

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
17th Legislative Day
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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

Prayer by Raymond Vensel, Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Litchfield.

National Anthem by Portland Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Medical Provider of the Day, Kimberly M. Caldwell, MPAS, PA-C, Auburn.

The Journal of Thursday, February 22, 2024 was read and approved.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 425)

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

February 27, 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:"

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 2074 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

L.D. 2123 An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical

Services Persons

Judiciary

L.D. 1550 An Act to Authorize the Expungement of Records of

Nonviolent Crimes

Transportation

L.D. 2116 An Act to Require Flame-retardant Seats on New

School Buses

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 426)

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

February 27, 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 23, 2024

Lee Umphrey of Bangor for reappointment and Carolyn Dorsey of Caribou and Jeffrey M. Pangburn of Bangor for appointment to the Loring Development Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13080-B, this reappointment and appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Jonathan Crasnick of Scarborough for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13083-I, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 939)

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

February 22, 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 Judiciary, Megan Sanders, Esq. of Old Town for appointment to the Maine Human Rights Commission.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Establish the Wabanaki Veterans Memorial" (H.P. 1430) (L.D. 2228)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representative: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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 Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1431) (L.D. 2229)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1429) (Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, RANA of Bangor, Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING

FEBRUARY 2024 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Maine's Black history and the story of Maine's role in the global economy of enslavement have been largely effaced from our narratives and from our collective consciousness; and

WHEREAS, from the earliest arrivals of people from Europe and Africa in the Americas, Africans and African Americans have been part of the story of this land, and researchers have identified over 1,900 people of color who lived in what is now called the State of Maine prior to the year 1800; and

WHEREAS, Africans who were brought involuntarily to these shores suffered generations of enslavement, and their descendants faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation and the denial of basic fundamental rights; and

WHEREAS, people living in Maine engaged in the slave trade for at least 112 years, with the earliest known slaving voyage departing from Maine's shores taking place in 1749 and the last known slaving voyage on a Maine-built vessel taking place in 1861; and

WHEREAS, a total of 63 Maine-built vessels are known to have transported enslaved people, representing only the tip of the iceberg, and slaving vessels were constructed in at least 26 Maine towns; and

WHEREAS, Maine merchants were deeply entangled in the global economy of enslavement, as were the banks that handled their accounts and the insurance firms that secured their investments, and at a time when Havana, Cuba was the hub of the illicit slave trade, Portland was that city's number one trading partner; and

WHEREAS, it was not only Maine's coastal towns that were complicit in the global economy of enslavement through shipbuilding and merchant trading activities, but its inland regions as well: crops and livestock were routinely shipped in the "coastwise" trade to provision the sugar plantations of the West Indies, along with salted fish and even ice from this region; and

WHEREAS, great quantities of Maine timber were processed into barrel staves and shipped throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to the West Indies, where enslaved Africans were forced to fashion them into barrels; they then filled these barrels with the sugar and molasses that were shipped back to Portland and distilled into rum, which was used as currency in purchasing more captive Africans; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in all walks of life have shown resilience despite suffering under slavery and injustice and have made significant contributions throughout the history of the State and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, and in this State, African Americans have remained devoted to the proposition that all of us are created equal, even when their own rights were denied; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; 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 significance of Black History Month as an important time to honor the contributions of African Americans in the nation's history and encourage all people in the State to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the State and the nation.

READ.

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

Representative **ABDI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Honorable Members of the House, I rise today in recognition of the contributions of Black Mainers, all of those who deceased and alive with connection to the African diaspora have made to our State. Maine is frequently recognized as being the whitest State in the nation. And while that may be true, Black Mainers, both enslaved and free, have had immeasurable impact on our history and continue to shape our communities today.

Many of you know Maine was active in the transatlantic slave trade. Our State was known for building slave ships that traveled to Africa to traffic and enslave people, often traded for sugar in the West Indies that was used to make rum. According to Maine Memory Network, some of the earliest evidence of Black people in Maine are receipts for purchase or sale of them into slavery and, later, Maine was also active in the safe

passage of enslaved people who were seeking freedom. Our economy was developed in part from free forced labor of enslaved people and the extraction of land and resources from indigenous people. While we each have pride for Maine and the strides we have made to make our State more equitable in all ways, we must recognize the place in which we started and the inhumane acts of violence committed in our past. Black Mainers shaped the settlement we have come to know as our communities today. They work on our waterfronts, own small businesses, engage in railroad, fought in our wars and more, and we continue to do so.

I urge you, Members of the House, to take time this month to research and reflect upon how Black history has shaped your life, because it has. For example, each of us serve in the most diverse Legislature to date, with more Members of color than have ever been part of this Body before. Furthermore, our Chamber is led by the first black woman to serve as Speaker of the House. This is something we can all be proud of. So, I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for your lifelong commitment to public service and the well-being of all Mainers. It is an honor to work beside you and call you mentor. Thank you.

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

Representative **DHALAC**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Black History Month. This tradition of celebration presents us with an opportunity to honor the contributions that Black Mainers have made to our great State, but it also serves as a reminder of the ongoing fight for justice and equity and the work we have still to do. Some of the ancestors of Maine's Black community arrived on these shores to be auctioned off at slave markets in York County. Black enslaved people in Maine built the foundation of the colonial economy with their forced labor and made fortunes for white shipyard owners, sea captains, textile barons and merchants, who all had a stake in the slave trade. The injustices people suffered are unthinkable and yet, we must remember and continue to educate future generations about the realities of our State's past in order to build a future we can all be proud of.

But the history of Black people in Maine is not just about slavery. Over the years, Black Mainers have continued to contribute to our communities in a variety of ways. I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the Black folks that have come before and who have paved the way for myself and my colleagues here in the Legislature and in positions of leadership across the State. From the nation's first Black lawyer who passed the bar and began practicing right here in Maine, to the immense bravery of those engaged in our nation's northernmost waypoint on the Underground Railroad, to you, Madam Speaker, blazing the way as our State's first Black Speaker of the House.

Black people in this State have and continue to make this place a richer and more vibrant place to call home. My experience, and the experiences of so many new Mainers today, represents the latest chapter in our shared story as Black Mainers. Despite progress, systemic racism and inequity persists in our society and that impacts all of us. It's our duty as elected officials to confront these challenges head-on and work towards a more inclusive and more just place for all Maine. Honoring Black History Month provides us with an opportunity. It acts as a call to action to address the disparities and barriers that Black individuals continue to face; education, employment, housing and health care inequities; and create society where every person has equal opportunity to succeed and thrive. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to stand for a moment to recognize Black History Month.

In the second to last paragraph of this Resolution, it says that in 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans. I don't feel that this Resolution does a great job of that, so I would like to stand for a moment to recognize some of those achievements.

Maine has a long and rich history of Black Americans and their achievements. This State House is filled with many of those African Americans and their achievements. A man that I consider a friend of mine who previously served in this Chamber, Craig Hickman, was the first Black man to serve in both the House and the Senate in State history and he's serving in the Senate today. Madam Speaker, this very same hall that we sit in today, a man named Gerald Talbot was the first Black African American to serve in this Chamber. And years later, his daughter, Rachel Talbot Ross, would become the first African American Speaker of the House in Maine history. There are countless more stories like this, Madam Speaker, and I believe that in the spirit of Black History Month, these are the stories that we should talk about and amplify and glorify. And so, now and in the future, let us honor the achievements so many Black Mainers have made and remember their impact to the State. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Twenty-five years ago, I had the honor of meeting Gerry Talbot. We were working on a project in Brewer which was the site of what oral tradition told us was the Underground Railroad. We worked the site for all summer and at the end, we were working up the hill, down the hill, and the last shovel we dug was a shaft. That shaft purportedly went to the river from the brick home, the Holyoke House, that was spoken of as a hiding place in the north eaves of the Holyoke House. And then by night, they would go through the vertical shaft, out a horizontal shaft, a good almost a thousand feet to the river. And this was the location that was purportedly the high-water mark to freedom. But the Talbot family was extremely instrumental in crafting that and we just celebrated our 25th year. Unfortunately, Gerry wasn't able to make it, but he was there in spirit and we're so proud of the Talbot family from Bangor.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Justin Corporon, of Brunswick, a member of the Brunswick High School Boys Indoor Track Team, who won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship in the 55-meter Dash Event. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1428)

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

READ.

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

Recognizing:

Maeve Woodruff, of Brunswick, a member of the Brunswick High School Girls Indoor Track Team, who won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship in the 800-meter Run Event and the One-mile Run Event. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1429)

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

READ.

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

Recognizing:

Ben Klinge, of Brunswick, a member of the Brunswick High School Boys Indoor Track Team, who won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship in the 800-meter Run Event and the One-mile Run Event. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1431)

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

READ.

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

Representative **ARFORD**: Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand to recognize these Brunswick High School indoor track athletes for their hard work and commitment to excellence. And in lieu of reading what was just read, I'm simply going to read their names and what their accomplishment was.

First, Justin Corporon, who won the Championship in the 55-meter Dash event; Ben Klinge, who won the Championship in the 800-meter Run event and the One-mile Run event; and Maeve Woodruff, who won the Championship in the 800-meter Run event and the One-mile Run event. We extend our appreciation for their commitment to excellence and best wishes to these athletes.

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

Recognizing:

the Winthrop High School Varsity Field Hockey Team, which won the Class C South Championship and the Class C State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 690)

Presented by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, some things around here never get old, like the Good Representative from Madison singing us the National Anthem, the pages who very cautiously pass us the notes or the Members who rise a second or perhaps third time to speak on a bill. And for me, one thing that never gets old, and it seems to happen every year, is that I invite the Rambler Field Hockey Team here after yet another State Championship. Though there may be some objection from the Representatives from Dexter and Pittsfield about that getting old, but for me, it doesn't. And it must be that the Lady Ramblers just adore the State House tour that the good State Auditor gives them every time they win, because they find themselves back here year after year. And I'd like to congratulate them and hope that we can meet each other again in this very same building next year. Congrats, Ramblers. My wife and I, between the two of us, have zero, you have three.

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

Recognizing:

the Morse High School Boys Swim Team, of Bath, which won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class B Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 757)

Presented by Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SINCLAIR of Bath, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **SINCLAIR**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I rise to commend the Morse High School Boys Swim Team, who earlier this month won their second consecutive KVAC Class B Championship. This year, they did it by winning every single event, and I can tell the entire House that they've already started training for a third. Go Shipbuilders!

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

In Memory of:

Aaron Rollins, of Madison. Mr. Rollins was a veteran of the Maine Army National Guard, serving with B Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) in Iraq. He joined the Maine Army National Guard in 2004. After basic training, he worked with the honor guard and took part in about 90 funerals. In 2005, he was deployed for a month to do relief work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Later, he volunteered to join Bravo Company and arrived in Iraq in March 2006. He served as an infantry gunner and was wounded three times, suffering a traumatic brain injury and later suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. His tour of duty in Iraq ended in 2007. Mr. Rollins will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(SLS 1328)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative BOYER of Poland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today for a good man, a man that served his country, served his community, served his family, served this State. He worked on the renovation here 20 years ago. He helped a lot of people, a lot of veterans. He needed help and he got help.

I'm just pissed off and I'm sad. I'm sad that I have to stand up; I'm sad that he's gone. Another different casualty of war and it shouldn't've happened. I got to know him, Mr. Rollins, on one of Brakey's federal races. He volunteered as head of security advances, veterans' coalition, he would drive us everywhere around and we got to know him through that process. More recently, he came and testified in front of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on Defend the Guard legislation, which we talked about last year in this Body. And he's gone now. He went to war, he came back wounded; his body physically, mentally, morally, his spirit; he's seen things that nobody should see and he succumbed to that. So, I just want to get up and recognize and honor a good man. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

Eric J. Hinson, of Robbinston. Mr. Hinson served for 5 years with the United States Army, where he learned the trade of offset and lithographic printing. After his service, he became well known in the Calais area as the owner and operator of Calais Press, Inc., from which he retired after almost 40 years. He also served as a Calais City Councillor in 1993 and as Mayor from 1995 to 1996 and from 2000 to 2002. Mr. Hinson will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 756)

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative PERRY of Calais, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Calais, Representative Perry.

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I met Eric Hinson for the first time when I ran for the Legislature. He was very accommodating in taking on my self-designed work and he has printed my palm cards for all eight runs that I had.

Now I want to introduce you to the person Eric Hinson was. He was a giving and gentle man. From his printing business, he donated printing for local organizations such as the Calais Lion's Club, Santa's Helper Coupons and newsletters for the food pantries in Washington County, St. Croix Historical Society and P.A.W.S. Animal Shelter, to mention a few. There was one week where all he and his wife worked on was donated printing. He gave for the children in our community by donating to the playground equipment fund, sports equipment funds and book fairs. Eric always picked up people walking and gave them a ride if he thought they needed help, and always answered calls to help with household needs of the elderly such as Sister Aline Roy after she broke her hip. He went to her apartment and installed a bed rail for her to pull herself up, hung insulated drapes and cleaned out her fridge of old food and put in fresh. And disabled elderly citizens, Paula and Linda McLean, he helped with their TV and everything electronic.

Even though COVID brought hard times for the business financially, he never held back on any donations of printing or his time. Helping others was something he strongly believed in. Eric, we greatly miss you.

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

In Memory of:

Pete Cooper, of Fairfield. Mr. Cooper was head football coach at Lawrence High School for 28 years. His teams won 10 regional titles, and he coached them to three of their four state championships, in 1973, 1983 and 1984. Prior to his stepping down, he was the winningest active coach in Maine high school football, with a record of 205-96-6. The school's stadium, Pete Cooper Stadium, is named in his honor. Later coaching at Bonny Eagle High School, where his son was head coach, he helped build teams that won Class A titles in 2004 and 2005. Mr. Cooper will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 759)

Presented by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative CYRWAY of Albion, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to speak to this Sentiment and honor the life of Coach Pete Cooper. Earle "Pete" Cooper passed away last Thursday evening at Maine General Health in Augusta. He was 83 years old. I had the pleasure of knowing Coach Cooper personally. Actually, he started when I was a freshman at Lawrence High School the same year. He had a work ethic that was unparalleled and could build a winning football team like no other coach. He always brought a sense of honor, dignity and camaraderie to the field, and I am extremely honored to speak to such a legend in this Chamber.

In his 28 years at Lawrence, Coach Cooper won 10 regional titles and coached the Bulldogs to three of their four State Championships in 1973, which was my senior year, 1983 and 1984. Over the three decades Cooper coached at Lawrence, he became one of the State's all-time greatest

coaches and made the Bulldogs a powerful powerhouse in Maine. The Bulldogs' home field, Keyes Field at Pete Cooper Stadium, now bears his name. During Cooper's coaching tenure, Maine high school football had several other powerhouses. Among them was nearby Winslow, with whom Lawrence shared a rivalry that few teams in the State could rival in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The Bulldogs and Black Raiders met in the Class B final three times; 1973, 1984 and 1986. Lawrence won the Championship in 1973 and 1984, before Winslow prevailed in 1986. Prior to his retirement, he was the winningest active coach in Maine high school football, with a record of 205 wins, 96 losses and six ties. A few years after leaving Lawrence, Cooper joined the coaching staff at Bonny Eagle, where his son, Kevin, was head coach. There, he helped his son build another powerhouse as the Scots won Class A State titles in 2004 and 2005. Although Coach Cooper won Championships with Bonny Eagle, we all know he still bled Bulldogs blue.

Coach Cooper was a father, a husband, my friend and a Maine football legend. His legacy will live on in Fairfield. His name remains on the football field. When the Bulldogs run out on the field, they will remember the legacy of Coach Pete Cooper. Goodbye, Coach, goodbye to the legend and goodbye, my friend. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I really can't add a whole lot to what the Good Representative from Albion stated about Pete Cooper. As a Lawrence High School alumnus, I graduated the year before he was hired, so, I never had a chance to see him in action. However, having served on the School Board for a couple of terms, I did get a chance to meet him and he struck me as just a man of integrity and character and one who cared about his players very much.

I was thinking of trying to add a little bit humor to this, but it's hard to do it when we've lost such a wonderful man. I will say, though, that I think if we had to add up all the schools represented by the different Representatives here, it'd be a long list. I think if we voted on it, it would look like a quorum call. So, I'm glad that we're able to do this for Pete Cooper and his family and all the Bulldogs who are still around, I'm glad to see that the character and the qualities that he put into the program is still present today in the Lawrence High School football program and I thank you, I'm very honored to be able to speak to that this morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I initially started the process of inviting the football team here, we obviously didn't know we would also be doing an in memoriam today for Coach Cooper. But I just want to speak for a moment about the Lawrence football team that's here today. I'm very proud to introduce them as the Regional Champions of the Class B North in 2023. It's been 11 years since the Bulldogs had a shot at the State title. This year, they had an exciting season that only built momentum from the loss to Bangor during the first matchup, then it was Bulldogs all the way till November. Sadly, they lost to Kennebunk, but what a season they had. I'm very happy and honored to have the team and the coaches here at the State House today. Thank you.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack.

Representative **MATLACK**: 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 **MATLACK**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Men and Women of the House, we in St. George are very lucky to have people in our community who lead the way in educating our children. Last year, 2,700 schools and organizations applied for a share of \$20 million from the Yass Prize for Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding and Permissionless education. Of those who continued on towards the finals, only three of them were from New England. Two were from Maine, both were from St. George. The Herring Gut Coastal Science Center in Port Clyde, which no matter what they say is still part of St. George, was one of 64 quarterfinalists and received \$100,000 in prize money for educating students and communities about the ocean, inland waters and the economy of Maine. The St. George K-8 School in Tenants Harbor, also part of St. George, won \$500,000 in the Yass Prize funding for their program to construct an innovative career and technical education and Makerspace Building for pre-K to 8. They are the first pre-K to 8 CTE program in the country. And I have asked several of my friends from St. George to come so that we can honor them for the hard work that their leaders and these students have done. Thank you, ma'am.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System"

(S.P. 953) (L.D. 2224)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I object that this bill goes to Judiciary and I move that we reference this bill to Criminal Justice and Public Safety and I would like to speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the Member that that motion is Out of Order.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill doesn't belong in Judiciary. This bill is about firearms and will get into very detailed minutiae, details of firearms laws that are not pertinent to the Judiciary Committee, as well as the Judiciary Committee is chaired by a member of the Gun Safety Coalition, so, I don't feel that it's appropriate to have that Member chair over this bill and that's why I'm objecting to this reference.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **REFER** the Bill to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

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 Oakland, Representative Nutting.

Representative **NUTTING**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning, Men and Women of the House. I rise to encourage you to vote down this reference to the Judiciary Committee and will give you a couple of reasons why I hope you think we have a better suggestion.

First of all, LD 2224 is arguably one of the most important bills that we will deal with this session. I have a great deal of faith in all of the Members of this Body, Members of the Judiciary Committee, and I think if that bill ends up in the Judiciary Committee, they will do the best that they can. However, I believe that this bill should rightfully be directed to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and possibly to two Committees. In addition to Criminal Justice, I would suggest that Health and Human Services plays a vital role in this bill and joint references to two Committees are done not infrequently.

The four Titles that are the Maine Revised Statute Titles that are involved in this piece of legislation are Title 15, which has to do with procedures, criminal procedures in court; Title 22-A, which deals with health and human services; Title 25, which deals with internal security and public safety; and Title 34-B, which deals with behavioral and developmental services. I think you can read just from the titles that are referenced in the bill that this bill deserves to go to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Not because I'm on that Committee, but I have a great deal of faith in the Members of that Committee and all of the Members of that Committee, and we are the only Committee which has one Representative who comes from the City of Lewiston as well as having three current or former law enforcement officers on our Committee. I hope you will agree with me that this bill deserves its public hearing in at least the Criminal Justice Committee and possibly in front of two Committees, and I urge you to vote down the current motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise in support of the pending motion to refer this bill to the Committee on Judiciary. This bill has several elements that do lead to good reasons for different Committees. Certainly, a reasonable argument could be made that this bill should go to Criminal Justice and Public Safety. There are elements of programs and services within DHHS in this bill, so I understand the argument that it could go to HHS. My friend who spoke just before me conveniently left out that Title 14 is a substantial element of this bill, which is very much within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. This bill makes a number of changes to extreme risk protection orders or extreme risk protection order law, also known as the yellow flag law, which when it was passed was heard, worked and debated in the Judiciary Committee.

Like I said, I think there's good reasons for each of these Committees; oh, I also forgot that there's an element of this bill dealing with prohibited persons. The Judiciary Committee has plenty of experience working on those issues, we just worked a bill on firearms with prohibited persons in the first session last year. So, again, I think there's good arguments for multiple Committees. At the end of the day, we have to pick one, and our Committee already has a couple of firearms bills in our possession, I think it's logical that these bills should be heard and worked together as we move forward. So that's why I think it should go to Judiciary and I ask you to vote in support of that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 375

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, 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, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Copeland, Doudera, Eaton, Galletta, Haggan, Lajoie, LaRochelle, Mathieson, O'Connell, Walker.

Yes, 74; No, 65; Absent, 11; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0. 74 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Change of Committee

Representative CRAFTS from the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Study the Gasoline Tax Allocations for Nonhighway Recreational Vehicles and Make Recommendations for Changes

(H.P. 624) (L.D. 977)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing"

(S.P. 584) (L.D. 1465)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-531)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

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

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

READ.

Representative ZEIGLER of Montville moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd like to read the bill summary and will be brief. LD 1465 summary: "This bill amends the law regarding the net energy billing program for commercial and institutional customers of investor-owned utilities by changing the current calculation for tariff rates to require the Public Utilities Commission to annually base the tariff rate on the forecast of wholesale energy market prices in New England and by providing that an energy credit may apply only to the supply charges of a customer's electricity bill rather than to the entirety of the bill." And briefly, Madam Speaker, what that would do is it would take away some of the extra subsidy that Maine ratepayers are faced with paying on their bills that goes to net energy billing tariff rates and it would force that monies that they would be saving to be paid for the use of the system, if you will, by those when they are actually selling power onto the grid and that would be somewhat of a relief out of the \$220 million expected costs by the end of this year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Runte.

Representative **RUNTE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let's review the situation. Last year, Maine enacted legislation to amend and adjust our NEB program and its pricing. The bill that made those adjustments was only signed late last year and its adjustments, including the compensation for solar output, have only just begun development. The law limited the size of new projects and ordered the PUC to develop pricing for them based on the energy they produce and the value they provide to the local system. The new law also offered existing NEB projects the opportunity to enter into long-term fixed price contracts and avoid the current version they have, which fluctuates according to market. Both of these measures are works in progress. PUC has issued an RFP for the contracts, they're working on what that compensation method might be. I urge you to heed the advice, as I mentioned last week, of the consumer advocate, to give these adjustments time to be implemented and then assessed. As I said a week ago, Maine cannot have an orderly market for any form of local energy generation if it changes the rules with every legislative session. I urge the Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 376

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, 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, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Copeland, Doudera, Eaton, Galletta, Haggan, Javner, Lajoie, LaRochelle, Mathieson, O'Connell, Quint, Walker.

Yes, 74; No, 63; Absent, 13; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-772)** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools"

(H.P. 1052) (L.D. 1642)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-772)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-772)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Cost of Copies of Medical Records"

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-766)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

CRAVEN of Lewiston

READ.

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on 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)

Signed:

Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
PRINGLE of Windham

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion
SWALLOW of Houlton

READ.

On motion of Representative PERRY of Calais, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-773)** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

LANDRY of Farmington
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
DILL of Old Town
GOLEK of Harpswell
HEPLER of Woolwich

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

Signed:

Senator:

BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford

MASON of Lisbon

THORNE of Carmel

WOOD of Greene

WOODSOME of Waterboro

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-773)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-773)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-765)** on Bill "An Act to Correct Outdated References in and Relating to the Maine Human Rights Act"

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

BAILEY of York

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland

HENDERSON of Rumford

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

MORIARTY of Cumberland

POIRIER of Skowhegan

SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris

HAGGAN of Hampden

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-765)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-765)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-768)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Noncompete Clauses"

(H.P. 951) (L.D. 1496)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

GERE of Kennebunkport

MALON of Biddeford

RUSSELL of Verona Island

SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro

DRINKWATER of Milford

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

A few points I'd like to make. This Legislature visited this issue just a few short years ago and really there's no need to do this again. There already exists in current law many restrictions against unfair implementations of noncompete clauses, and I think those are sufficient already. The bill mentions only trade secrets that may be included in noncompete clauses, but there are many more issues that are very important to small business owners and some of them are unannounced acquisitions or expansion plans, unannounced new products or services, strategic planning, financial information that should certainly be confidential, training investments and there are many more as well, and are these going to be included under trade secrets? Reasonable is a very vague term.

Let me tell you how this works in real life, because when we did visit this in Committee a few years ago, the vote came out pretty much like you see it right today; it was a majority party vote. After the vote was taken, a couple weeks, when we were looking at language review, the Chair of the Committee wanted to revisit and reconsider, and I'll tell you why. A constituent of hers had called her and said, what are you thinking? You mean to tell me I can spend thousands and thousands of dollars training an employee, a new employee, and the day after I hire her, she can quit and go across the road and work for a competitor? That's what this bill means. Tell me, Madam Speaker, or Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, if you were a small business owner, how much money would you invest in training someone, spending thousands and thousands of dollars, if the very next day they could go across the road and compete and go to work for a competitor of yours? Think about what this would do to discouraging investment in Maine's

workforce. Who would want to train someone if that can happen to them? I hope we stop and think about the long-term implications of this bill if it were to pass. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Verona Island, Representative Russell.

Representative **RUSSELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Fellow Members of the House. I rise today in support of this bill and I'll tell you why. While we were discussing this bill in Committee, I answered an email from a lady; actually, she sent it to, I believe, the whole Committee. But I gave her a call and she relayed a story about a noncompete. Essentially, she told me that her husband, who had grown up in Massachusetts, started working in his father's insulation firm when he was 15 years old. He worked there through high school and after high school, he came into the business and worked as a salesman. He worked there for a number of years and then, his dad decided that he would open a second store in the Portland area. So, he went to work in that store, not as an owner but, again, as a salesman. He worked there for a lot of years. And then one day, his boss asked him to dinner. He went out to dinner, he told me it was in Gorham, and they were having a nice conversation. And then all of a sudden, his boss tells him, I'm selling the firm. And he tells him, I'm selling it to a national company. And then he slides across the table this noncompete agreement. And he says to him; and this is after, combined in his dad's store in Massachusetts, the work that he's done there, he's worked for over 25 years selling insulation. He said you have a choice, you can sign this and you still have a job with the new company, or you can not sign it and you're finished. That's the end of your employment. He said there's good news, you'll get a couple thousand dollars if you sign it. So, he thought to himself, here I am, later stages of my life, this is all that I've done, can I go home and tell my wife that I lost my job? Because he asked him, he said can I go home and talk this over, he says no, you've got to decide right now. So, he signed it. He worked with that new company for four more years, which gave him almost 40 years in the business. And then along the way, they first took away his benefits. Then they changed his pay plan so it was entirely commission and he earned less money. Then on top of that, he trained two new younger workers to do the work that he did. So, then, after that, about four years had gone by and they fired him. They let him go.

So here he was, he had done nothing else in his life other than sell insulation, but he had signed this agreement. So, he went to work for a building supply company in Portland. He did not sell insulation, but the lawyers for the new company sent a letter to all his former clients; they also sent a letter to his new company, saying he was breaking the law because he had this noncompete agreement. Anyway, the new company decided, look, we're not going to put up with this, we can't do it, so they let him go. He tried to get a job at Home Depot and, again, this time, he told them about the agreement, they called the company, or they called the attorneys and again they said, look, we can't really do it because you have this agreement. Now, he told me, he said, insulation is insulation. You can have fiberglass insulation, there's no trade secret about it, and this agreement is 10 pages long. It virtually makes it so if there's any remote possibility that insulation is involved, he can't get a job. He's done this all his life, he's 60 years old. So, he went, he and his wife, and they got an attorney. The attorney said I'm not sure that I can help you but if you give me a \$5,000 retainer, I'll take you on and we'll see what happens.

So, I guess what I would say is; I'll read you from the email I got from his wife and maybe that will tell you sort of where these

people are at and what these agreements are like. She said, "this out-of-state firm has sent threatening letters to him and his previous clients and new employer, resulting in a job loss and professional damage. Not only does this have a chilling effect on his career and earning potential since it prohibits from working even at Home Depot as a stocker, but it also alienates him from his community." So, this bill would make agreements like this not valid. So, I guess what I'm saying is it seems to me; and by the way, his dad signed a noncompete when the previous company that he owned, with the new owner. So, that type of noncompete would continue, but a salesman that sells insulation and has sold it all his life should not be bound by an agreement like this. That's not fair. That's not fair to that employee, there's no potential secrets. If anything, the secret to selling insulation came from this employee himself. So, that's why I will be supporting this bill with the amendment, it's fair, it covers what needs to be covered, and thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Lanigan.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I'd just like to pose a question through the Chair just for clarification. Did the Member say that this person received monetary compensation for making that choice and, if so, did that person have the choice to not accept? It seems like we're writing a bill for a one-off and at the end of the day, it came down to the person's choice. So, if anybody could clarify that, that would be great, thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I don't believe any member of our Committee would disagree with the concerns of the Good Representative from Vassalboro, but I do believe that the amendment language clarified everything. It says a noncompete agreement may be presumed necessary if the employer's trade secrets cannot be adequately protected through an alternative restrictive covenant, including, but not limited to, a non-solicitation agreement or a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement. That was what put my heart at ease. And in terms of what this would do to our State's economy, according to the Roosevelt Institute, free movement of skilled knowledge workers contributes to innovation and entrepreneurship. 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. 377

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenhus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, Lavigne, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Newman, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, 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, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason,

Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Doudera, Eaton, Galletta, Haggan, Lajoie, LaRochelle, Mathieson, O'Connell, Walker.

Yes, 78; No, 62; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-768)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-768)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training"

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

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay
ABDI of Lewiston
COPELAND of Saco
DHALAC of South Portland
RISEMAN of Harrison
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The bill before us would require the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of the State and the Attorney General to attend and complete annually a course of in-person education and training regarding harassment, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment and racial harassment. Let me repeat that. It requires three people to take the same harassment course that

we're required to take. They work in the building, they deal with staff. Madam Speaker, please do not support this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, under existing Maine law, all Maine workplaces employing 15 or more people must complete sexual harassment education and training. Additionally, anyone who's employed as an attorney is also required to take annually sexual harassment training, and that is required by the bar. I urge all my colleagues to vote with the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report as these provisions already exist within State Law.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If we go by that understanding, that people in all of these jobs and workplaces are required to do this; I work at the University of Maine, I'm required to take this sexual harassment training and other types of harassment training and I was told unequivocally that it does not transfer to the Legislature from the University System because our training is specific to our environment here. And, since we are required to take an additional training specific to our environment here, I feel, too, so should our Constitutional Officers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Madam Speaker, I agree with the comments of my good colleagues on this side of the aisle, but I'm just blown back by the explanation by the Representative from Boothbay. This Majority Report, I'm shocked by it. I can't believe this. Are you kidding me with this Majority Report? Madam Speaker, how in the world are we not holding our Constitutional Officers to the same standards as all of us here that elect them?

It's definitely, you know, these trainings that we do, I think they can be, you know, over the top sometimes, a little bit much for some of us, especially when I really think that adults in this environment should know how to conduct themselves, you know, you would think that we would know how to not commit sexual harassment or act inappropriately in the office. But the actions that were revealed last fall and throughout; by the Attorney General were shocking and I know, Madam Speaker, that it was something that Members of your side were very uncomfortable with what happened. And it was revealed that the Constitutional Officers have nothing in place to take the training that tells them how to conduct and behave themselves. You would think that wouldn't be necessary, except for the fact that we found out that it's absolutely necessary because of the relationship that was happening in the Office of the Attorney General. And it seems perfectly within bounds for us, the Legislature, that unfortunately elects the Constitutional Officers, to impose on them the same standards that we have on ourselves, which is the sexual harassment training. So, why in the world would we give them a pass on that, to not take the same training that we take? How do you defend that? It blows my mind. So, it's with shock that I see this Majority Report in front of me but the explanation of it, even more so. Madam Speaker, I urge you to vote against the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 378

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cluchey, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Golek, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Milliken, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Quint, Rudnicki, Russell, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Warren, White B, White J, Wood, Woodsome, Worth.

ABSENT - Boyle, Doudera, Eaton, Galletta, Haggan, Lajoie, LaRochelle, Mathieson, O'Connell, Walker.

Yes, 64; No, 76; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

64 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative STOVER of Boothbay, the Minority **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.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-767)** on Bill "An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors"

(H.P. 859) (L.D. 1345)

Signed:

Senator:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush
CROCKETT of Portland
HASENFUS of Readfield
MATLACK of St. George
RANA of Bangor

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

Signed:

Representatives:

QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-767)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-767)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Clarify That Certain Imported Motor Vehicles Are Not Off-road Vehicles"

(H.P. 38) (L.D. 63)

Signed:

Senator:

FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
O'CONNELL of Brewer
PARRY of Arundel
WHITE of Waterville
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-774)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CHIPMAN of Cumberland

READ.

On motion of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 521) (L.D. 1284) Bill "An Act to Require Personal Finance to be Taught as a Separate Course to Obtain a High School Diploma" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-536)**

(S.P. 830) (L.D. 2009) Bill "An Act to Prevent Abandonment of Children and Adults with Disabilities in Hospitals" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-535)**

(H.P. 1311) (L.D. 2049) Bill "An Act to Increase Safety for Child Welfare Services Workers" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1363) (L.D. 2139) Bill "An Act to Add Schedule V Substances to the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1377) (L.D. 2153) Bill "An Act to Clarify MaineCare Copayments" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1396) (L.D. 2181) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY) Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 920) (L.D. 1424) Bill "An Act to Remove the Age Requirement for Correctional Staff Retirement Under the 1998 Special Plan" Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-769)**

(H.P. 1161) (L.D. 1815) Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Consumers by Establishing an Abuse of Dominance Right of Action and Requiring Notification of Mergers" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-771)**

(H.P. 1324) (L.D. 2062) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Real Estate Appraisers and Appraisal Management Companies" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-770)**

(H.P. 1330) (L.D. 2067) Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Update Maine's Domestic Violence and Stalking Laws

(S.P. 878) (L.D. 2085)
(C. "A" S-528)

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. 119 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Require Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect to Military Family Advocacy Programs

(S.P. 888) (L.D. 2095)
(C. "A" S-523)

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. 119 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 29: Allowances for Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services

(H.P. 1392) (L.D. 2177)

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. 119 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Provide for Consistent Billing Practices by Health Care Providers

(H.P. 988) (L.D. 1533)
(C. "A" H-752)

An Act to Expand Access to Drug Treatment Courts

(S.P. 627) (L.D. 1596)
(C. "A" S-526)

An Act to Establish the Community Housing Production Program

(H.P. 1197) (L.D. 1867)
(C. "A" H-751)

An Act to Allow Candidates for District Attorney to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act

(H.P. 1263) (L.D. 1966)
(C. "A" H-753)

An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws

(S.P. 851) (L.D. 2023)

An Act to Remove the Exemption for Certain Roadside Springs from Regulation as Public Water Systems in the Laws Regarding Water for Human Consumption

(S.P. 864) (L.D. 2036)
(C. "A" S-524)

An Act to Establish Training and Certification Standards for Probation and Parole Officers

(H.P. 1307) (L.D. 2045)
(C. "A" H-754)

An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses

(H.P. 1314) (L.D. 2052)

An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code

(H.P. 1315) (L.D. 2053)

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)
(C. "A" S-529)

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)
(C. "A" S-527)

An Act to Amend the Start Date of the September Upland Game Season

(H.P. 1422) (L.D. 2216)

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 Establish a Plan to Provide Transitional Housing and to Support the Growth of Maine's Workforce

(S.P. 684) (L.D. 1721)
(C. "A" S-522)

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:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, February 22, 2024, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment in Memory of Pete Cooper, of Fairfield

(HLS 755)

TABLED - February 22, 2024 (Till Later Today) by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.

PENDING - **ADOPTION**.

On motion of Representative CYRWAY of Albion, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment and accompanying papers was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, to Promote Access to Education and Workforce Development by Transferring Ownership of the Hutchinson Center Property in Belfast to the City of Belfast (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 956) (L.D. 2231)

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 Change Department of Health and Human Services Rules Regarding Youth Camps to Major Substantive Rules"

(S.P. 955) (L.D. 2230)

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.

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

On motion of Representative CYRWAY of Albion, the House adjourned at 12:28 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2024, in honor and lasting tribute to Eric J. Hinson of Robbinston, Pete Cooper of Fairfield and the Honorable Gerald Davis of Falmouth.