

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
4th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

Prayer by Pastor Nic Benner, Granite Hill Church, Hallowell.

National Anthem by Rochelle Stewart, Madison.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Marco Cornelio, MD, Kennebunk.

The Journal of Thursday, January 11, 2024 was read and approved.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act to Equalize Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy"

(S.P. 885) (L.D. 2092)

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.

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Bill "An Act to Require Electricity Providers to Inform Customers of Alternative Electric Rates and Gather Consent Prior to Contract Renewal"

(S.P. 918) (L.D. 2163)

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.

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Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine-Ireland Trade Commission and Improve Collaboration with Ireland"

(S.P. 919) (L.D. 2164)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** in concurrence.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 356)

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

January 16, 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 Labor and Housing has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Roeder of Bangor, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 2079 An Act to Strengthen Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Rights (EMERGENCY)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 357)

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

January 16, 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 Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 2016 An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group

State and Local Government

L.D. 360 An Act to Amend the Androscoggin County Charter

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 791)

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

January 11, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, Diane L. Dunn of Rome for appointment, as the Adjutant General - Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (S.C. 794)

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

January 11, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please be advised the Senate today Referred the nomination of Thomas Dubois of Salem Township for appointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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At this point, the Speaker recognized the Representative from Cape Elizabeth, Representative MILLETT, and she was added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING  
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1386) (L.D. 2166)

Sponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MURPHY of Scarborough, OSHER of Orono.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council 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.

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Bill "An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans"

(H.P. 1387) (L.D. 2167)

Sponsored by Representative DHALAC of South Portland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, STOVER of Boothbay, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

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.

**Pursuant to Statute**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

Representative GRAMLICH for the **Department of Environmental Protection** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 355: Coastal Sand Dune Rules, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1389) (L.D. 2168)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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**Pursuant to Statute**

**Maine Health Data Organization**

Representative PERRY for the **Maine Health Data Organization** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 270: Uniform Reporting System for Quality Data Sets, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1385) (L.D. 2165)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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

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**ORDERS**

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1388) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, RANA of Bangor, Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook)

**JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

WHEREAS, January 15, 2024 marks the national and state holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating his birth on January 15, 1929; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister who advocated the furtherance of civil and human rights for all Americans through nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, this man of great spirit showed this country a dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, a model of an American patriot, provided the nation with one of the most prophetic and influential voices in our history; and

WHEREAS, for his tireless work to ensure equality and justice, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a high and honorable distinction, in 1964; and

WHEREAS, his eloquence, his perseverance and his faith moved mountains and brought about landmark legal and social changes by appealing to the better instincts and consciences of his fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which ended so tragically on April 4, 1968, is a shining example to Americans and citizens of the world at large of uncompromising dedication to the highest ideals; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Gerald Talbot of Portland submitted legislation in 1975 to create a day commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. prior to the federal legislation creating the holiday; 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 acknowledge the extraordinary life and works of this teacher, reformer and humanitarian, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pause in our deliberations to recognize and commemorate the occasion of his birth.

**READ.**

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise this morning to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who is someone that I admire, that I consider a hero, a hero of this country. I rise because his dream, that all people should be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin, is something that all Americans should strive for. And I think that the Good Doctor is looking down on us from Heaven right now and, sadly, I would say that he's looking down on this country with disappointment in the direction that we have gone, specifically in the last 10 years.

I think we've come a long way since the Civil Rights Movement. I think he would've been proud of the improvements that were made in the decades that followed his death. I was a child of the 80s and 90s. Specifically, in my teen years, in the 90s, I felt like racism was, you know, essentially a thing of the past. I felt like there are always going to be racist people, there are always, you know, going to be those people that exist, but I felt that we had moved to a point where everybody could live out the American Dream. That if you worked hard enough, if you had the motivation, that you could achieve anything you wanted to. And I think we live in a country today where anyone can achieve the American Dream, they can attain any level that they want to and there are no barriers in place. But I think that after the 90s, in this century, and specifically the last decade, this country is sadly moving back, away from those ideals. I think that we need to step up and be more mindful of separating people into groups, of intentionally judging people by the color of their skin rather than the content of their character. I think those are not the ideals that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought to achieve, and I see a prevalence of it coming that is very dangerous for our society. I think it's something that we all need to work harder to improve, to begin to ignore skin color as, you know, Morgan Freeman said, how do we end racism, we don't acknowledge it. He said I'm not a black man, I'm just a man. And I agree with that. I think that most people are good, I think that the bad are a small group, I think they're marginalized by their own words and I think we need to pay more attention to judging people on their merits.

And that's what I wanted to say on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I just want to share a quick memory with you. My dad's birthday is tomorrow, he'll be 86 years old, and I did visit him over the weekend. And he and I talked, as we do every year, about the day in the 1960s; I was probably five or six years old; and we were picking him up at Newark Airport. And I ran up to him and hugged him and he kind of looked around and he said come with me, I think there's someone that you should meet. And we walked over to a group of men clustered together, skinny ties; black men; and they parted and there was Martin Luther King, Jr. And my father said something to him and nice to meet you and he reached down and touched me, and I will never forget that. There emanated from him a power that even at my young age, I could feel.

And as I've aged, especially on the weekend that we honor him, I've tried to learn more about the man and not just the myth that kind of, you know, not just the monuments and the stories that have kind of sprung up around him, but really learn about the man. And it's so incredible to me, someone who was such a revolutionary and so brave and had the strength of his convictions and knew that he was in grave danger as he practiced his nonviolence. And I hope that we all can kind of, on this day and when we think of him, sort of look beyond the holiday, look beyond the statues and really look to the teachings of this very important American figure. Thank you.

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

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**In Memory of:**

Dino Frost, of Pittsfield. Mr. Frost spent 32 years building homes as a carpenter. He then worked at Frost's Mobil Station with his brother for 26 years. Mr. Frost will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of 65 years, Erlene, his family and his friends;

(HLS 734)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

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

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(H.P. 1325) (L.D. 2063) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

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

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

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

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On motion of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, the House adjourned at 10:38 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 18, 2024, in honor and lasting tribute to Dino Frost of Pittsfield.