

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
13th Legislative Day  
Thursday, February 15, 2024

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

Prayer by Bishop Robert Deeley, Diocese of Portland.

National Anthem by Marcia Gallagher, Hallowell.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, February 13, 2024 was read and approved.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 413)

**MAINE CONNECTIVITY AUTHORITY**

February 7, 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 Connectivity Authority due by February 1, 2024.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Andrew Butcher

President

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 414)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**CLERK'S OFFICE**

**2 STATE HOUSE STATION**

**AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

February 15, 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:"

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

L.D. 1996 An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 1217 Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program for Alternative Teacher Certification

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 2122 An Act to Create Parity in the Licensing of Emergency Medical Services Professionals and Other Health Care Professionals Who Enter Private Residences

Judiciary

L.D. 1865 An Act Establishing the Maine Sentencing Guidelines Commission

L.D. 1904 An Act to Enact the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 415)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**SPEAKER'S OFFICE**

**AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

February 15, 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 February 12, 2024

The Honorable Chandler E. Woodcock of Farmington for appointment to the Maine State Harness Racing Commission.

Pursuant to Title 8 M.R.S.A §261-A, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 912)

**MAINE SENATE**

**131ST LEGISLATURE**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 13, 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 nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

- Lee Smith of Albany Township for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor and Housing:

- Tinan Melissa Hue of Portland for appointment as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority,

- Elizabeth Dietz of Veazie for reappointment as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority,
- Frank O'Hara of Hallowell for reappointment as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority,
- Patrick Ende, Esq. of Hallowell for appointment to the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission,
- Paul H. Gendreau of Waterville for appointment to the Workers' Compensation Board,
- Lynne P. Gaudette of Biddeford for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board,
- Serina DeWolfe of Gray for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board.

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

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 913)  
**MAINE SENATE  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 13, 2024  
Honorable Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report from the Committee on Health and Human Services on Bill "An Act Requiring Training Regarding and Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences" (H.P. 874) (L.D. 1360) in non-concurrence.

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

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING  
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Establish a Civil Rights Unit and a Civil Rights Review Panel Within the Office of the Attorney General and Require Ongoing Enhanced Civil Rights Training for Civil Rights Officers"

(H.P. 1417) (L.D. 2210)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: LANDRY of Farmington, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, O'CONNELL of Brewer, SACHS of Freeport, SHEEHAN of Biddeford, Senators: BAILEY of York, CARNEY of Cumberland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Regarding Quality of Care and the Board of Trustees at the Maine Veterans' Homes"

(H.P. 1418) (L.D. 2211)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.  
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, SUPICA of Bangor, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council 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.

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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 Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 40)

**ORDERED**, that Representative Adam R. Lee of Auburn be excused Feb 8 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Grayson B. Lookner of Portland be excused Feb 8 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Kevin J. M. O'Connell of Brewer be excused Feb 8 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Chad Richard Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft be excused Feb 6 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Amy J. Roeder of Bangor be excused Jan 30 and Feb 1 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Daniel Sayre of Kennebunk be excused Feb 6 and 8 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Abden S. Simmons of Waldoboro be excused Feb 6 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Michael Soboleski of Phillips be excused Feb 6 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative J. Mark Worth of Ellsworth be excused Feb 13 for personal reasons.

**READ and PASSED.**

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Remove All Marijuana-related Provisions from the Maine Criminal Code and Expunge All Convictions Involving Marijuana"

(S.P. 714) (L.D. 1789)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox  
HARRINGTON of York  
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook  
ARDELL of Monticello  
LAJOIE of Lewiston  
NEWMAN of Belgrade  
NUTTING of Oakland  
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-520)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield  
LOOKNER of Portland  
MATHIESON of Kittery

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

**READ.**

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

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Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-514)** on Bill "An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling"

(S.P. 665) (L.D. 1660)

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland  
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
DOUDERA of Camden  
HOBBS of Wells  
O'NEIL of Saco

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

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington  
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips  
WOODSOME of Waterboro

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-514)**.

**READ.**

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For those of you don't serve on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, we're in crisis mode to process the municipal solid waste in this State. Tonight, there's a hearing on the operator of Juniper Ridge Landfill and then, hopefully, behind that, comes an application to expand Juniper Ridge Landfill. Juniper Ridge, if expanded through an application process, it could take up to five years. Only, then, will have a life of 10 years, maybe 14.

As we all know, the law states that alternative energy is to be 80% by 2030, 100% by 2050. A large portion of that, well, a small portion of that energy at this point, six percent, is generated by alternative energy. Fifty-eight percent of that six percent is waste-to-energy. PERC right now is down. They aren't burning trash, they aren't creating energy. This bill would take away a good portion of the recycling and it would then add to the volume of landfills. So, we're here trying to do everything we can to get the life of our facilities that process municipal solid waste to take care of the waste, that the crisis isn't too far away. Almost in months, if not in a few years. So, to pass this bill, we're only adding; because it can't be counted as recyclable; we're only adding to landfills. So, I would recommend that we oppose the motion and go on to Ought Not to Pass. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Esteemed Colleagues of the House, I rise today in support of the pending motion. This bill, Madam Speaker, is really quite simple. It does two things. First, the bill ensures that facilities processing plastic waste into fuel or toxic waste are regulated under Maine's solid waste laws. And second, it ensures that these facilities provide financial assurance for cleanup costs when they no longer operate.

Currently, and fortunately, there is no advanced recycling facility here in Maine. In the last few years, though, companies claiming, without any significant evidence, that advanced recycling will help address our plastic waste crisis. They have succeeded in passing laws in 24 states that reclassify advanced recycling facilities as manufacturing, rather than waste facilities. In one example, a company called Brightmark operates a facility in Indiana which they claim recycles plastic waste. But 70% of the output from this facility is plastic dry syngas, which Brightmark burns out onsite. Another 20% of the output is liquid fuel, which Brightmark ships to be burned offsite. The remaining 10% is a powdery residue which Brightmark landfills. It's important to note, Madam Speaker, that in other states, these facilities have received federal and state subsidies but end up being both environmentally and economically failures.

The bottom line is that burning plastics, either directly or indirectly through conversion into a fuel, does not constitute recycling according to Maine, national and international law. The end result of the laws passed in other states, including our neighbor in New Hampshire, is to exempt these facilities from state solid waste management laws and regulations. It allows facilities to evade the public permitting process, siting restrictions, reporting requirements and operating conditions that apply to all other solid waste facilities. LD 1660 will protect Maine from this type of harmful legislation by reinforcing Maine's solid waste hierarchy and accurately reflecting that this process and these facilities are not recycling. If passed, this bill would not prohibit a company from proposing advanced recycling facility in our State. However, it makes clear that if a facility is proposed, that the facility will be regulated like all other waste facilities and therefore, be subject to the requirements we have created to protect Maine residents and our environment from harm due to improper waste management.

Like other solid waste facilities, Madam Speaker, an advanced recycling facility would also have to protect taxpayers from shouldering short- and long-term cleanup costs by proving its financial ability to clean up releases from the facility and pay for the cost of closure and post-closure care and maintenance.

Colleagues in the House, I urge you to continue Maine's tradition of responsible waste management. Our laws and regulations ensure that the wastes we produce and the facilities that management are designed, sited, developed and operated in a way that limits any harm to our communities and our environment. Please vote in favor of the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just wanted to speak about what happened this last fall. I had a call come in from Kennebec Water District stating that they couldn't haul the waste up to Canada and cross the country line because of our PFAS issue. And it was actually the next day, we found out there were 17 other sites that were going to have the same problem as Kennebec Water District, that they only have a certain amount of holding tanks to hold up to four to five days. And then if it overflows, it goes into the rivers. So, it was a serious issue. And then the Chief Executive had actually written a letter as an emergency-type letter, allowing the PFAS level to be changed just temporarily, and that didn't work because then we had 32 other sites; 32 in all from Bangor to Kittery that had the same problem that week. And so, on a Monday; this happened on a Friday; on a Monday, we had 32 sites was going to overflow into our rivers.

And so, we had a very big crisis and that's when we changed to LD 812, I believe, that gave us two years to come up with a solution. This here is just going to interfere with that and it's going to cause more of a crisis. If we can come up with a plan on how we can; I mean, I've come across several different plans, but one would be like a microwave plasma setup which could actually do zero emissions and zero waste, if we got one of those plants set up and be less transport and everything. So, I think there are some answers out there, but we need to look at how we can come up with a solution rather than adding to the problem. And I think that's what Representative Campbell is mentioning, that we are in crisis mode. So, I could not vote for this amendment, I think that we should be Ought Not to Pass and look at some solutions that take care of these people. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we can do better. We can do better with the way we handle plastics. Right now, plastics are handled in a linear fashion, which is to use them; make them, use them and then dispose them. And burying plastic in the ground isn't really a good solution.

There are emerging technologies, advanced recycling, and right now, we should just leave our laws alone rather than trying to look into the future and stop methods which will give us a better way to deal with our plastic problem. This is; I don't see plastic going away, you know, we have plastic all over the place, we're swimming in plastic, and if we continue this process of just putting the plastic in the ground, well, we're going to have to start turning them into ski slopes or something because there's going to be hills of plastic everywhere. There is a new process emerging where we can recycle this and get rid of it in a more environmentally-friendly way. So, I would encourage people to vote for the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report and let's do better with our plastics, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I absolutely agree that we have a plastic problem and that we have to do better about plastics. However, the answer is not burning them. That is not the answer. The answer is in stopping plastics upstream. Things like what we're doing with our extended producer responsibility law and true recycling and starting to limit the amount of plastics that we need and that we use. It's not to burn them into our environment. Please support this motion. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 367**

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lanigan, Lavigne, Libby, Lyman, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Boyle, Brennan, Carmichael, Cluchey, Copeland, Costain, Eaton, Galletta, Haggan, Javner, Lemelin, Mason, O'Connell, Perkins, Quint, Sampson, Walker.

Yes, 76; No, 56; Absent, 18; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 56 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 18 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-514)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-514)** in concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland  
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay  
ABDI of Lewiston  
COPELAND of Saco  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-746)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

**READ.**

Representative STOVER of Boothbay moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, I want to thank the Good Representative from Boothbay for bringing this forward, this Department bill. I want to say that we support all of the changes that were proposed in the summary, which it increased the limit for using informal bidding processes, procurement goods and services from \$10,000 to \$25,000. It replaces the oral proposal with informal written quotes in the provisions. It also replaces the term Bureau of Purchases with Office of Procurement Services and the term State Purchasing Agent with Chief Procurement Officer. All of those things, we support.

However, what we noticed in this bill was a section that was changing the word from "shall" to "must". Basically, we at the State are requiring that our paper products be recycled for purchase. We are excluding all of our Maine forest products industries from even supplying paper; the paper that I'm reading from, the toilet paper that we used in the restroom this morning; because it's not recycled from our Maine forest products, our

Maine folks can't even bid on those contracts. So, the Minority Report is in support of everything that the Good Representative from Boothbay has brought forward, but it does require the recycling content requirement for paper products. I would ask that you vote down the pending motion, review the amendment. It is merely expanding so that we can purchase products from our Maine folks. Maine is known for its forest products and our Maine people should have the opportunity to bid on those contracts. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 368**

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Carlow, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Landry, Lanigan, Lavigne, Libby, Lyman, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perry A, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Boyle, Brennan, Campbell, Carmichael, Cluchey, Copeland, Costain, Eaton, Galletta, Haggan, Javner, Lemelin, Mason, O'Connell, Perkins, Walker.

Yes, 74; No, 59; Absent, 17; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 17 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment" (H.P. 1419) (L.D. 2212)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: FAY of Raymond, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren. Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 247) (L.D. 579) Bill "An Act to Support Farmland Conservation and Transition Planning for Farmers" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-519)**

(H.P. 1389) (L.D. 2168) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 355: Coastal Sand Dune Rules, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1319) (L.D. 2057) 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" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-747)**

(H.P. 1328) (L.D. 2066) Bill "An Act to Clarify Liability Under the Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Site Law and to Waive a Fee Regarding Voluntary Response Action Plans" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-748)**

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

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

**ENACTORS**

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food (S.P. 886) (L.D. 2093) (C. "A" S-516)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Acts**

An Act to Clarify the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Environmental Protection (S.P. 362) (L.D. 865) (C. "A" S-518)

An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act (H.P. 960) (L.D. 1505) (C. "A" H-736)

An Act Regarding Compliance with Environmental Permit and License Application Requirements (H.P. 1320) (L.D. 2058) (C. "A" H-738)

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

**Resolves**

Resolve, to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent (S.P. 759) (L.D. 1886) (C. "A" S-517)

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

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 946) ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 20, 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 Support Veterans' Organizations and Other Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Updating Electronic Gambling Laws" (S.P. 947) (L.D. 2213)

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**.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you Madam Speaker. I request permission to speak 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 **QUINT**: Thank you. Had I been present, I would have voted no for LD 1660.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your hard work of late. I know that while we've had shorter days in session, I know you're doing a lot of work, really good work, in committee. And so, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for that work and hope that you enjoy a very long, happy weekend and are able to celebrate President's Day.

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On motion of Representative SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, the House adjourned at 11:16 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 20, 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. 946).