverse pride in being a low-wage State. We have consistently had the lowest median income of all our New England fellow states and the highest poverty rate. The results of decades of low wages have now come home to roost. Maine is the oldest State in the nation. We have experienced a brain drain for decades as our young people left for college or better opportunities and never returned. We have an acute labor force shortage despite being seen as a highly-desirable place to live. With low wages, high living costs and a huge surge in the cost of housing since the pandemic, we are facing a crisis in our very future viability as a State.

Maine's minimum wage is now \$13.80, while MIT estimates that the living wage in Maine ranges from \$14.28 in Aroostook County to \$17.81 in the Portland Metro area. That wage is based on one adult with zero dependents. If you add a child, the needed wage to meet basic necessities increases to \$37.67 in Portland and \$30.33 in Aroostook County. Two-thirds of working Mainers cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in any county in Maine, if they can find one.

Since coming to the State House, I have observed how many programs this State runs to ensure that children don't go hungry, that Mainers have heat and rental assistance and access to health care. These programs are touted as helping low-income people but I see it differently. The State and its taxpayers are subsidizing employers who pay too little for people to live on. Whether it is Walmart placing a food box at the front of their store at Christmastime for its customers to contribute to Walmart's employees or an onboarding that shows low-wage Mainers when they start work how to sign up for heating assistance or Medicaid, we have allowed decades of Mainers to struggle on low wages and face the constant indignities of applying for local or State assistance to survive. We should always support those on fixed income, those disabled, those who are unable to work; but for too many people who need this assistance, they are in fact working one and two jobs. It is time to stop subsidizing employers and start requiring that a living wage be the floor from which we set wages in Maine. This bill starts us in that direction. To avoid doing so is to see Maine become a true Vacationland, with increasingly seasonal visitors while losing a year-round workforce to other states. If we want young people to stay here, to move here, to have children here, we must enable them to live a decent and dignified life. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Minimum wage was never designed to support a family. Like the last speaker said, if we want people to come to Maine, we need to raise the minimum wage. Nobody's moving from Florida to come to Maine to earn minimum wage. They can't make a living doing that. The problem with minimum wage is that the more you raise it, the more you cause inflation, the more minimum wage will never matter because the rate of inflation is going up faster than the minimum wage is. Every time you raise minimum wage, the people down the line above them, the supervisors, they need to be raised as well. It implodes the whole trail all the way up the system. We're not helping anybody by raising minimum wage, although you think that you are. Granted, minimum wage is not a lot of money. People can't live on minimum wage. It was never designed for that. It was designed for people, kids out of high school going to work, learning how to work, being trained how to show up on time, that's what minimum wage is designed for. Go to the grocery store today. You know the cost of meat and things of that nature? It's not because the farmers are making more money, it's because the stores need to pass the costs down to the people buying the goods. Raising minimum wage will never stop poverty; it just increases inflation. Thank you.

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

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I also rise in opposition to the pending motion. As the Good Representative from Buxton just said, raising the minimum wage does not help when it comes to lifting people out of poverty. The best thing we can do is we have to create a competitive job climate. If it did, then our quality of life would be better than New Hampshire's. New Hampshire's minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, yet in New Hampshire, they earn on average more per year, they get to take home more of their money, and I would argue that's more because of a more business-friendly climate as well as no taxes on either their income or sales taxes. Those are the things that we can do to improve the quality of life and we'll see wages rise and we'll see more people want to locate in Maine because it's

known as a business-friendly place where people can grow and prosper, not just by government mandating how much people get paid. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fort Kent, Representative Theriault.

Representative **THERIAULT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When you go to McDonalds and you go to the supermarket, what do we see now? We see little touchscreens, we check out ourselves, order our own food. How is this bill going to not make that worse? I think as being somebody that's from Aroostook County, you look at these mom-and-pop stores, grocery stores, ice cream parlors, I don't see how this is going to help them retain workers, hire more workers. In fact, I hear from a lot of the constituents which own small businesses are saying they're letting people go because the cost of everything is going up. Electricity went up \$1,000 for a constituent last month, they own a grocery store and stuff. So, if we really want to tackle these problems, then we need to look in the area where we can actually make the biggest impact.

I'm for minimum wage laws but, once again, this is sort of a thing where we're looking in the wrong places. We need to be looking at big solutions, making big changes, structural changes, business changes, the cost of living, and I feel like this is going in the wrong direction and so, I would just say from a bipartisan standpoint, which I always try to look to the other side and try to understand their point, and I certainly see where people can feel boxed in and they're in poverty, you know, come from a family who used to go get cheese at the bread line and I think a lot of us have been there or at least can look back and understand where people are, but I don't see this providing opportunities and growing businesses so they can hire more people. I just see it shrinking the actual employment base and that's not what we need and that's not what our kids need and the next generation needs because if people want to come here, they're going to come here for growth. So, we have to think about making the pie bigger rather than fighting over the little bit of pie that we have. Let's try to make the pie bigger and we can do that by looking on a larger scale and try to find some solutions that work for businesses and the public and the workers, and we can do that, but this is not the answer.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Fredericks.

Representative **FREDERICKS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to first note the Good Representative from Buxton's point about trickle-down economics. As far as a small business owner, when these changes are made, it's a great hindrance on small businesses. Again, you know, the cost will be pushed back down onto the goods and services so there's a suffering for all of us in that case. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Permission to pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BOYER**: I'm just wondering how we landed on \$15, Madam Speaker. Why not \$20? Why not \$30 an hour? Why not \$50? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who cares to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative Geiger.

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I actually wanted it to be much higher. I initially proposed that we move to what MIT called the living wage, which would've been \$19.51. I believe that the other Representative who co-sponsored this bill with me had wanted to raise the minimum

wage or living wage over 10 years up to \$24. We ended up decreasing it because we wanted it to pass, frankly. We wanted to give at least a small boost to struggling Mainers. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with all due respect to the Good Representative from Buxton, I wanted to read something from Title 26, Section 661 regarding minimum wages. It is the declared public policy of the State of Maine that workers employed in any occupation should receive wages sufficient to provide adequate maintenance and to protect their health.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Gentleman from Buxton, you can tell right away when he speaks, that he's a businessman. That he actually knows the economics and the effects of the minimum wage. I keep hearing from everybody that the minimum wage has to be an amount to live on. Minimum wage has nothing to do with supporting a family. The Gentleman from Buxton was a hundred percent correct. It's not just the trickle-down effect. It's just pure economics. There is fallout from raising the minimum wage. The livable wage of \$19.51 an hour is for people who have a family, et cetera. And you can make that at Walmart today, okay? I watch a guy stand at the door, he's on his phone at Walmart, I took a picture of it. If there were props allowed, I'd show you the picture. The gentleman standing there on his phone and he's paid 18 bucks an hour and he has benefits. Who can't do that? But the problem with that is exactly the problems we have today in Maine. See, the people within this building are not realizing that they are creating the problems that they're attempting to fix with bills. If we stop passing bad bills like raising the minimum wage, we will prevent most of the problems that we keep complaining about.

What are the effects of raising the minimum wage? They're catastrophic. Really? Yeah, really. The minimum wage is not for the family. The minimum wage is for that 16-year-old kid that comes to work at a Subway. He can't tie his own shoes, never been out of the house. And he comes in and he wants a job from me. So, I have to take my best person, my manager, and I have to train this kid. So, I have my best worker working with a person that knows nothing and now two people are doing nothing in a store. And at the end of training this kid for a week, he still can't do anything and I have to pay this kid 15 bucks an hour to do nothing. That's what minimum wage is for. That's why it has to be low. But when you raise the minimum wage, now you're hurting the poor people in Maine because there's no \$5 Subway anymore. Since we raised the minimum wage, a Subway sandwich, the \$5 Subway which everybody could afford, there were lines out the door, but now that same Subway is \$10. Well, those poor people, yeah, you raised the minimum wage but they can't afford that \$10 Subway anymore. But the owner had to raise the price because he's got to pay that kid who is nonproductive \$15 an hour.

Let's look a little further. Now you have a small doctor's office. Well, they were paying their people \$15-18 an hour to start. Well, when minimum wage is \$7.85 an hour, those people feel like they have accomplished something. They're working at a doctor's office for \$18 an hour. Wow, what a great thing. But when you raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, those people feel worthless. What are you doing? You're paying me minimum wage. No, I'm not paying you minimum wage. But everybody in this room thinks that at my clinic because you're going to raise the minimum wage higher and higher and higher

that I'm just going to keep paying my people more. No, I'm not. No, they're going to get paid minimum wage sooner or later. And now there's no self-worth. They might as well, like everybody says, why don't I work at McDonalds, they pay \$18 an hour? Yeah, they're forced to because you keep raising minimum wage and they can't get help. And you keep forcing people on welfare. So, if they're on welfare making the same amount of money and if they're getting paid minimum wage, why bother?

We don't understand the economics of it all. Minimum wage is high enough. Like the gentleman said, minimum wage in New Hampshire is far lower. They're a very prosperous state. Why? Because they're taking care of their businesses. They're not burying their businesses in taxes, they're not burying their businesses with having to pay these ridiculous prices to kids. They're not doing that. They're saying to businesses we want you to be here. They put a welcome mat out. There's no welcome mat in Maine. None. Not for businesses. We're failing the people of our State. We're not thinking. We think we're helping the poor. We're not. I was brought up to help the poor. I still help the poor and I'm not going to describe to everybody in this room what I do but I help the poor all the time, but they're actually poor. I'm not helping the people who aren't poor. This minimum wage thing, I'm telling you, Madam Speaker, is cataclysmic. We are digging a hole we will not get out of. I'm asking everybody to look into this. If you don't want to believe me, contact an economist who deals in this and get the information. They'll tell you what I just told you. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fort Kent, Representative Theriault.

Representative **THERIAULT**: I'll be very quick. Thank you, Madam Speaker. A bill like this you think helps the poor but I think it helps the rich and I'll tell you why. Think of an average small business in town, a couple employees. The owner might make 50 or 60 at the end of the year by the time they're paying all their expenses. They have to fire people and they end up closing. Economics says a bill like this will help a big business because they can spread their costs around. So, if we want to help big corporations in the State of Maine and put small businesses out of business, then this is a bill that you should support.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll also be very expeditious and just say this. For a person who has no job because his employer is forced to lay him off or closes business because of ever-rising labor costs, the real minimum wage is zero dollars.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek.

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm standing today, I didn't plan on speaking, but there's been a lot of conversation about small business owners and the minimum wage and how it affects them and so, I just want to give a little bit of a different look on that. I am a small business owner and one of the 600 small business owners that supported the original increase in the minimum wage. It was far from devastating. My employees have benefitted greatly from it. In fact, we have benefitted tremendously from it and have been able to expand from a six-bed facility to 12-bed facility through it. So, raising the minimum wage is not always catastrophic. It can actually create much benefits to our employees, to our economy and it actually helps grow. And the last thing that I just want to add is that I am a believer that all jobs that we have are important, whether it's a burger flipper or an emergency room ed tech, everybody deserves to put food on the table and enough to eat

and pay their rent. So, I'm in full support of this and hoping that it passes. Thank you.

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

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to rise one more time. I really don't care about the businesses right now. I want you to understand just one thing that I have to say. Fifteen to 16 dollars an hour is a 6.5% increase per year. People that are retiring today at 3%, they're begging us; MainePERS, for an extra percent, a 4% increase. People that are earning minimum wage usually are the younger generation. They can go out and work, get a different job, work more hours. The elderly of our State cannot. You will drive the elderly into the poorhouse with raising minimum wage because they are on fixed incomes and their incomes will not rise at the rate of the inflation that this will cause. So, bar everything else, feel for the elderly of our State. This is going to hurt them. That's all you have to focus on here. Follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just a couple of comments. Whenever the minimum wage was raised in rural areas, more local spending occurred and it actually did help the economy. But according to; this is historic; according to the Cornell University Legal Information Institute, the original reason for the purpose of the minimum wage, it was to stabilize post-depression economy and protect the workers in the labor force. The minimum wage was designed to create a minimum standard of living to protect the health and well-being of employees. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. In 2015, Portland became the first city in the State of Maine to establish a minimum wage. Prior to that, the year prior to that, there was a committee that was formed in Portland made up of members of the Chamber of Commerce, the business community, other interested individuals, to explore what it would mean to establish a minimum wage and to increase the minimum wage in the city of Portland. They went through hundreds, if not thousands of pages of research looking at the effect that increasing the minimum wage has on business, has on the economy. I won't say every study revealed that increasing the minimum wage had no effect, but the preponderance of studies and evidence contradicted many of the points that were made tonight.

So, in 2015, passed minimum wage from \$7.50 to \$10.10 an hour. Businesses didn't leave the city, nobody went out of business. The effect on the economy was not catastrophic, the sky did not fall in and, in fact, right now, the Greater Portland area accounts for 50% of Maine's economy. We're stronger because we increased the minimum wage. Businesses have been able to attract people not only in the State of Maine but from other parts of the State because we have a minimum wage that does support people to be able to live in the city. We struggle with affordable housing and a number of other issues but those pre-dated the increase in the minimum wage. So, I would say to anybody tonight that has a fear that increasing this minimum wage is going to send businesses out of the State or cause businesses to go out of the State, we don't have any evidence to show that and, in fact, the one place that we do have that did establish a minimum wage, we've seen the economy thrive and its citizens benefit from having that minimum wage increase. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to dispute that last statement. In my area, in my district, we have lost 20 of the largest employers over the last 20 years and they do parallel the increases in minimum wage. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I did press my button after you gave us the last amount of people that were here and I heard the collective sigh and the groans and yet some reason, I still chose to stand. I'm a glutton for punishment, maybe. But minimum wage indicates minimum skill, minimum experience. It's essentially the State telling businesses this is the absolute worst you can pay your employees and get away with it. And yet, what we've done is we've taken the absolutely worst that our businesses can treat their employees and we've raised that bar to where now employees don't have an incentive to do any better than the absolute worst. They don't have an incentive to do any better than minimum skill or minimum effort or minimum experience because there's nowhere to go. When you walk into a mom-and-pop store and you're making \$13.85 an hour, they can't afford to give you a raise every six months or every year; \$13.85 is simply what you're going to make regardless of what skillsets you build, regardless of what you learn on the job, that's it. And if you do happen to get a raise, perhaps that you work at a larger corporation, you happen to get a raise, it's not going to be anywhere near what your skill level is as you continue to grow and work in the business.

I would really encourage us, and I'm not; I would just really encourage us to look at where we are economically with the cost-of-living increase and how the minimum wage has increased. It almost seems like they're buddies. They just hang out on that same bar. The higher the minimum wage goes, the higher the cost of living goes. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLINGS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would just like to remind my colleagues here the intent of the minimum wage created by Franklin Roosevelt, and I'll quote him, was for this intent. He says; by business, I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry. By workers, I mean all workers, the white-collar class as well as the men in overalls. And by living wage, I mean more than a bare subsistence living; I mean the wages of a decent living. That is the intent of the living wage. It's not a bare minimum just meant for teenagers to work on the summer.

This proposal, to put it in context, next year when it would go into effect at \$15 with indexing, it would only be about 50 cents higher what is proposed in our current law. However, it could help give a raise to about 100,000 of the lowest-earning Maine workers, including many women, many single women, and it would have a good impact on a lot of those low-wage workers. And whether you want to call it a living wage or a minimum wage, it is meant to protect those workers who otherwise would even have a lower wage and would be living in extreme poverty more to the extent they already are.

To reiterate what was said before, minimum wage is almost always good for the economy. It spurs greater discretionary spending, which leads to a demand for goods and services, which leads to more economic growth. That is what economists say happens when you raise the wages. For example, when we first passed the minimum wage to go up from

about \$7 or so an hour up to the \$12 and now with indexing it's about \$12.80, I'm hearing some of the same arguments now as I heard back then, it would destroy jobs, it would destroy our economy, and there was a lot of people in the hospitality, food and beverage industries that were the biggest opponents of this. However, after that wage was passed and incrementally raised, they had some of the best years on record. They actually had record years in their industry. So, that argument is disproven that it will hurt our economy. It grows our economy.

To the point people are making about in our current times during the pandemic and our transition out of the pandemic about the real reasons for inflation, there are many industries where those costs going up, 60% of that, in some industry, was due to corporations raising their profit margin and a very small amount to it was due to the raising of wages which, by the way, businesses were wanting to do because they couldn't compete, so they had to. And when you talk about jobs across the State that may be lost, the wages are a very small factor of that. There are many other factors that are causing for different industries now and historically that have gone out of business in Maine. So, I just want to say that in our history, a minimum wage has lifted the economy, not the opposite, and I would encourage you to vote for this very modest raise. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 189

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Supica, Woodsome, Zeigler.

Yes, 71; No, 70; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-178)** 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-178)** and sent for concurrence.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (3) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-167)** - Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Promote Minimum Wage Consistency by Limiting the Authority of Municipalities Regarding Minimum Hourly Pay"

(H.P. 899) (L.D. 1403)

TABLED - May 23, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

Representative ROEDER of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro **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. I've brought this bill forward a couple times now. Maine has one of the highest minimum wages in the country. With all that our small businesses have had to deal with the last few years with the coronavirus pandemic, being forced to shut down, losing an entire year, they deserve predictability when it comes to their wage costs. Ordinances like the one enacted in Portland make it harder for businesses to plan as well as compete on a level playing field with those in neighboring municipalities. This bill would establish a preemption clause for the State in setting the minimum wage. This will help promote the predictability that businesses need for their planning.

Minimum wage hikes do not just cut into the profits of business owners, they must be paid for, they are most often paid for by higher prices or cuts to staffing or both. As the Good Representative from Fort Kent mentioned earlier, some of the issues that arise is the fact that larger businesses are able to do automation while smaller businesses are not. This puts these businesses at a competitive disadvantage with businesses that offer a similar service in a neighboring municipality that has a lower minimum wage. Giving the State a preemption on the minimum wage will also help in other areas such as our health care industry. There has been much made from the hospital association about the high minimum wage in Portland and the fact that there's not always the reimbursement available to pay for that and that puts patients in a difficult position because they have to cut staff or service hours and that impacts the quality of care. I would point out that the Committee; that the language in the Committee is similar to the language contained in the paid leave law that we passed two Sessions ago that was passed with bipartisan support. Adding this just does not change the State minimum wage, does not lower it at all, it just creates one minimum wage for the whole State that is predictable for businesses across the State and ends the patchwork of laws. Thank you. I urge this Body to reject the pending motion.

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. 190

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Galletta, Kessler, Lajoie, Lanigan, O'Connell, Perry J, Supica, Woodsome, Zeigler.

Yes, 76; No, 63; Absent, 11; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 11 being absent, and accordingly 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**.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 103) (L.D. 162) Bill "An Act to Establish a Substance Use Disorder Hotline and Consultation and Clinical Supervision Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-428)**

(H.P. 272) (L.D. 439) Bill "An Act to Allow Death by Suicide to Be Considered a Death While in the Line of Duty" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-455)**

(H.P. 312) (L.D. 495) Bill "An Act Regarding Investigations of Out-of-home Child Abuse and Neglect" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-459)**

(H.P. 374) (L.D. 597) Bill "An Act to Improve Conditions for People Living in Recovery Residences by Requiring Approved Discharge and Transfer Policies" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-460)**

(H.P. 446) (L.D. 677) Bill "An Act to Ensure Consumer Protection from Resale Ticket Vendors" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-452)**

(H.P. 535) (L.D. 846) Bill "An Act to Require Direct Wine Shippers to Comply with Maine Beverage Container Laws" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-430)**

(H.P. 626) (L.D. 979) Resolve, to Fund Treatment Services and Certain Transportation Costs for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-458)**

(H.P. 658) (L.D. 1022) Bill "An Act to Allow School Budget Referenda on the Same Day as Primary Elections" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-456)**

(H.P. 758) (L.D. 1198) Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Improve the State's 10-year Economic Development Strategy Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-451)**

(H.P. 775) (L.D. 1227) Bill "An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-437)**

(H.P. 782) (L.D. 1234) Bill "An Act to Provide Reimbursement for Health Care Expenses of Retired State Police Law Enforcement Dogs" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-454)**

(H.P. 830) (L.D. 1305) Resolve, to Design and Implement a Community-based Model of Care for Adolescent Mental Health Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-457)**

(H.P. 864) (L.D. 1350) Bill "An Act Regarding the Composition of the Budget Advisory Committee and the Finality of the Budget in the Franklin County Budget Process" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-432)**

(H.P. 871) (L.D. 1357) Bill "An Act to Impose an Expanded Prohibition on Lobbying for Former Executive Branch Employees" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-429)**

(H.P. 885) (L.D. 1371) Bill "An Act to Amend Limits on the Direct Shipment of Wine" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-431)**

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

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

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

(S.P. 749) (L.D. 1848) Resolve, to Designate the Route 15 Bridge Located in the Town of Kenduskeag the William S. Pullen Bridge (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 168) (L.D. 361) Bill "An Act to Increase the Reimbursement for Electronic Consultations Through Medicaid" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-254)**

(S.P. 205) (L.D. 451) Bill "An Act to Ensure Transparent and Accountable Temporary Nurse Agencies" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)**

(S.P. 312) (L.D. 754) Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-239)**

(S.P. 333) (L.D. 774) Bill "An Act to Require the Maine State Housing Authority to Report to the Legislature on the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund" Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-253)**

(S.P. 404) (L.D. 985) Resolve, to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Provide Additional Reimbursement to Maine Veterans' Homes Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-244)**

(S.P. 449) (L.D. 1080) Bill "An Act to Require the Termination of Private Mortgage Insurance" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-245)**

(S.P. 454) (L.D. 1120) Resolve, to Install a Suicide Barrier on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-234)**

(S.P. 514) (L.D. 1277) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Property Investment by Credit Unions" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-246)**

(S.P. 542) (L.D. 1325) Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Submission of Certain Reports to the Legislature Concerning Child Welfare" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-248)**

(S.P. 591) (L.D. 1472) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to Amend Their Rules Regarding the Maine School Facilities Finance Program and the School Revolving Renovation Fund Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-238)**

(S.P. 605) (L.D. 1484) Bill "An Act to Improve Sexual Assault Kit Tracking" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-235)**

(S.P. 661) (L.D. 1656) Bill "An Act to Allow Student Representation Within the Governance of the University of Maine System" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-241)**

(S.P. 817) (L.D. 1988) Bill "An Act to Provide Critical Matching Funds for Child Care Services on the Northern Maine Community College Campus" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-240)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** or **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence.

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

(S.P. 356) (L.D. 859) Bill "An Act to Assess, Develop, Implement and Fund the Reuse of Existing Facilities at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center to Provide Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-268)**

(S.P. 562) (L.D. 1395) Bill "An Act to Increase Transparency Regarding Certain Drug Pricing Programs" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-269)**

(S.P. 620) (L.D. 1556) Bill "An Act to Provide a Private Support Organization for the Maine Maritime Academy" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-263)**

(H.P. 444) (L.D. 675) Bill "An Act to Improve the Convenience of Public Restrooms" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-474)**

(H.P. 777) (L.D. 1229) Bill "An Act to Support Peer Mentors for Parents Involved in the Child Protective Services System" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-469)**

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.

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

(S.P. 210) (L.D. 456) Bill "An Act to Support the Use of Bicycles" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-283)**

(S.P. 441) (L.D. 1072) Bill "An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-282)**

(S.P. 519) (L.D. 1282) Bill "An Act to Streamline Income Verification Requests for Income Supplementation and Assistance Programs" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-279)**

(S.P. 788) (L.D. 1939) Bill "An Act to Amend the Membership of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-285)**

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.

ORDER

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1290)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that Bill, "An Act to Protect Workers from Employer Surveillance," H.P. 596, L.D. 949, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the House.

READ and PASSED.

Sent for concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, the House adjourned at 10:03 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in honor and lasting tribute to Gerald "Gary" Dawbin, formerly of Winthrop.