

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3rd Legislative Day
Thursday, January 11, 2024

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

Prayer by Reverend Shane Stoops, First United Pentecostal Church, Augusta.

National Anthem by Noam Osher, Zivi Osher and Nathan Manaker, Orono.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Syd Sewall, MD, Hallowell.

The Journal of Tuesday, January 9, 2024 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 351)

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

January 11, 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 Committee on Housing has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Hickman of Kennebec, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 314 An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Housing has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Daughtry of Cumberland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 721 An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Grohoski of Hancock, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1919 An Act to Designate a State Wildlife Sanctuary at Blue Hill Falls

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 352)

**MAINE HEALTH AND HIGHER
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
127 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330**

January 10, 2024

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:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority due by February 1, 2024.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. I can be reached at 622-1958 or by email at Terry@mhhefa.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Terry Hayes

Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 353)

**MAINE GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
127 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330**

January 10, 2024

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:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority due by February 1, 2024.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. I can be reached at 622-9386 or by email at Terry@mgfa.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Terry Hayes

Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 354)
MAINE MUNICIPAL BOND BANK
127 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

January 10, 2024

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:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank due by February 1, 2024. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. I can be reached at 622-9386 or by email at Terry@mmbb.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Terry Hayes
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 355)
STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

January 11, 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 bills out "Ought Not to Pass: "
Energy, Utilities and Technology
L.D. 297 An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits
L.D. 412 An Act to Fully Engage the Efficiency Maine Trust in Mitigating Climate Change by Creating Electrification Programs

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

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

At this point, the Speaker recognized the Representative from Sanford, Representative LANIGAN, and the Representative from Belgrade, Representative NEWMAN, and they were added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act Regarding the Homestead Property Tax Exemption and the Property Value Reassessment Process" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1384) (L.D. 2162)

Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, GOLEK of Harpswell, HEPLER of Woolwich, RIELLY of Westbrook, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

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.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 35)

ORDERED, that Representative Caldwell Jackson of Oxford be excused Jan 3 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Joseph F. Underwood of Presque Isle be excused Jan 3 for health reasons.

READ and **PASSED.**

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Anna Oliver, of Hodgdon, a junior at Hodgdon Middle/High School and a member of the girls basketball team, who recently scored her 1,000th career point. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1291)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative QUINT of Hodgdon, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

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

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 917)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 16, 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.

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

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to address the House on the record.

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

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Climate, Energy and Environmental Caucus invites Members to a lunch-and-learn with the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission in the Legislative Council Chamber immediately following session.

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

On motion of Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, the House adjourned at 11:27 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 16, 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. 917), in honor and lasting tribute to all those who have been honored in the past.