

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
1st Legislative Day
Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Pursuant to Article IV, Part 3, Section 1 of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, the Representatives to the One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature assembled in the Hall of the House and were called to order by RACHEL TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Speaker of the House.

Prayer by Reverend Jeffrey McIlwain, North Star AME Zion Church, Newington, NH, Rabbi Carolyn Braun, Temple Beth El, Portland, and Mohamed Mohamed, Auburn.

National Anthem by Jeffrey McIlwain, Saco.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kristen Mazoki, DO, Wilton.

A roll call was taken. 138 out of 151 Members answered to their names and accordingly the Chair declared a quorum present.

Those absent were:

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford

Representative GALLETTA of Durham

Representative HAGGAN of Hampden

Representative JACKSON of Oxford

Representative LANIGAN of Sanford

Representative MADIGAN of Waterville

Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth

Representative NEWMAN of Belgrade

Representative SAMPSON of Alfred

Representative SINCLAIR of Bath

Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Representative WARREN of Scarborough

1 vacancy

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the following House Order: (H.O. 32)

ORDERED, that a Committee of ten be appointed to wait upon Her Excellency, Governor Janet T. Mills, and inform her that a quorum of the House of Representatives is assembled in the Hall of the House for the consideration of such business as may come before the House.

READ and PASSED.

The Speaker appointed the following Members to the Committee to wait upon the Governor and inform her that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives have assembled in the Hall of the House for the consideration of such business as may come before the House:

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook

Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston

Representative LOOKNER of Portland

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield

Representative MATHIESON of Kittery

Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Representative NUTTING of Oakland

Representative NEWMAN of Belgrade

Representative ARDELL of Monticello

Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 33)

ORDERED, that a message be conveyed to the Senate that a quorum of the House of Representatives is present for the consideration of such business as may come before the House.

READ and PASSED.

The Speaker appointed Representative TERRY of Gorham to inform the Senate that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives have assembled in the Hall of the House for the consideration of such business as may come before the House.

At this point, a message was received from the Senate, borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland of that Body, announcing a quorum present and that the Senate was ready to transact any business that might properly come before it.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 342)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

January 2, 2024

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

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRS, Section 1, hereby certify that the following is the name and residence of the Representative-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on November 9, 2023:

DISTRICT 50 David A. Sinclair, Bath

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

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 344)

STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

I, the Secretary of State of Maine, certify that according to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, the Department of the Secretary of State is the legal custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Maine which is hereunto affixed and that the document to which this is attached is a true copy from the records of this Department.

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta, Maine, on the second day of January in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four.

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

**State of Maine
Office of the Secretary of State
November 9, 2023**

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of the proclamation issued by the Governor on August 17, 2023, calling for a Special Election to be held on November 7, 2023, to elect a State Representative in District 50 and having tabulated the returns of the votes cast;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS: In accordance with Title 21-A MRS Section 711, having tabulated the total number of state ballots cast, the number of voters participating in this election is 2,834; and that David A. Sinclair of Bath, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected a State Representative in the 131st Legislature in District 50:

Sinclair, David A., Bath (Democratic) 2,188

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast at the Special Election, as reported to me on the returns from the municipalities of Bath and State UOCAVA.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Received by the Governor on November 9, 2023

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

At this point, the Speaker announced the presence in the Hall of the House of Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.

Pursuant to her authority under House Rule 401.1, the Speaker assigned Representative SINCLAIR of Bath to seat 11.

At this point, Representative SINCLAIR of Bath was added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Madam Speaker, before we get too far into today's business; I had pushed my button prior to what you just did; I would like to take this opportunity to ask that this Body ask the Secretary of State to resign her position. She did not act in a bipartisan manner with her ruling last week. She has disenfranchised over 400,000 voters in the State of Maine. And that's not just Republicans, it's Republicans and unenrolled and even Democrats that may have wished to have voted in the primaries or switch their place in that. She has overstepped and did not even disclose that, prior to the hearing, that she was an elector for President Biden. This makes her unacceptable to continue her position as Secretary of State and I demand that she resigns. Thank you.

Subsequently, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook reported that the Committee had attempted to deliver the message with which it was charged.

The SPEAKER: So, Members, while we have just had a moment to welcome and honor a new face in the Chamber with Representative Sinclair, we must take a moment now to recognize someone whose absence I know we will all feel deeply in this Chamber. In late-October, Maine lost a trailblazer, an advocate and a champion for women and girls with the passing of Representative Lois Reckitt. And I think everyone in this room lost a friend. Lois was such a presence in this building. Whether in Committee or caucus or here with us in this room. It is undoubtedly going to be a very different session without her. We will forever cherish her contributions to our State, and we'll honor her memory the way she would want us to, by carrying on the work she started and doing our best to serve the people of Maine.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

the Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt, of South Portland, a member of the Maine House of Representatives who represented House District #122. Representative Reckitt was the Executive Director of Family Crisis Services in Portland for 36 years and was the driving force behind Maine's proposed Equal Rights Amendment. She won four elections to serve in the Legislature from 2017 to 2023. She championed many issues, most especially women's rights and the rights of other disadvantaged people. She helped to found the Maine Women's Lobby and was a board member for the National Organization for Women. During her last legislative session, she successfully sponsored a bill to partially decriminalize prostitution. As Executive Director of Family Crisis Services in Cumberland County, she served victims of domestic violence and promoted prevention efforts. In the 1980s, she was elected national executive vice president of the National Organization for Women and was a co-founder of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Representative Reckitt will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 683)

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook, Senator BAILEY of York, Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot, Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Senator BENNETT of Oxford, Senator BLACK of Franklin, Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin, Senator BRENNER of Cumberland, Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland, Senator CURRY of Waldo, Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Senator DUSON of Cumberland, Senator FARRIN of Somerset, Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock, Senator GUERIN of Penobscot, Senator HARRINGTON of York, Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Senator INGWERSEN of York, Senator KEIM of Oxford, Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, Senator LAWRENCE of York, Senator LIBBY of Cumberland, Senator LYFORD of Penobscot, Senator MOORE of Washington, Senator NANGLE of Cumberland, Senator PIERCE of Cumberland, Senator POULIOT of Kennebec, Senator RAFFERTY of York, Senator RENY of Lincoln, Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Senator STEWART of Aroostook, Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Senator TIPPING of Penobscot, Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative ADAMS of Lebanon, Representative ALBERT of Madawaska, Representative ANDREWS of Paris,

Representative ANKELES of Brunswick, Representative ARATA of New Gloucester, Representative ARDELL of Monticello, Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield, Representative BAGSHAW of Windham, Representative BELL of Yarmouth, Representative BLIER of Buxton, Representative BOYER of Poland, Representative BOYLE of Gorham, Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, Representative BRENNAN of Portland, Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington, Representative CARLOW of Buxton, Representative CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Representative COLLINGS of Portland, Representative COPELAND of Saco, Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth, Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston, Representative CRAY of Palmyra, Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative CYRWAY of Albion, Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative DAVIS of East Machias, Representative DHALAC of South Portland, Representative DILL of Old Town, Representative DODGE of Belfast, Representative DOUDERA of Camden, Representative DRINKWATER of Milford, Representative DUCHARME of Madison, Representative DUNPHY of Embden, Representative EATON of Deer Isle, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, Representative FAY of Raymond, Representative FOSTER of Dexter, Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford, Representative GALLETTA of Durham, Representative GATTINE of Westbrook, Representative GEIGER of Rockland, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, Representative GIFFORD of Lincoln, Representative GOLEK of Harpswell, Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative GRIFFIN of Levant, Representative GUERRETTE of Caribou, Representative HAGGAN of Hampden, Representative HALL of Wilton, Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, Representative HENDERSON of Rumford, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, Representative HOBBS of Wells, Representative HYMES of Waldo, Representative JACKSON of Oxford, Representative JAUCH of Topsham, Representative JAVNER of Chester, Representative KESSLER of South Portland, Representative KUHN of Falmouth, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, Representative LANDRY of Farmington, Representative LANIGAN of Sanford, Representative LaROCHELLE of Augusta, Representative LAVIGNE of Berwick, Representative LEE of Auburn, Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea, Representative LIBBY of Auburn, Representative LOOKNER of Portland, Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls, Representative MADIGAN of Waterville, Representative MALON of Biddeford, Representative MASON of Lisbon, Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, Representative MATLACK of St. George, Representative MEYER of Eliot, Representative MILLETT of Waterford, Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, Representative MONTELL of Gardiner, Representative MOONEN of Portland, Representative MORIARTY of Cumberland, Representative MORRIS of Turner, Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, Representative NESS of Fryeburg, Representative NEWMAN of Belgrade, Representative NUTTING of Oakland, Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer, Representative O'NEIL of Saco,

Representative OSHER of Orono, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative PAUL of Winterport, Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Representative PERRY of Calais, Representative PERRY of Bangor, Representative PLUECKER of Warren, Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, Representative POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, Representative POMERLEAU of Standish, Representative PRINGLE of Windham, Representative RANA of Bangor, Representative RIELLY of Westbrook, Representative RISEMAN of Harrison, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, Representative ROEDER of Bangor, Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield, Representative RUNTE of York, Representative RUSSELL of Verona Island, Representative SACHS of Freeport, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, Representative SAMPSON of Alfred, Representative SARGENT of York, Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, Representative SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Representative SHAW of Auburn, Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford, Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro, Representative SKOLD of Portland, Representative SMITH of Palermo, Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Representative STOVER of Boothbay, Representative STROUT of Harrington, Representative SUPICA of Bangor, Representative SWALLOW of Houlton, Representative TERRY of Gorham, Representative THERIAULT of Fort Kent, Representative THORNE of Carmel, Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, Representative WALKER of Naples, Representative WARREN of Scarborough, Representative WHITE of Waterville, Representative WHITE of Guilford, Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Representative WOOD of Greene, Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro, Representative WORTH of Ellsworth, Representative ZAGER of Portland, Representative ZEIGLER of Montville.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Sheehan.

Representative **SHEEHAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and dear colleagues. The five undersigned national and international organizations; Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International, the Jensen Project, National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Rights4Girls and World Without Exploitation; hereby salute with great gratitude and sorrow the landmark lifelong contributions made by Representative Lois Galgay Reckitt on behalf of the most vulnerable people in our communities, especially women experiencing sexual abuse, domestic violence and prostitution.

Lois loved visiting her grandmother in Maine every summer, so, after getting an MA in Marine Biology from Boston University in 1968, she moved to Portland where she directed the YWCA's swim program. She helped establish Family Crisis Services in 1977, renamed Through These Doors in 2018, and served as Executive Director from 1979 until 1984. In 1984, she moved to Washington, D.C. to take an elected post as Executive Vice President of the National Organization for Women. Having co-founded the Human Rights Campaign Fund in 1980, she moved from NOW to HRC, where she served as Deputy Director from 1987 until 1989. In 1990, she came home to her beloved Maine, returning to Family Crisis Services. Under her guidance, the organization emerged as an innovative leader in Maine's response to domestic violence

services and prevention for youth, elders, incarcerated women, people with disabilities, new Americans and the LGBT community.

Without listing her many positions and accomplishments, which fill pages, Lois's signature characteristic was her intense ability to listen to others, especially to those with lived experience of violence and exploitation. Her policy positions were deeply informed by the stories people told her and the experiences she had herself.

Elected to represent South Portland's 31st District in 2016, Lois absolutely loved being a Member of the State Legislature. In her second term, she began actively investigating a new approach to sex trafficking and prostitution, as she learned more about the Nordic model, or equality model, approved in Canada in 2015 and in France in 2016. It was her friend, Mark Keller, a Portland police officer, who first brought his research on this approach to her attention. Lois felt that many aspects of bonding within the sex trade, especially between people in prostitution and traffickers, was akin to the power dynamics in domestic violence scenarios. She didn't think cycles of violence could end if prostituted people were arrested or caught charges that stemmed from victimization. With crucial help from Nate Walsh, Assistant District Attorney of Androscoggin County, she drafted an ambitious bill in 2020, introduced in 2021, entitled An Act To Decriminalize Engaging in Prostitution, Strengthen the Laws Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Allow a Person Convicted of Engaging in Prostitution To Petition the Court To Expunge the Record of Conviction. As Lois explained at that time, quote; we're trying to make sure that past convictions don't make life impossible for people who formerly engaged in this activity mostly for survival up here. I see this bill as a quintessential anti-trafficking bill. Lois was thrilled that the first-in-the-nation proposal gained bipartisan support. However, more education was required, as well as consultation with Maine's survivor community.

When the Chief Executive vetoed the first version of Maine's equality model bill in 2021, Lois simply went back to the topic in 2022, encouraged by dear friends such as Senator Anne Carney and Survivor leader Tricia Grant, Executive Director of Just Love Worldwide. As a result of extensive consultations in Maine and across the nation, a year ago, Lois introduced LD 1435, An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation, which deleted the crime of prostitution while maintaining or increasing criminal penalties against sex trade patrons. It's a common-sense approach recognizing that sex buyers fuel the harm inherent in the commercial sex trade. The Chief Executive signed LD 1435 last June 26th, which Lois called one of the happiest days of her life. Passage of LD 1436, An Act to Provide Remedies for Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, quickly followed. National and international press confirmed that Maine was the first State in the United States to adopt this welcomed humane reform. Lois told us all that she wanted to dedicate the rest of her life to implementing LD 1435 and 1436. Sadly, the disease she kept at bay through the 2023 legislative session extinguished her fierce light on October 30th. Yet, her torch is carried. Lois would have been so proud to witness law enforcement trainings on the new Law organized by Commissioner Michael Sauschuck in mid-November.

In honor of Lois Galgay Reckitt's commitment to making Maine a national bellwether regarding prostitution and sex trafficking reform, we sincerely request that the Maine State Legislature appoint a point of contact in the Executive Branch to assure full successful implementations of the reforms she

worked so hard to craft. With appreciation, Taina Bien-Aimé, Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International, Eleanor Kennelly Gaetan, Vice President of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Lauren Hersh, Executive Director, World Without Exploitation, Janet Jensen, founder of the Jensen Project, and Yasmin Vafa, Executive Director, Rights4Girls.

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to also ask for the resignation of Shenna Bellows.

The SPEAKER: The Chair finds the Representative to be out of order. The matter before this Body right now is a Special Sentiment Calendar item in honor of the life and the service of Representative Lois Reckitt. The Chair finds the Member's move at this time to be inappropriate and offensive to the family that is here to receive the honor that we are bestowing to Representative Reckitt.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't prepare words for Lois today, but I just wanted to share my experiences in meeting her. I should say the Good Representative Reckitt.

You know, coming into the Legislature, I didn't know most of the people here and I have what could be characterized as a pretty working-class background and I always felt like I didn't belong and that; who am I to walk these halls. And Representative Reckitt, I mean, like with everybody, always took a moment to talk to me in the morning and to get to know me and to share her love and her passion. And I didn't know anything about that impressive résumé that I just heard, I just thought here's this interesting lady with a lot of stories. And as I got to know her and realize what; and I'll try to choose my words carefully, so I don't curse; what an amazing, strong woman this was, I became really inspired. And then I became honored to know that she took an interest in me and all of the women in this House. And in the fall before she passed, she actually took a trip to Bangor and made it a point to get to know people in my community that were victims of sex trafficking and; in effort to try to empower them and to tell them about the work that was happening. So, not only was she passing the torch to the women here, but she was going out into the community and trying to stitch us all together so that we could carry on this work, and it was a great honor to get to know her and I will always cherish her memory. And she gave me an amazing jacket that one day I will turn into a fabulous dress and I will walk around the halls and celebrate her. So, thank you for calling upon me so I can share that with all of you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Colleagues, I wanted to rise just to say a few words in loving memory of our colleague. As a first-year legislator last year, I had the gift of being seated next to Lois on the Judiciary Committee, an opportunity to observe and learn from her and to make a friend. Lois was so wise, sensitive, tenacious and also hilarious. And then there were also the fingernails. Always the perfect nails. I'm not one who normally gets my nails done but I did go yesterday so that I could bring some of Lois here to what she might call, in Red Sox speak, our opening day. So, I will carry these many lessons with me as a legislator and as a friend, and I'm very grateful to have known her. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise today to give honor to a Representative from South Portland, Representative Reckitt. I only had the pleasure of serving with her for a single year. The first time we met was in the ladies' room and after a brief introduction, she very quickly began to lobby me for one of the bills that she wanted to present. And that kind of set the stage for a friendship.

She quickly became someone that I looked for in the halls. Oftentimes when we were at recess or dismissed, I'd find my way up the middle aisle so that I could walk out with her and just have a chat with her. One time in particular after I had given what I felt was a very moving floor speech, we were talking about it on the way out and she said, you know, Rachel, you were this close to getting me. You were that close. And we laughed about it but, really, in retrospect, it showed what a thoughtful legislator she was and that it really doesn't matter if there's an R or a D behind my name, what mattered was the truth, and that was what she searched for. And although we were polar opposites politically, I'd like to think that we were kindred spirits.

She will for sure be missed. I will miss fixing her coffee; she took it black, so it was really easy; I'll miss having lobster rolls with her, but I think most of all is I will miss the multiple times per Committee meeting when our House Chair would say Representative Reckitt, can you please turn off your mic? I wish that we could hear that again, and she'll truly be missed this session.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I'm not sure what to say. I guess; I've been very aware of Lois and her work for a very long time. You know, the Sentiment; the language of the Sentiment certainly speaks to that. She was a leader on causes near and dear to my heart for decades and really; really just set everything up for so much change in our State and our country, and I really appreciate all of that work. But I appreciate more getting to know her personally.

I had the privilege of chairing the Judiciary Committee when she was a freshman seven years ago and, like I said, knew who she was and was very excited that she was getting appointed to the Committee. And the thing I remember most about that first term is how unfiltered she was, and it was; it was shocking at times. And I didn't know at the time if that was just a product of being a certain age and just being at a point where, you know, I'm just going to say what I have to say and I don't care what people think about it, or if Lois was always that way. I'd like to think she was always that way. But she had this way of being accidentally hilarious. She would say things that would just stun me in Committee, and I don't think she intended to be funny, but she was just brilliantly, brilliantly funny.

She did have that habit of not turning her mic off, and I did have to remind her sometimes. I guess I just; it's really weird in our Committee without her. She was there for seven years, we had several meetings in the off-session, including one about a week after Lois's passing, and it was so bizarre to have a Committee meeting without her there with us. I struggled thinking about who would fill that seat, because they; whoever that is on the Judiciary Committee has massive shoes to fill, and, you know, I heard Lois speak many times about her fondness for you, Madam Speaker, I heard you share the

same views, the same sentiments about her. I've heard her say that she taught you how to swim at the YWCA back in the day and I guess I just want to say that I really appreciate that the first person to fill that seat was you. I know that would've meant a lot to her.

We're really going to miss Lois, all of her work, all of her leadership, her relentlessness on her issues; she was so passionate about what she believed in, including lobbying people in the bathroom, apparently; and she was just a remarkable person, we're going to miss her. And so, I guess one last time; Representative Reckitt, would you please turn off your mic. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from East Machias, Representative Davis.

Representative **DAVIS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was a great honor to get to know Lois. She was a real trooper, and she called a spade a spade. But I remember she came down to Washington County in the late summer for the blueberry tour and while she was down there, she had come down fairly sick, and she didn't show up for supper that night at the Bluebird Ranch. So, I asked Representative Osher to check on her because I was quite concerned about her, but; which she did and; but the next morning, we were scheduled to be out to Roque Bluffs to a blueberry farm and the first part of it started at 5:00 in the morning, it was the blessing of the blueberry field at sunrise. And I said well, there ain't gonna be too many Representatives get up that early. So, I went, and then later on, the second part at the same field, the tour bus came out and Lois was on that bus. So; but she didn't get off the bus, she still was feeling a little under the weather. So, I went on the bus and sat down with her and she said to me, did you come out for the blessing of the field, and I said yes, I said, I get up early, anyway, I'm up by 3:00 about every morning, and she says well, you're up before the roosters. And I said yeah, and speaking of roosters, I had a pet rooster, and he took off because he just didn't like it that I was getting up before he did. So, I said to Lois; I said, in fact, a couple days later, I got a knock on my door from DHS, he filed a complaint on me. And Lois cracked right up, laughing, I thought she was going to fall right out of that seat.

But I will miss her. I really enjoyed being around her. And like I said, she had a lot of knowledge. I've heard her speak when she gets up in here and had a lot of history. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. My only wish with Representative Reckitt is that more of our time on Judiciary were in-person because most of our first session together serving was on Zoom. And so, her microphone was usually off at the appropriate time. But I did want to speak and say that I truly enjoyed serving with Representative Reckitt. You know, we didn't always agree on the issues, but we could always have a conversation about them and we did find common ground, like on legalizing prostitution and on indigent legal services. But whether we agreed or not, she was always open to having the conversation so that we could better understand each other's perspective and I really appreciated that about Representative Reckitt. I truly enjoyed serving with her and she will be sorely missed by, I think, everyone in this Chamber.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Stover.

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I had the honor of knowing Lois Reckitt and working with her in various capacities over 30 years. She was a friend, she was a mentor, she was a colleague and I will always miss her. But I wanted to share not the many memories, but I wanted to share my last conversation with her, because it was remarkable and it was truly Lois. When I asked her about her health and I asked her about her recent scans, she didn't have them back yet. She said well, I've been doing a few things; she goes, I pulled out my biography, I've edited eight chapters, I have more to go. I cleaned out the bookcase, I've got two boxes of books ready to go to the bookstore. I've resigned from the Board of Directors of the Irish Heritage Policy Center because I need more time to do other things and I've done some research. And, if you can just imagine this in Lois's voice; what I've found was that most people with this diagnosis, on average, live five to six years. But you know what? I'm not average. I'm extraordinary, so what I'm thinking is that I'm going to live 11. And I said Lois, I believe you, you are going to live 11. So, God bless Lois Reckitt for all that she taught me, for all that she was and for all that she will always be, in this room and in this State. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Collings.

Representative **COLLINGS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I wanted to rise and just thank the family and loved ones of the late Representative Reckitt for being here today and also for sharing this wonderful person with us these almost past eight years. I remember when I was first elected and I sat next to Representative Reckitt and our current Speaker, and I learned so much sitting next to them. And Lois was just one-of-a-kind and everything everyone has said is definitely true; her sense of humor, her commitment. I also have some great stories that are probably not appropriate to share here, being on the Maine Irish Heritage Center Board with her, especially the first time we had a drink together at an Irish concert, but I can tell some of you that story later. Again, I want to just reiterate to Lois's family and loved ones, it's been such an honor sharing; being in the Legislature with her and outside of the Legislature, and we see an empty seat of a dearly beloved colleague, but I know she's filled all of our hearts and we will continue her legacy every day and do right by her and make her proud. And, again, God bless her family and loved ones. Thank you.

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

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Lois was a great person and it's 42 days until pitchers and catchers report. Go Sox!

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

Representative **OSHER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm just so honored that I was able to serve and grateful to serve with Representative Lois Reckitt from South Portland. As many have mentioned, it was so impressive how she would just tell stories that were both hilarious and also told you about her history of being a trailblazer for human rights. She had stories that reached back into what I had heard as a young lesbian. I heard that there was a group called the Lavender Menace and I thought that's a great name, and it was a group of women that were in National Organization of Women, at the time it was forming; Lois was there, and the leaders were a little concerned that everyone would think all of the women in

National Organization of Women were lesbians if the lesbians were out. And so, they asked all the lesbians if they just wouldn't come out about being lesbian so that it wouldn't impact the women's movement. And Lois helped, as an inside person, as a person on the Executive Board, alert them when it was time for them all to stand up and take off their outer shirts and have purple T-shirts that all read Lavender Menace. And they stood up in silence. It was; this is in the late-70s and this was a; basically, one of the first political actions. Now people would organize that by; on their cellphones. And Lois was there.

So, I loved being in the Legislature with her but also loved sitting and hearing the stories about how she was part of history as one of the founders of the Human Rights Campaign Fund back at the beginning of AIDS when people with AIDS didn't have a voice and, again, people said just be quiet and your issues are not important, Lois was there to help organize people who raised money to make sure that there was a voice for people who were being marginalized. And they called it the Human Rights Campaign because Lois was all about human rights. So, thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief. We've heard that Representative Reckitt was a trailblazer and one of my favorite quotes is when you get to the top, it's your responsibility to send the elevator back down. Representative Reckitt didn't just send the elevator back down, she rode the elevator back down and bodily pulled people onto that elevator. She lifted us all up. I only had the opportunity to join the Quality Inn Caucus in the lounge once and I was seated next to Representative Reckitt, with her bottle of Jameson handy. I appreciated getting that one chance to join the festivities and get to speak with her candidly. I regret that I won't have another opportunity. But I wanted to thank the Representative from South Portland, Representative Reckitt, for everything she did.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Sheehan.

Representative **SHEEHAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I'm sorry everyone has to hear my voice again, but I wanted to make some personal remarks about my friend. Her birthday was December 31st and I couldn't help but think last week; what a sweet New Year's gift baby Lois must've been to her parents, right? I thought about her that day last week and I thought about all of those who love her, and I decided that the best place to wish her a happy birthday would be on Facebook, where we were all being reminded that our love for Lois made us part of a big, embracing family.

Happy birthday, Lois, I wrote; you're in my heart forever. Since you've moved on, I've faced some tough choices. I often ask, what would Lois say? And I can always hear your voice. I can always, always hear Lois's voice when I ask myself what she would say because the intention that animated that voice never ever wavered. Her intention was to encourage me and, as the Good Members from Bangor and Rumford attested, her encouragement was powerful. She brought that focus to her mission in life, the mission to end domestic violence, to end the abuse of women and other vulnerable people, period. And until that work was done, to alleviate their suffering with the greatest urgency and by the best means available to us in the moment. With that intention, Lois's voice rang with urgency and always indicated a clear and actionable course. As a serious worrier, prone to a lot of hemming and hawing, I found her clarity astonishing, but I recognize that it was the

foundation of her many accomplishments. Importantly, she balanced her clarity and conviction with a lot of deep listening, as her colleagues in the anti-trafficking movement mentioned, and as someone who occasionally had significant differences of opinion with Lois, I can testify that she always listened. She wasn't always happy about what she heard, but she took my reservations seriously, and those of many others, and it made her almost unstoppable. Lois had so much energy still, multiple projects on the go and many ideas we would discuss on our frequent rides home from Augusta. I hope we can all take up the mantle of her persistence and the patience that she practiced. I sometimes pine for a quick fix, and I think we all do, but Lois's example demonstrates that while there is no magic pill, there's real magic in the grind. There's a deep and enduring satisfaction in building coalitions of unlikely allies, in recognizing that we don't have to agree on everything to collaborate on something. It was palpable and unshakeable, the satisfaction that Lois embodied whenever she reflected on her life's accomplishments, and that satisfaction was well earned. Thank you, Lois, for your support and your encouragement. It meant the world to me and many of us and I promise to carry your inspiration into all I do.

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1342) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ADAMS of Lebanon, ALBERT of Madawaska, ANDREWS of Paris, ANKELES of Brunswick, ARATA of New Gloucester, ARDELL of Monticello, ARFORD of Brunswick, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BAGSHAW of Windham, BELL of Yarmouth, BLIER of Buxton, BOYER of Poland, BOYLE of Gorham, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, BRENNAN of Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CARLOW of Buxton, CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, COLLINGS of Portland, COPELAND of Saco, COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CRAVEN of Lewiston, CRAY of Palmyra, CROCKETT of Portland, CYRWAY of Albion, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DAVIS of East Machias, DHALAC of South Portland, DILL of Old Town, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, DRINKWATER of Milford, DUCHARME of Madison, DUNPHY of Embden, EATON of Deer Isle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FAY of Raymond, FOSTER of Dexter, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GALLETTA of Durham, GATTINE of Westbrook, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HAGGAN of Hampden, HALL of Wilton, HASENFUS of Readfield, HENDERSON of Rumford, HEPLER of Woolwich, HOBBS of Wells, HYMES of Waldo, JACKSON of Oxford, JAUCH of Topsham, JAVNER of Chester, KESSLER of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LANDRY of Farmington, LANIGAN of Sanford, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, LAVIGNE of Berwick, LEE of Auburn, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LIBBY of Auburn, LOOKNER

of Portland, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MADIGAN of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MASON of Lisbon, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George, MEYER of Eliot, MILLETT of Waterford, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MONTELL of Gardiner, MOONEN of Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, MORRIS of Turner, MURPHY of Scarborough, NESS of Fryeburg, NEWMAN of Belgrade, NUTTING of Oakland, O'CONNELL of Brewer, O'NEIL of Saco, OSHER of Orono, PARRY of Arundel, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, PERRY of Calais, PERRY of Bangor, PLUECKER of Warren, POIRIER of Skowhegan, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, POMERLEAU of Standish, PRINGLE of Windham, QUINT of Hodgdon, RANA of Bangor, RIELLY of Westbrook, RISEMAN of Harrison, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ROEDER of Bangor, RUNTE of York, RUSSELL of Verona Island, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SAMPSON of Alfred, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SHAW of Auburn, SHEEHAN of Biddeford, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, SINCLAIR of Bath, SKOLD of Portland, SMITH of Palermo, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STOVER of Boothbay, STROUT of Harrington, SUPICA of Bangor, SWALLOW of Houlton, TERRY of Gorham, THERIAULT of Fort Kent, THORNE of Carmel, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, WALKER of Naples, WARREN of Scarborough, WHITE of Waterville, WHITE of Guilford, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, WOOD of Greene, WOODSOME of Waterboro, WORTH of Ellsworth, ZAGER of Portland, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, BRAKEY of Androscoggin, BRENNER of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, GROHOSKI of Hancock, GUERIN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York, HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York, President JACKSON of Aroostook, KEIM of Oxford, LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, LYFORD of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington, NANGLE of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, POULIOT of Kennebec, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, VITELLI of Sagadahoc)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE TRAGIC MASS SHOOTING IN LEWISTON

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2023, a mass shooting in Lewiston took the lives of 18 people and injured 13 others; and

WHEREAS, the shooting uprooted the lives of innumerable family members, friends, partners and community members in Lewiston and beyond; and

WHEREAS, first responders in Lewiston and from around the State immediately took action to respond to the medical needs of those injured and to prevent the crisis from developing further; and

WHEREAS, first responders who assisted during the crisis came from municipal and county fire and police departments, private and volunteer ambulance services and the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, these first responders included paramedics, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, medical professionals and firefighters; and

WHEREAS, these individuals exhibited remarkable courage, character and resilience in a moment of dire need for Lewiston and the State in service to a greater mission to ensure that our State and its many communities remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, we owe these individuals a deep debt of gratitude for their response to the mass shooting in Lewiston and for the critically important work they do every day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the heroic efforts of first responders in the mass shooting in Lewiston.

READ.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my honor to stand before you, Colleagues of the House, as the Chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. I'm sad that we're having this opportunity to thank our first responders because of the incident that took place in Lewiston, but this is the appropriate time to thank you for all the work that you've done and you continue to do every day on behalf of the people of Maine.

I've also had the honor of serving on the Blue Ribbon Commission that's been studying EMS for the last few years, and the things that we've heard and the support that is needed have been brought to the forefront by this terrible tragedy that's happened. So, I am thankful that we can continue this work and at the same time, thanking you for the work that you do not only at a time of great tragedy but in our everyday lives. We know that when we call 9-1-1 or we call for help, that you respond, and we're thankful for that and, unfortunately, we've had a reminder that when the worst-case scenario happens, that you are there for us. And my hope is that as time goes on, we don't forget and as a Body, as a State, that we don't forget the need and the importance of recognizing the work that you do and so that we can continue to support you in any way that we can possibly find. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Lajoie.

Representative **LAJOIE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Members of the 131st Legislature, like the Sentiment shared previously, I am saddened to stand here before you today. We are often reminded of the impacts gun violence has on communities across the United States. But we never once did; or never once did I think Lewiston would make the national headlines for a reprehensible harm caused on October 25th. While we continue to heal together, let's remember those in our community who put their own lives into jeopardy to protect us. It is thanks to our first responders, some of whom are here today, that Lewiston and surrounding communities were kept safe amid the chaos of that day.

As a first responder myself for 31 years in the Lewiston Fire Department, I know what these responders went through. At this time, if I may go off my prepared speech, I would like to say that through our emergency services in the State of Maine, my being involved both as a firefighter and a Fire Chief, we train on a daily basis with different scenarios and we intertrain with police, EMS and fire, of course. And I think the response to this particular situation was extremely professional. When that alarm sounds, we have one goal in mind, that's to address the situation, and I believe the first responders that day did just that.

So, in closing, I send my deepest thanks to the first responders who are here in this Chamber, along with many others who help keep Maine safe and continue to keep Mainers safe each day. We are forever thankful to you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Cloutier.

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Honorable Women and Men of the House, I stand before you today overcome with great sadness, a feeling that has lingered with me since that dreadful night on October 25, 2023. That night, the City of Lewiston; my hometown, the city I represent, the community where I have raised my own 15-year-old daughter; experienced a tragedy that still feels unimaginable. A senseless act of gun violence took the lives of 18 innocent people and injured 13 others. It is one of the deadliest mass shootings in American history and it is undoubtedly the greatest tragedy that our community and our State has ever faced. Nothing has been the same since that night and nothing will ever be the same again. Often, the effects of gun-related trauma aren't fully felt until years, even decades after the tragedy takes place. And so, we will be grappling with a long and difficult grieving process for the foreseeable future.

And while I, along with every member of our community, have experienced profound grief and sadness in the past two months, I have also found myself experiencing enormous gratitude, and that is what I want to focus on in this moment. You see, since its founding in 1795, the Lewiston people have built a foundation on remarkable resilience, steadfast selflessness and unwavering compassion for each other in the face of heartbreak. It is these traits that have allowed us to grieve, to process and to navigate this recent tragedy together. And our courageous first responders, many of whom are here with us today, have embodied that spirit with both strength and fortitude. In a moment of crisis, they rush toward danger when many of us would have run from it, risking their own lives to answer the call, responding swiftly to save the lives of many, many others. They sacrifice their own safety to protect our community, aiding those who needed immediate help and support. On behalf of Lewiston and the entire House of Representatives, I offer them our deepest gratitude. Today and every day, we are grateful for your selflessness, your sense of duty and your heroism. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bar Harbor, Representative Williams.

Representative **WILLIAMS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the parent of a hearing-impaired son, I feel that I should recognize the fact that there were so many deaths of deaf people in the tragedy in Lewiston. And I also wish to recognize, including our interpreters here today, that there has been a great response from the deaf and hearing-impaired community and a great recognition that they do not know, they cannot know what is going on in our country, in our city and in our town unless there are ways to communicate that to them. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Craven.

Representative **CRAVEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. It's with great sorrow and sadness that I stand here today to offer heartfelt condolences to the families in Lewiston and the surrounding area who has lost so much on October 25th. Nineteen lives; we speak of 18 lives often, but we really lost 19 lives and their families are absolutely suffering. We also remember the countless injuries

and hurt that are going to last a lifetime. We're not just speaking here about people who died and the families they left behind, but also the numerous people who were injured and must live their lives managing the damage that was done to them. The outpouring of love, resources, condolences and consoling messages that were sent to our community is amazing and appreciated. We are grateful and it makes a difference, thank you. Our law enforcement, first responders, health care workers, neighbors; our true heroes. Support came from communities all over the State and beyond and they are indeed heroes as well. They showed their professionalism, selflessness, bravery, determination and concern for their community and put their own safety and concerns aside to make sure others were safe. Our community continues to need and want support and I'm asking you not to forget. The question is, could we ever have an America where citizens don't have weapons of war available to them to just shoot one another? I'm not sure we can, and that's a sad commentary. You can make a difference today, everybody in this Chamber, by passing sensible, safe gun legislation that would make a difference. Thank you.

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

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

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 910)

JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC MASS SHOOTING IN LEWISTON ON OCTOBER 25, 2023

WHEREAS, the senseless mass shooting at Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengees Bar & Grille in Lewiston, Maine resulted in the tragic deaths of 18 innocent people; and

WHEREAS, a number of people were injured and in critical condition as a result of the attack; and

WHEREAS, the people of Lewiston and the surrounding communities continue to mourn the deceased and to support the injured, family members, friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the tragic incident marked the 17th mass shooting in the United States in the month of October 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS, it is the deadliest mass shooting in Maine history; and

WHEREAS, residents across the State continue to feel the emotional and psychological toll of the mass shooting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, wish to reaffirm our sympathies to the victims of this terrible tragedy as well as all of their family and friends and all those across the State and Nation who have been affected by this event.

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

READ.

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Cloutier.

Representative **CLOUTIER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Honorable Women and Men of the House, I rise again today to honor the victims and survivors of the Lewiston mass shooting that occurred on October 25, 2023. It genuinely breaks my heart that our community is now

among those traumatized by mass gun violence. Words do not exist to express the pain and anger that we now face. Those who have joined us here today, the survivors and loved ones impacted by this horrific crime, did not ask for their lives to be upended and forever changed, yet this is their new reality and so, together, we grieve with them.

I send my sincerest condolences to all those in this room, in Lewiston, across Maine and across our nation who have been affected by this tragedy and every other senseless tragedy like it. Gun violence should not be part of our normal, everyday human experience. Let us not normalize what has happened in our beloved Lewiston. Let us remember October 25th and vow to do more as a State to address gun violence and keep ourselves, our families, our friends and our neighbors safe. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Abdi.

Representative **ABDI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Often, I'm asked why Lewiston; and I grew up in Lewiston; all that know me, and I often give different answers. Because I love that there's not a lot of traffic. I love that pretty much I know everybody there, every little restaurant, every corner. But I think the tragedy that happened on the 25th of October really sealed my reasoning as to why Lewiston. Because we're resilient, because we show up, even when an unspeakable tragedy such as the one that occurred on the 25th occurs, we don't shy from difficult conversations and, most importantly, we don't hide. So, to that note, I say thank you to every citizen and every resident that lives in Lewiston, and my deep sincere condolence goes to the families that were directly impacted and continue to be impacted by this tragedy. Thank you to our first responders and thank you to everyone who showed up for Lewiston. This will not define us, I firmly believe. Lewiston will continue to shine, despite what is said about it, and continue to show up for its residents. I ask all of you, when you think of Lewiston, to not only think of this tragedy but also to think of the following days where we all showed up for one another. I wish you all could have seen, if you weren't there, the support, the love that Lewiston has for itself and all that were impacted. Again, my condolence to the family and my deep, deep gratitude to the first responders that ran to danger, that did the best that they could for our city. Thank you.

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

Representative **CARLOW:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we are gathered here today under the specter of an unspeakable crime. Under the great weight of the tragedy that befell our beloved Lewiston, we grapple with an anguish which defies articulation. And it is with a heavy heart and a somber spirit that the House today pays tribute to the victims of this senseless act of violence. Eighteen innocent people were stolen from their families and friends, leaving an abyss filled with unfulfilled hopes and dreams, irradiated by the hearts and souls of the deceased, whispering an eternal message of hope and comforting all those who knew them and loved them best. To the families of all the victims, I offer my deepest sympathy and condolence. I pray they find solace in all the cherished memories, in every laugh, smile and embrace, and in all the good times they shared with them. I pray that they are remembered not just for how they were taken from us, but also for the lives of love and service they each led.

On October the 25th, the soul of our State was assaulted and, while the echoes of darkness still linger within us, let us today dispel them in a resounding chorus of resilience, unity and hope. Because while there was violence, savagery and chaos that day, there was also heroism, a testament to the indomitability of the Maine spirit. In the face of disaster, ordinary men and women emerged as extraordinary heroes. When Maine was engulfed by malevolent winds, when our identity as Maine people seemed as though it had been shattered, it was the courage of mothers and fathers who shielded their children from the onslaught. It was the sacrifice of John Walker and Michael Deslauriers who were killed then they charged the shooter and saved countless lives in the process. It was the bravery of first responders who hunted down this villain and the health care providers who gave expert care to all the victims. At our darkest hour, it was these heroes who emitted a beacon of hope to the world that Maine's light and vivacity shall never be extinguished.

I again convey my deepest condolences to all of the families and I wish them all peace and comfort during this tragic time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: In honor of Ron G. Morin, Peyton Brewer-Ross, Joshua A. Seal, Bryan M. MacFarlane, Joseph Lawrence Walker, Arthur Fred Strout, Maxx A. Hathaway, Stephen M. Vozzella, Thomas Ryan Conrad, Michael R. Deslauriers, Jason Adam Walker, Tricia C. Asselin, William A. Young, Aaron Young, Robert E. Violette, Lucille M. Violette, William Frank Brackett, Keith D. Macneir.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Conduct an Inventory of Existing Forensic Examination Kits in the Possession of Law Enforcement" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1353) (L.D. 2129)

Sponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland. Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DOUDERA of Camden, GATTINE of Westbrook, MORIARTY of Cumberland, OSHER of Orono, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: VITELLI of Sagadahoc. Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Unauthorized Paramilitary Training"

(H.P. 1354) (L.D. 2130)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono. Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DILL of Old Town, GEIGER of Rockland, MOONEN of Portland, Senators: TIPPING of Penobscot, VITELLI of Sagadahoc. Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Preschools" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1344) (L.D. 2120)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook. Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: MILLETT of Waterford, MURPHY of Scarborough, SAMPSON of Alfred, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, STEWART of Aroostook.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities"

(H.P. 1355) (L.D. 2131)

Sponsored by Representative WORTH of Ellsworth. Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland. Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Number of Commissioners on the Public Utilities Commission"

(H.P. 1351) (L.D. 2127)

Sponsored by Representative ZEIGLER of Montville. Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Right to Appeal Certain Public Utilities Commission Decisions"

(H.P. 1356) (L.D. 2132)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough. Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Responsibility for Activities Intended to Increase the Use of Refillable and Reusable Beverage Containers"

(H.P. 1358) (L.D. 2134)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DOUDERA of Camden, Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Resolve, to Investigate and Address Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services Issues (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1359) (L.D. 2135)

Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CYRWAY of Albion, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MORIARTY of Cumberland, OSHER of Orono.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias"

(H.P. 1349) (L.D. 2125)

Sponsored by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, HASENFUS of Readfield, MOONEN of Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act Regarding Nonemergency Transportation for MaineCare Members" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1352) (L.D. 2128)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Representative: WHITE of Waterville.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Add Schedule V Substances to the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program"

(H.P. 1363) (L.D. 2139)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Cost of Copies of Medical Records"

(H.P. 1375) (L.D. 2151)

Sponsored by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, DOUDERA of Camden, GATTINE of Westbrook, HASENFUS of Readfield, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Clarify MaineCare Copayments"

(H.P. 1377) (L.D. 2153)

Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Make Corrections and Updates to the Laws Affecting Children and Families"

(H.P. 1378) (L.D. 2154)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create Parity in the Licensing of Emergency Medical Services Professionals and Other Health Care Professionals Who Enter Private Residences"

(H.P. 1346) (L.D. 2122)

Sponsored by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.
Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons"

(H.P. 1347) (L.D. 2123)

Sponsored by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.
Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act Relating to Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses"

(H.P. 1350) (L.D. 2126)

Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Join the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact"

(H.P. 1361) (L.D. 2137)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Enact the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact"

(H.P. 1364) (L.D. 2140)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, DOUDERA of Camden, KUHN of Falmouth, MURPHY of Scarborough, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Provision of Emergency Medical Treatment for Certain Dogs"

(H.P. 1380) (L.D. 2156)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.
Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, KUHN of Falmouth, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senator: BAILEY of York.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State"

(H.P. 1365) (L.D. 2141)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DILL of Old Town, DOUDERA of Camden, MORIARTY of Cumberland, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, NANGLE of Cumberland.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1357) (L.D. 2133)

Sponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CYRWAY of Albion, DILL of Old Town, OSHER of Orono, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SMITH of Palermo, Senator: VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1343) (L.D. 2119)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, GEIGER of Rockland, HASENFUS of Readfield, OSHER of Orono, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Correct Outdated References in and Relating to the Maine Human Rights Act"

(H.P. 1366) (L.D. 2142)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.
Submitted by the Maine Human Rights Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Seasonal Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Seasonal Volunteer Ski Ambassadors and Hosts at Ski Areas from the Minimum Wage Laws"

(H.P. 1373) (L.D. 2149)

Sponsored by Representative LANDRY of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals"

(H.P. 1360) (L.D. 2136)

Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested.

On motion of Representative MALON of Biddeford, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters

(H.P. 1362) (L.D. 2138)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: RANA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WHITE of Waterville.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested.

On motion of Representative MALON of Biddeford, the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Chronic Understaffing of State Government Positions" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1345) (L.D. 2121)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, TERRY of Gorham, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Resolve, to Add Members to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission and Set the Compensation Rate for Commission Members (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1369) (L.D. 2145)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, HEPLER of Woolwich, STOVER of Boothbay, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senators: BAILEY of York, PIERCE of Cumberland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters"

(H.P. 1370) (L.D. 2146)

Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training"

(H.P. 1374) (L.D. 2150)

Sponsored by Representative ANDREWS of Paris.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Allow Equitable Compensation of Certain Board Members"

(H.P. 1376) (L.D. 2152)

Sponsored by Representative DHALAC of South Portland.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Dedicate the Revenue from the Sales Tax on Electricity to Low-income Ratepayer Assistance"

(H.P. 1367) (L.D. 2143)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit"

(H.P. 1368) (L.D. 2144)

Sponsored by Representative RUSSELL of Verona Island.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, GEIGER of Rockland, LANDRY of Farmington, OSHER of Orono.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of an Off-track Betting Facility to Receive Funding If the Facility Is Sold or Relocates"

(H.P. 1348) (L.D. 2124)

Sponsored by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Remove the Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products to Be Stamped or Embossed on Each Serving with a Universal Symbol" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1371) (L.D. 2147)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MORRIS of Turner, SUPICA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Establish Common Carrier Reporting for the Direct Shipment of Wine"

(H.P. 1372) (L.D. 2148)

Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act to Clarify Licensing Criteria and Criminal History Record Check and Notification Requirements for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments"

(H.P. 1379) (L.D. 2155)

Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1329)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

December 11, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

131st Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

131st Legislature

Dear Madam Speaker and Mr. President:

On December 11, 2023, 27 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on December 11, 2023, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond (H.P. 1323) (L.D. 2061) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data" (H.P. 1325) (L.D. 2063) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Resolve, to Review Traffic Fatalities Occurring While an Operator Was Under the Influence and Subsequent Prosecution with Respect to Those Occurrences (H.P. 1303) (L.D. 2041) (Sponsored by Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Establish Training and Certification Standards for Probation and Parole Officers" (H.P. 1307) (L.D. 2045) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Continue Allowing the Department of Corrections to Accept Placement of Certain Defendants Found Incompetent to Stand Trial" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1308) (L.D. 2046) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Duties of Bail Commissioners" (H.P. 1313) (L.D. 2051) (Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Representative: HENDERSON of Rumford) (Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code" (H.P. 1315) (L.D. 2053) (Sponsored by Representative SHAW of Auburn) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Exclude Certain Operating Under the Influence Crimes from the Immunity Provisions That Are Triggered When Law Enforcement Is Called for a Suspected Overdose" (H.P. 1316) (L.D. 2054) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield) (Cosponsored by Representative: CRAFTS of Newcastle) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing Education in the Unorganized Territory" (H.P. 1304) (L.D. 2042) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Update Air Quality Health Warnings" (H.P. 1306) (L.D. 2044) (Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act Regarding Compliance with Environmental Permit and License Application Requirements" (H.P. 1320) (L.D. 2058) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act Regarding Processing of Applications Under the Natural Resources Protection Act to Ensure Consistency with Shoreland Zoning Laws" (H.P. 1321) (L.D. 2059) (Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Liability Under the Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Site Law and to Waive a Fee Regarding Voluntary Response Action Plans" (H.P. 1328) (L.D. 2066) (Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Expand Accreditation Options for Laboratories That Conduct Blood-alcohol or Drug Testing" (H.P. 1312) (L.D. 2050) (Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot) (Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Implementing Electronic Visit Verification for Hospice Providers Within the MaineCare Program Unless Mandated by the Federal Government" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1317) (L.D. 2055) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, FAY of Raymond, GATTINE of Westbrook, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, HASENFUS of Readfield, Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Restore the Board of Dental Practice's Authority to Issue Letters of Guidance" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1302) (L.D. 2040) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Add the State of Maine to the Compact for Licensing Physician Assistants" (H.P. 1305) (L.D. 2043) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, DODGE of Belfast, MORRIS of Turner, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, STEWART of Aroostook, VITELLI of Sagadahoc) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Require the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy to Obtain Fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Applicants for Licensure" (H.P. 1319) (L.D. 2057) (Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses" (H.P. 1314) (L.D. 2052) (Sponsored by Representative LANDRY of Farmington) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Bill "An Act to Amend Licensing Requirements for Landscape Architects" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1322) (L.D. 2060) (Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Real Estate Appraisers and Appraisal Management Companies" (H.P. 1324) (L.D. 2062) (Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Advisory Councils and Boards Related to the Department of Marine Resources" (H.P. 1326) (L.D. 2064) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Aquaculture Leasing Laws" (H.P. 1327) (L.D. 2065) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Increase the Expenditure Limit for Informal Bidding Processes and Update References to the Office of Procurement Services" (H.P. 1309) (L.D. 2047) (Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay) (Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Amend the Content of Notices Provided with Respect to Tax Liens on Certain Property" (H.P. 1310) (L.D. 2048) (Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Bangor) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Increase Safety for Child Welfare Services Workers" (H.P. 1311) (L.D. 2049) (Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay) (Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Resolve, Designating Route 127 in Arrowsic the Private Merwin A. Delano, Jr. Memorial Highway (H.P. 1318) (L.D. 2056) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1331)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

December 14, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

131st Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

131st Legislature

Dear Madam Speaker and Mr. President:

On December 14, 2023, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on December 14, 2023, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1330) (L.D. 2067) (Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1341)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

December 20, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

131st Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

131st Legislature

Dear Madam Speaker and Mr. President:

On December 20, 2023, 9 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on December 20, 2023, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas" (H.P. 1336) (L.D. 2077) (Sponsored by Representative ZEIGLER of Montville) (Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Increase Participation by the Department of Health and Human Services Regarding Federal Benefits for Which Children in the Custody of the Department Are Eligible" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1337) (L.D. 2078) (Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representative: SUPICA of Bangor) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Amend the Application of the Law Requiring Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Cover Towing and Storage Charges for Certain Vehicles" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1332) (L.D. 2073) (Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Property and Casualty Insurance Companies from Denying Policyholders in the State Insurance on Their Residences in the State Because of a Loss Sustained to a Home in Another State" (H.P. 1333) (L.D. 2074) (Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Bill "An Act to Protect Health Care Workers from HIV" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1334) (L.D. 2075) (Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Amend a Notice Provision Regarding Registration of Out-of-state Child Custody Determinations Under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act" (H.P. 1340) (L.D. 2081) (Submitted by the Family Law Advisory Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 354, subsection 2.)

Labor and Housing

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Rights" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1338) (L.D. 2079) (Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representative: SUPICA of Bangor) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Exempt from Excise Tax Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Stationed Out-of-state" (H.P. 1335) (L.D. 2076) (Sponsored by Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Create a Universal Exclusion List for All Forms of Gambling in the State" (H.P. 1339) (L.D. 2080) (Sponsored by Representative MALON of Biddeford) (Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 235)

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

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Robert Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 915, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services, effective the date of this letter.

Senator Jill Duson

Senator Joe Baldacci

Senator Marianne Moore

Rob Moran

Allina Diaz

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

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 236)

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

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Robert Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 976, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Senator Henry Ingwersen to the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients, effective the date of this letter.

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

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 237)

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

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Robert Hunt

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1029, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint David Greenham to the Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States, effective the date of this letter.

Mr. Greenham will be serving as one member representing a statewide organization that promotes arts and culture in the State.

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

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 238)

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

August 17, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1722, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities:

Senator Peggy Rotundo
Senator Rick Bennett
Alexandra Carter
Elsie Flemings
Barbara Crowley
Yvonne Jonk

These appointments are effective the date of this letter. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 239)

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

August 29, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1200, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Senator Nangle to the Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families. Senator Nangle will be serving as one Senator serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. This appointment is effective October 25, 2023.

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

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 240)

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

September 6, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under LD 937, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine:

Senator Donna Bailey
Senator Chip Curry
Tim Terranova
Sally Weiss
Sally Sutton
David Ngandu

These appointments are effective the date of this confirmation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 241)

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

September 7, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve, Chapter 98, I have appointed the following to the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services:

Representative Margaret Craven of Lewiston as House Chair
Representative Daniel Shagoury of Hallowell
Representative Kathy Javner of Chester
Mr. Carl Toney of Scarborough
Ms. Nancy Cronin of Augusta

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 242)

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

September 7, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve, Chapter 92, I have appointed the following to the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System: Representative Kelly Murphy of Scarborough as House Chair Representative David Woodsome of North Waterboro Ms. Julie Kenny of Bath Mr. James Ford of Brunswick Mr. Garrett Stewart of Portland Dr. Terri Cooper of Kennebunk

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 243)

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

September 11, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 3, MRSA, §227, I am pleased to appoint Senator Rick Bennett and Senator Mike Tipping to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, representing two members of the Senate. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 244)

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

September 12, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Public Law Chapter 477, I have appointed the following to *The Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education*: Honorable Travis Hasenfus of Readfield as House Chair Honorable Amanda Collamore of Pittsfield Mr. Joe Whitmore of Millinocket Ms. Jordyn Rossignol of Caribou Ms. Carla Kelly of Alfred

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 245)

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

September 15, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 93, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State*, effective immediately: Speaker of the House Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland as House Chair Honorable Suzanne Salisbury of Westbrook Honorable Scott Cyrway of Albion Honorable Mark Blier of Buxton Ms. Carrie Kipfer of Wiscasset Mr. Michael Senecal of Farmington

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 246)

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

September 15, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 100, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improve the Health of Maine Communities*, effective immediately:

Honorable Anne Graham of North Yarmouth as House Chair

Honorable John Ducharme of Madison

Ms. Rebecca Boulos of Augusta

Honorable Linda Sanborn of Gorham

Mr. Keith Bisson of Brunswick

Ms. Liz Blackwell-Moore of Portland

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 248)

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

September 18, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1283, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System:

Senator Joe Rafferty

Senator Jim Libby

Rob Callahan

David Keaton

Tom Danilyk

These appointments are effective the date of this confirmation. An additional appointment of a member of a skilled trades union or representative of a skilled trades business or industry will be forthcoming. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 247)

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

September 15, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 93, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine*, effective immediately:

Honorable Kristi Mathieson of Kittery as House Chair

Honorable Samuel Zager of Portland

Dr. Rekha Goswami of Augusta

Dr. Bruno Salazar-Perea of Auburn

Honorable Richard Evans of Dover-Foxcroft

Ms. Mufala Chitam of Portland

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 249)

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

September 20, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1264, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education:

Senator Teresa Pierce

Senator Jim Libby

Amy Johnson, PhD

Jeff Godin

Victoria Kornfield

Mara Tieken, PhD

These appointments effective October 25, 2023. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 250)

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

September 22, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, Part 4, Chapter 163
2001 through 2006, I have reappointed Sarah Haggerty of
Falmouth to the Maine Library of Geographic Information
Board, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions regarding this reappointment,
please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 251)

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

September 21, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A,
§25002, I am pleased to appoint Jason Shedlock to the
Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous
and Tribal Populations, effective the date of this letter. He will
serve as a representative of organized labor with expertise in
labor rights and working conditions, effective the date of this
letter.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to
contact me.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 252)

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

September 26, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1701, finally passed in the
131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to
the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical
Services in the State:

Senator Chip Curry
Senator Brad Farrin
Scott Dow
Joseph Kellner

Kevin Howell

These appointments are effective the date of this confirmation.
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to
contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 253)

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

September 25, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1795, finally passed in the
131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals
to the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on
Patients:

Senator Donna Bailey
Kate Ende
Kristine Ossenfort
Maureen Hensley-Quinn

These appointments are effective October 25, 2023. Should
you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact
me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 254)

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

September 26, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1701, finally passed in the
131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to
the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical
Services in the State:

Senator Chip Curry
Senator Brad Farrin
Scott Dow
Joseph Kellner
Kevin Howell

These appointments are effective the date of this confirmation.
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to
contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 255)

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

September 27, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 371-A, §7030, I have re-appointed the following individuals to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women:

Jill Barkley, seat 9
Jennifer Willey, seat 11
Darylen Cote, seat 12

Additionally, I have appointed Kieta Whitten, seat 10. This is her first term.

These appointments are effective the date of this confirmation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 256)

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

September 27, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1597, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission:

Senate President Troy Jackson
Senator Brad Farrin
Don Page
David Donovan
Jan McColm

These appointments are effective October 25, 2023. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 257)

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

September 29, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1701, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed Robert Chase to the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in

the State. With this appointment, he will be serving as one member who is employed or a volunteer in the field of emergency medical services representing a community of 10,000 residents or more, effective the date of this confirmation.

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

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 258)

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

September 29, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1799, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to The Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education:

Senator Eloise Vitelli
Senator Jim Libby
Christine Frost Bertinet
Melissa Harding
Chrissie Davis
Sue Powers

These appointments are effective October 25, 2023. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 259)

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

September 29, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1283, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed Bobby Burr to the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System. He will be serving as one member of a skilled trades union or representative of a skilled trades business or industry, effective the date of this communication.

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

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 260)

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

September 29, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 52-C, I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the Cannabis Advisory Commission, effective the date of this letter:

John Risler

Arleigh Krauss

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

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 261)

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

October 2, 2023

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 93, I am pleased to appoint Dr. Imad Durra of Cumberland to the *Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 262)

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

October 2, 2023

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 99, I am pleased to appoint Beth-Anne Damon of Otisfield to the *Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 265)

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

October 5, 2023

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 93, I am pleased to appoint Dr. James W. Jarvis of Bangor to the *Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 266)

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

October 10, 2023

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 103, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Criminal Records Review Committee*, effective immediately:

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland, as House Chair

Hannah Longley of Hallowell

Michael Kebede of Portland

Amanda Comeau of Portland

Jill Ward of Portland

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 267)

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

October 10, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 102, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately:

Honorable Rebecca Millett of Cape Elizabeth, as House Chair
Honorable Holly Sargent of York
Honorable Heidi Sampson of Alfred

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 268)

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

October 13, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 103, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Criminal Records Review Committee*, effective immediately:
Honorable David Boyer of Poland
Melissa Martin of Augusta
Pedro Vazquez of Portland

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 269)

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

October 16, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1283, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed Anthony Sirois to the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and

Technical Education System. He will be serving as one member of a skilled trades union or representative of a skilled trades business or industry, effective the date of this communication.

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

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 270)

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

October 16, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Chapter 631, §25002, I am pleased to reappoint the following to the *Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations*, effective immediately:
Bruce King of Brunswick
Amanda Comeau of Portland

Should you have any questions regarding these reappointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 271)

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

October 17, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1622, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed the following individuals to the Criminal Records Review Committee:

Senator Donna Bailey
Senator Eric Brakey
Anna Welch
Jason Parent
Andrea Mancuso
Courtney Gary-Allen
Joseph Jackson
Dan MacLeod

These appointments are effective October 25, 2023. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 272)

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

October 17, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 100, I am pleased to appoint Barbara Leonard of Winslow to the *Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improve the Health of Maine Communities*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 273)

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

October 17, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 103, I am pleased to appoint Tim Moore of Portland to the *Criminal Records Review Committee*, October 25, 2023.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 274)

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

October 18, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Title 1, MRSA, Ch. 13, Subchapter 1, §411.2-K, I am pleased to appoint Tim Moore of Portland to the *Right to Know Advisory Committee*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 275)

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

October 19, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 99, I am pleased to appoint Michael Hildreth of Indian Island to the *Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 276)

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

October 24, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I appoint Representative Lydia Crafts of Newcastle as House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, replacing Representative Lynne Williams of Bar Harbor, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 277)

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

October 24, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I rescind the appointment of Representative Lynne Williams of Bar Harbor from the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, effective immediately.

Furthermore, pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I appoint Representative Lynne Williams of Bar Harbor to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 278)

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

October 24, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I rescind the appointment of Representative Walter Riseman of Harrison from the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 279)

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

October 25, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolves, Chapter 95, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission*, effective immediately:

Hon. Ronald Russell of Verona Island as House Chair

Hon. Mark Babin of Fort Fairfield

Dana Michaud of Mapleton

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 280)

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

October 30, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 3, MRSA, Ch. 10, §227, I am pleased to reappoint the Honorable John Martin of Eagle Lake to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 281)

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

October 31, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 97, I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Colleen Madigan of Waterville to the *Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 282)

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

November 1, 2023

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under LD 937, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed myself to the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine, replacing Senator Chip Curry of Waldo County effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 283)

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

November 1, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 410, I am pleased to appoint Representative Poppy Arford of Brunswick to the *Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 284)

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

November 1, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolves, Chapter 95, I am pleased to appoint Jim Gehring of Bridgewater to the *Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 285)

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

November 2, 2023

The Honorable Robert Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1622, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I have appointed Foster Bates to the Criminal Records Review Committee effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 286)

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

November 2, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 477, I am pleased to appoint Heather Manchester of Norway to the *Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 287)

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

November 3, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve, Chapter 107, I am pleased to appoint Indya Smith of Presque Isle to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 288)

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

November 3, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolves, Chapter 95, I am pleased to appoint Karen St. Peter of Caribou to the *Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 289)

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

November 3, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve, Chapter 107, I am pleased to appoint Jim McClymer of Glenburn to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 290)

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

November 7, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I have appointed Representative John "Jack" E. Ducharme III of Madison as the Republican Lead on the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs replacing Republican Lead Representative Sawin H. Millett Jr. of Waterford, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 293)

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

November 7, 2023
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1029, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Marcia Minter to the Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States, effective the date of this letter. She will be serving as a representative of a statewide organization that promotes arts and culture in the State. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 296)

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

November 13, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I appoint Representative Holly Eaton of Deer Isle to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, effective immediately. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 297)

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

November 13, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I rescind the appointment of Representative Rebecca Millett of Cape Elizabeth from the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, effective immediately. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 298)

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

November 13, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am appointing Representative David Sinclair of Bath to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 299)

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

November 15, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am temporarily appointing Representative Daniel Shagoury of Hallowell to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, effective immediately. Rep. Shagoury will fill in for Representative Mana Abdi of Lewiston during her absence. This appointment will expire at the end of the day on November 16, 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 300)

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

November 14, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve, Chapter 97, I have appointed Sitara N. Sheikh of Farmingdale to the *Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients*, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 301)

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

November 15, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 410, I am pleased to appoint Jeff Austin of Augusta to the *Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 302)

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

November 15, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolves Chapter 126, I am pleased to appoint Julie Gray of Castine to the *Maine Semiquincentennial Commission*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 303)

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

November 16, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to reappoint Rachel Talbot Ross to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective the date of this letter. She will serve as a representative of a statewide organization promoting civil rights that has racial justice or racial equity as its primary mission.

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

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 304)

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

November 16, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to reappoint James Myall to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective the date of this letter. He will serve as a representative of an economic policy organization or other data-focused organization. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 305)

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

November 16, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to reappoint Marcelle Medford to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective the date of this letter. She will be serving as a faculty member of a college or university in this State specializing in the history, the culture or the civil and human rights of historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 306)

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

November 16, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to reappoint Deb Ibonwa to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective the date of this letter. She will be serving as a representative of an organization with expertise in legal and policy matters related to public benefit programs that assists individuals with low incomes. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 307)

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

November 16, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to reappoint Jason Shedlock to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective the date of this letter. He will serve as a representative of organized labor with expertise in labor rights and working conditions. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 309)

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

November 16, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 3, MRSA, Ch. 10, §227, I am pleased to appoint the following House members to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, effective immediately:

Honorable Raegan LaRochelle of Augusta

Honorable Mark John Blier of Buxton

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 310)

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

November 16, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 410, I am pleased to appoint Jess Maurer of Brunswick to the *Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 311)

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

November 17, 2023

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 3, MRSA, Ch. 10, §227, I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Daniel Sayre of Kennebunk to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 312)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

November 20, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolves Chapter 126, I am pleased to appoint Robin Talbot to the *Maine Semiquincentennial Commission*, effective immediately. If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 313)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

November 20, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolves Chapter 94, I have appointed Representative Daniel Ankeles of Brunswick to the *Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 314)
SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 27, 2023
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under LD 1029, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Abbe Levin to the Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States, effective the date of this letter. She will be serving as a representative of a statewide organization to promote tourism in the State.

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

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 315)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

November 29, 2023
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am temporarily appointing myself, Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, effective immediately. This appointment will expire at the end of the day on November 29, 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 316)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

November 28, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 410, I am pleased to appoint Mark Souders of Waterville to the *Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 317)

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

November 30, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolves, Chapter 102, I am pleased to appoint Michael Cato of Brunswick to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 318)

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

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve, Chapter 102, I am pleased to appoint David Sorich of Blue Hill to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 319)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

34 Total Number of Bills and Papers
9 Unanimous Reports
4 Ought Not To Pass
4 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred to Another Committee
2 Divided Reports
23 Carried Over

Sincerely,
S/Margaret Rotundo
Senate Chair
S/Melanie Sachs
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 320)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC
SAFETY**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

124 Total Number of Bills and Papers
45 Unanimous Reports
17 Ought Not To Pass
1 Ought To Pass
25 Ought To Pass As Amended
2 Referred to Another Committee
57 Divided Reports
3 Leave to Withdraw
16 Carried Over
2 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Pinny Beebe-Center

Senate Chair
S/Suzanne M. Salisbury
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 321)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 195 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 83 Unanimous Reports
 - 48 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 33 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 80 Divided Reports
 - 2 Leave to Withdraw
 - 12 Carried Over
 - 17 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Joseph Rafferty

Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 322)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 106 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 42 Unanimous Reports
 - 16 Ought Not To Pass
 - 4 Ought To Pass
 - 21 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 1 Referred to Another Committee
 - 38 Divided Reports
 - 1 Leave to Withdraw
 - 19 Carried Over
 - 5 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Lawrence

Senate Chair

S/Stanley Paige Zeigler, Jr.

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 323)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 84 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 47 Unanimous Reports
 - 25 Ought Not To Pass
 - 6 Ought To Pass
 - 16 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 18 Divided Reports
 - 5 Leave to Withdraw
 - 11 Carried Over
 - 1 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Stacy Fielding Brenner

Senate Chair

S/Lori K. Gramlich

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 324)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 256 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 166 Unanimous Reports
 - 67 Ought Not To Pass
 - 19 Ought To Pass
 - 76 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 4 Referred to Another Committee
 - 41 Divided Reports
 - 16 Leave to Withdraw
 - 33 Carried Over

Sincerely,
S/Joseph M. Baldacci
Senate Chair
S/Michele Meyer
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,
S/Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senate Chair
S/Tiffany Roberts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 325)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 71 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 45 Unanimous Reports
 - 23 Ought Not To Pass
 - 3 Ought To Pass
 - 18 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 1 Referred To Another Committee
 - 16 Divided Reports
 - 8 Carried Over
 - 2 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/David LaFountain

Senate Chair

S/H. Scott Landry, Jr.

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 327)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 203 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 52 Unanimous Reports
 - 33 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 15 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 2 Referred to Another Committee
 - 101 Divided Reports
 - 4 Leave to Withdraw
 - 26 Carried Over
 - 19 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Anne M. Carney

Senate Chair

S/Matthew W. Moonen

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 326)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 92 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 38 Unanimous Reports
 - 15 Ought Not To Pass
 - 4 Ought To Pass
 - 19 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 14 Divided Reports
 - 17 Carried Over
 - 23 Gubernatorial Nominations

The Following Communication: (H.C. 328)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 129 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 41 Unanimous Reports
 - 19 Ought Not To Pass
 - 7 Ought To Pass
 - 13 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 2 Referred to Another Committee
 - 51 Divided Reports
 - 3 Leave To Withdraw
 - 17 Carried Over

17 Gubernatorial Nominations
Sincerely,
S/Michael Tipping
Senate Chair
S/Amy J. Roeder
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

38 Carried Over
2 Gubernatorial Nominations
Sincerely,
S/Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair
S/Joseph C. Perry, Sr.
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 329)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:
116 Total Number of Bills and Papers
50 Unanimous Reports
23 Ought Not To Pass
8 Ought To Pass
18 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred to Another Committee
43 Divided Reports
1 Leave to Withdraw
16 Carried Over
6 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Tim Nangle
Senate Chair
S/Holly B. Stover
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 331)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:
145 Total Number of Bills and Papers
60 Unanimous Reports
27 Ought Not To Pass
3 Ought To Pass
30 Ought To Pass As Amended
49 Divided Reports
7 Leave to Withdraw
24 Carried Over
2 Gubernatorial Nominations

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 330)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:
149 Total Number of Bills and Papers
63 Unanimous Reports
45 Ought Not To Pass
2 Ought To Pass
15 Ought To Pass As Amended
1 Referred to Another Committee
44 Divided Reports
1 Leave to Withdraw

The Following Communication: (H.C. 332)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Select Committee on Housing during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:
58 Total Number of Bills and Papers
22 Unanimous Reports
12 Ought Not To Pass
1 Ought To Pass
9 Ought To Pass As Amended
8 Divided Reports
6 Leave to Withdraw
22 Carried Over

Sincerely,
S/Teresa Pierce
Senate Chair
S/Traci Gere
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 333)
**SENATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 11, 2023
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under LD 1029, finally passed in the 131st Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Marcia Minter to the Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States, effective the date of this letter. She will be serving as a representative of a statewide organization that promotes arts and culture in the State. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 334)
**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 13, 2023
The Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have rescinded my temporarily appointment of Representative Colleen Madigan of Waterville to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and I am reappointing Representative Michel Lajoie of Lewiston, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 335)
**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 88 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 54 Unanimous Reports
 - 20 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 31 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 1 Referred to Another Committee
 - 11 Divided Reports
 - 13 Carried Over
 - 9 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair
S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 336)
**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

August 15, 2023
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 136 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 69 Unanimous Reports
 - 34 Ought Not To Pass
 - 4 Ought To Pass
 - 31 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 39 Divided Reports
 - 4 Leave to Withdraw
 - 20 Carried Over
 - 4 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Donna Bailey
Senate Chair
S/Anne C. Perry
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,
S/Benjamin M. Chipman
Senate Chair
S/Lynne A. Williams
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 337)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 26 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 14 Unanimous Reports
 - 7 Ought Not To Pass
 - 7 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 2 Divided Reports
 - 3 Leave to Withdraw
 - 5 Carried Over

Sincerely,
S/Cameron Reny
Senate Chair
S/Allison Hepler
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 341)

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

January 2, 2024

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please find enclosed certified copies of the Governor's proclamations and the official tabulation displaying the results from the November 7, 2023 Referendum Election.

A tabulation showing the results with municipal and county totals is posted on the Secretary of State's web site here:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/results/results23.html>

Sincerely,
S/Shenna Bellow
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 263)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
66 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0066**

June 28, 2023

Honorable Members of the Legislative Council for the 131st Legislature;

Honorable Janet T. Mills

Governor of the State of Maine

I am pleased to submit the State Auditor's Fraud Hotline Semiannual Reports for the periods January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022, and July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

A summary of the complaints is attached.

Sincerely,
S/Matthew Dunlap, CIA
State Auditor

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 264)

**MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

September 11, 2023

The Honorable Janet Mills, Governor

The Honorable Troy Jackson, President of the Maine Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives

State House,
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills, President Jackson, and Speaker Talbot Ross:

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the Maine Human Rights Commission ("Commission"), we are pleased to present

The Following Communication: (H.C. 338)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 137 Total Number of Bills and Papers
 - 95 Unanimous Reports
 - 51 Ought Not To Pass
 - 12 Ought To Pass
 - 32 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 19 Divided Reports
 - 6 Leave to Withdraw
 - 14 Carried Over
 - 2 Gubernatorial Nominations

you with our agency's Fiscal Year 2023 ("FY 2023") Annual Report.

After two very long years in which COVID-19 seemed to dominate our collective lives, in FY 2023 the State of Maine and its government began to emerge from pandemic mode. Some operational changes the Commission adopted during the pandemic appear likely to endure (much Commission complaint-filing and pleading now is done electronically, and our agency investigations and mediations are conducted mostly remotely), while some continue to evolve (public hearings and outreach events returning to in-person or hybrid formats), so the new "normal" for Commission matters continues to evolve. With so much change in the air, the Commission continued in FY 2023 to uphold our statutory charge to enforce Maine's anti-discrimination laws. A few highlights are as follows:

- The Commission received 683 new complaints in FY 2023, up from the prior year's 614.
- Of new complaints filed, 57% were based on employment, 21% were based on housing, 16% were based on public accommodations, and 2% were based on education.¹
- Investigators wrote reports after completed investigations in approximately 166 cases during FY 2023.

Commissioners found"

- The Commission closed 654 cases in FY 2023.
- At the end of FY 2023, 789 cases remained pending, a slight increase in pending cases from the prior year.

The Commission continues to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination for all citizens of and visitors to Maine. We hope this report is of assistance, as our agency seeks to work closely with the Executive and Legislative branches as we jointly assure the citizens of Maine the protections afforded by the Maine Human Rights Act.

Sincerely,

S/Jefferson Ashby

Acting Commission Chair

¹The data presented on complaints filed in FY 2023 is believed to include all allegations made under a given jurisdictional basis (housing, employment, etc.), but due to FY 2022-3 changes in the reporting tools available from a federal funder, the Commission's confidence in the reliability of these results is less than total.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 291)
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
33 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0033**

August 29, 2023

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

In accordance with Title 37-B M.R.S. §154, as amended, enclosed please find a copy of the Biennial Report regarding planned expenditures from the Capital Repair, Maintenance, Construction and Acquisition Account within the Military Bureau.

The report outlines the location, nature and total cost of each project or land acquisition for which we plan to spend less than \$500,000 from the account. Please note in some cases the total project cost exceeds \$500,000 due to federal grant matching funds. If the list changes or additional funds become available, we'll update the report. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or Deputy Commissioner Scott Young at scott.a.young@maine.gov or 207-430-5997.

Respectfully,

S/Major General Douglas A. Farnham

Commissioner and Adjutant General

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 292)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

October 5, 2023

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to Section 3.30, MRSA, Section A-5, it is my pleasure to transmit a copy of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Filing of Certification with an accompanying Mi'kmaq Nation Tribal Council's Tribal Resolution number 08-16-2023-04 to you.

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 294)

**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
5 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332-0949**

November 7, 2023

Hon. Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker

Maine House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

I am pleased to present the Maine Educational Loan Program ("Maine Loan") annual report as required pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §11427.

Of note, due to an increase in demand during FY23 over FY22, FAME used multiple funding sources for FY23 Maine Loan originations. The funding sources included remaining 2021 bond proceeds and bond recycling, a Line of Credit, and FAME operational funds. Enclosed with this cover letter are the following:

- Section A: FY23 Financials - Net Positions - Post-June 30, 2023 Revision
- Section B: FY23 Originations - All Funding Sources
- Section C: FY23 Originations - All Funding Sources; Maine Resident Details
 - Geographic distribution by county of Maine residents who participated in the Maine Loan program (all funding sources) in FY23. Please note that the number of borrowers can be less than the number of loans due to some students borrowing more than one loan for the same academic year.
 - Distribution of Maine resident borrowers (all funding sources) based on Maine higher education institution attended.
- Section D: FY23-Q4 Maine Loan bond report which represents the complete operational and financial report of program loans funded with tax exempt bonds for FY23.

Please contact Bill Norbert, Governmental Affairs and Communications Manager, at 620-3540 or via email at wnorbert@famemaine.com or me at 620-3514 or via email at cmello@famemaine.com should you have any questions or if you would like to arrange discussion of the report.

Sincerely,

S/Carlos R. Mello

Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 295)

**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
5 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332-0949**

November 8, 2023

Hon. Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker

Maine House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Finance Authority of Maine's Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report as required by 10 M.R.S.A. §974.

Please let me know if you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

S/Carlos R. Mello

Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 308)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to Public Law 369, Part B, Section B-3, MRSA §6209-A, sub-§6, it is my pleasure to transmit to you Resolution number 10242023 approving L.D. 1620 "An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation and to Provide Parity to the Wabanaki Nations".

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

Enclosure

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE

JOINT TRIBAL COUNCIL

MOTAHKOMIKUK AND SIPAYIK

To Approve L.D. 1620, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation and to Provide Parity to the Wabanaki Nations"

Resolution No. 10.24.2023

WHEREAS, the Passamaquoddy Joint Tribal Council ("JTC") is the governing body of the Passamaquoddy Tribe ("Tribe"); and WHEREAS, the Passamaquoddy Joint Tribal Council is comprised of officials elected to engage in activities to promote the general welfare of the Tribe and its enrolled members; and WHEREAS the Maine Legislature recently approved and the Maine Governor recently signed L.D. 1620, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation and to Provide Parity to the Wabanaki Nations"; and

WHEREAS L.D. 1620 contains language, which would ensure that all the federally recognized Wabanaki Nations, including the Passamaquoddy Tribe exercises the same level of criminal jurisdiction over their citizens and the citizens of other federally recognized Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, provisions of L.D. 1620 related to the Passamaquoddy Tribe will not take effect unless the Secretary of the State of Maine (the "Secretary") receives written certification that the Tribe has agreed to the provisions of L.D. 1620 within 60 days of when the First Special Session of the 131th Maine State Legislature adjourned;

WHEREAS, the JTC has determined that is in the best interest of the Tribe to ensure that L.D. 1620 goes into effect.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Joint Tribal Council hereby approves, ratifies, and accepts An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation and to Provide Parity to the Wabanaki Nations.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Joint Tribal Council authorizes the Chiefs to take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the Tribe L.D. 1620 becomes effective.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 339)

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

January 3, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:
on December 20, 2023

Diane L. Dunn (USA-R) of Rome for appointment as the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

Pursuant to Title 37-B, MRSA §3, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 340)

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

January 3, 2024

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:"

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 1830 An Act to Advance Maine's Clean Energy Goals

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 343)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

January 2, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Clerk Hunt,

The following is a summary of the results of the November 7, 2023 Referendum Election, which were submitted to the Governor on November 27, 2023.

Question 1: Citizen's Initiative

Number of Votes in Favor 260,670

Number of Votes Opposed 137,478

Question 2: Citizen's Initiative

Number of Votes in Favor 348,781

Number of Votes Opposed 55,226

Question 3: Citizen's Initiative

Number of Votes in Favor 122,961

Number of Votes Opposed 283,401

Question 4: Citizen's Initiative

Number of Votes in Favor 341,574

Number of Votes Opposed 63,208

Question 5: Constitutional Amendment

Number of Votes in Favor 227,602

Number of Votes Opposed 166,876

Question 6: Constitutional Amendment

Number of Votes in Favor 289,818

Number of Votes Opposed 107,466

Question 7: Constitutional Amendment

Number of Votes in Favor 122,646

Number of Votes Opposed 269,699

Question 8: Constitutional Amendment

Number of Votes in Favor 184,063

Number of Votes Opposed 211,120

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

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

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 846)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food" (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 886) (L.D. 2093)

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

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

Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers

(S.P. 887) (L.D. 2094)

Bill "An Act to Maintain State Police Rural Patrol Services at 2020 Staffing Levels" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 902) (L.D. 2109)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Schools to Provide Instruction Regarding Prevention of the Illegal Use of Fentanyl and Other Drugs and Drug Poisoning Awareness in Grades 6 to 12 and to Establish Drug Poisoning Awareness Week"

(S.P. 882) (L.D. 2089)

Bill "An Act Regarding Department of Education Reliance on Criminal Background Checks Required by the Department of Health and Human Services"

(S.P. 900) (L.D. 2107)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program"

(S.P. 880) (L.D. 2087)

Bill "An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects"

(S.P. 892) (L.D. 2099)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District"

(S.P. 897) (L.D. 2104)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Businesses' and Consumers' Use of Returnable, Reusable and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages and Nonfood Items"

(S.P. 884) (L.D. 2091)

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Services Providers and Housing Assistance Providers" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 875) (L.D. 2082)

Resolve, to Establish the Stakeholder Group to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 876) (L.D. 2083)

Bill "An Act to Require Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect to Military Family Advocacy Programs"

(S.P. 888) (L.D. 2095)

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Alleviate the Staffing Crisis in the Child Protective Services System (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 890) (L.D. 2097)

Bill "An Act to Require the Reporting of Alpha-gal Syndrome to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 893) (L.D. 2100)

Resolve, to Protect and Enhance Access to Behavioral Health Services in Androscoggin County and Surrounding Communities (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 898) (L.D. 2105)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication for Acute Pain Relief"

(S.P. 889) (L.D. 2096)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Licensing of Payroll Processors"

(S.P. 903) (L.D. 2110)

Bill "An Act to Replace the Money Transmitters Act"

(S.P. 905) (L.D. 2112)

Bill "An Act to Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by a Federal Shutdown" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 906) (L.D. 2113)

Bill "An Act to Improve Patient Access to and Savings from Generic Drugs and Biosimilars"

(S.P. 907) (L.D. 2114)

Bill "An Act Requiring Health Care Providers to Engage in Fair Practices When Selling Medical Debt"

(S.P. 908) (L.D. 2115)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes"

(S.P. 877) (L.D. 2084)

Bill "An Act to Update Maine's Domestic Violence and Stalking Laws" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 878) (L.D. 2085)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms"

(S.P. 879) (L.D. 2086)

Bill "An Act to Modernize and Consolidate Certain Court Facilities"

(S.P. 883) (L.D. 2090)

Bill "An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Abuse and Violence by Amending the Law Regarding Proximity Restrictions in Final Protection from Abuse Orders"

(S.P. 896) (L.D. 2103)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 894) (L.D. 2101)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Support Municipalities by Repealing the Law Limiting the Municipal Property Tax Levy" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 895) (L.D. 2102)

Bill "An Act to Accelerate the Production of Affordable Housing and Strengthen the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit"

(S.P. 899) (L.D. 2106)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Timeline for Property Tax Abatement Based on Hardship or Poverty"

(S.P. 904) (L.D. 2111)

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Multiple Special Designating Plates for Certain Disabled Veterans"

(S.P. 891) (L.D. 2098)

Bill "An Act to Require Flame-retardant Seats on New School Buses"

(S.P. 909) (L.D. 2116)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities"

(S.P. 881) (L.D. 2088)

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Charitable Organization Gaming Laws"

(S.P. 901) (L.D. 2108)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Sports Wagering Licensing"

(S.P. 913) (L.D. 2117)

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair wants to wish a Happy New Year to all of you. It's a pleasure to see each and every one of you. Thank you for today, because as we move forward in this new year, we bring with us every step of the way those that we have lost, those we cherish, all the lives that we honor that are here with us and that will continue to do the service on behalf of the people of Maine.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the House adjourned at 12:23 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2024, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 846) and in honor and lasting tribute to the Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt of South Portland.