

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
21st Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

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

Prayer by Pastor Erick Ness, Center Conway Baptist Church, Center Conway, NH.

National Anthem by Honorable Caleb Joshua Ness and Erick Ness, Fryeburg.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 968)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services shall report out, to the Senate, a bill regarding manufacturers of insulin.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 435)

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

131st Legislature

State House Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business from its review and evaluation of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation by letter of its intent to review the department on April 28, 2023. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation submitted its program evaluation report by November 1, 2023 and presented the report to the committee on January 30, 2024. The committee held a work session on February 27, 2024.

The committee has reviewed the report and finds the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation is operating within its statutory authority. Additionally, after assessing the Department's recommendations to address emerging issues pertaining to the Commissioner's authority in times of public health emergencies and the need for a formally established Deputy Commissioner position, the committee has

voted to report out legislation this session pursuant to 3 MRSA §955(4) to consider implementation of those recommendations. Sincerely,
S/Sen. Chip Curry
Senate Chair
S/Rep. Tiffany Roberts
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 436)

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

March 6, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committee has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 1418 An Act Concerning Single-use Disposable Water Bottles and Water Refill Stations

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Provide Emergency One-time Relief from the Wild Blueberry Tax for Growers in Maine" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1447) (L.D. 2256)

Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.

Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, HEPLER of Woolwich, JAUCH of Topsham, SHAW of Auburn.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested.

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRUCULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 437)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

March 6, 2024

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

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRS, Section 1, hereby certify that the following is the name and residence of the Representative-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on March 6, 2024:

DISTRICT 122 Matthew D. Beck, South Portland

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

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 438)

STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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

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

State of Maine

Office of the Secretary of State

March 6, 2024

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of the proclamation issued by the Governor on December 14, 2023, calling for a Special Election to be held on March 5, 2024, to elect a State Representative in District 122 and having tabulated the returns of the votes cast;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS: In accordance with Title 21-A MRS Section 711, having tabulated the total number of state ballots cast, the number of voters participating in this election is 1,691; and that Matthew D. Beck of South Portland, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected a State Representative in the 131st Legislature in District 122:

Beck, Matthew D., South Portland (Democratic) 1,218

Howard, Tristram J., South Portland (Not Enrolled) 176

Williams, Brendan K., South Portland (Unenrolled) 239

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

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

Received by the Governor on March 6, 2024

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, the Speaker announced the presence in the Hall of the House of Representative BECK of South Portland.

Pursuant to her authority under House Rule 401.1, the Chair assigned Representative BECK of South Portland to seat 122.

At this point, Representative BECK of South Portland was added to the roll of the 2nd Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1448) (Cosponsored by Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec)

JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING SEPARATE APPLICATIONS TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES CALLING ARTICLE V CONVENTIONS TO CONSIDER REPRESENTATIONAL INTEGRITY AND PROPOSE AMENDMENTS ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS FOR CONGRESS AND ADDRESSING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, Article V places substantial authority and responsibility upon the legislatures of the several states to ensure that the Federal Government and each of its branches remain within their enumerated powers and remain protective of the rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, a variety of important movements have arisen within the legislatures of the several states to address a wide variety of concerns that may be appropriately addressed within the context of Article V of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Maine wishes to address these various approaches in a bipartisan manner; and

WHEREAS, an agreement to call for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution does not commit the Legislature of Maine to approve any proposal that may arise from any subsequent convention; rather, this Legislature is simply exercising its will to engage in a formal process with other states to give full and authoritative consideration to various proposals consistent with the topics expressed by this joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, under the United States Constitution, Article V, the Congress of the United States, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the United States Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments that, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the United States Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Legislature of Maine hereby applies to the Congress of the United States, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the United States House of Representatives and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the United States Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application is intended to address the same subject matter as applications from other states under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution to call a convention to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; and this application must be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but may not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature of Maine hereby applies to the Congress of the United States, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application is intended to address the same subject matter as applications from other states under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution to call a convention to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases; and this application must be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but may not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That these applications constitute continuing applications in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subjects; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate and presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each of the several states in the nation, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

READ.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, my Colleagues in the House. I rise in support of the Joint Resolution. For the purpose of attaining a two-thirds of the states necessary, that's 34 states; if we need a three-quarters to ratify, that's 38 states. I'm just reminding Members that that's a high bar, that the threshold is high for a reason.

I hope we can all agree that Congress is broken. Today, as Maine legislators, we can actually do something to begin fixing the problems that Congress has created. This Resolution is an opportunity for us in this Chamber to go on record that we can put aside our partisan differences and come together to address two of our biggest problems in Washington, D.C., the corrupting influence of power and money. Our vote today is not another request to Congress, pleading with them to do what is right. They know what is right, and they continue to refuse to do

it. No, this is a Joint Resolution for the Maine Legislature to state that we are going to join with our sister states and take matters into our own hands. In a recent Pew Research Center Poll, 87% of voters support term limits for Congress and 72% of the voters support campaign finance reform. One of the most common complaints I hear from my constituents is that Congress does not listen to the people. Well, are we going to listen to the people? Here, right now, is our chance to show our constituents that we hear them and we're going to use the authority granted under Article V to have these reforms proposed as Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

As I see it, there are two sides on this issue. There is one side of people and groups of both left and right persuasions joining forces to prevent these common-sense reforms from being proposed. That only protects the status quo. The other side are groups and people, on the left and right again, coming together to have their common-sense reforms introduced. I was pleased to see bipartisan support for this initiative. A similar measure that received bipartisan support was actually; came out of Committee with an Ought to Pass vote of eight to five, bipartisan support with four Democrats and four Republicans having voted in favor for that measure. I encourage all of you right now to please vote in support of this important Resolution, allow the State of Maine to go on record that we have heard the voters and we're ready to take action. Please vote yes on the pending motion.

Representative TERRY of Gorham **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION**.

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**: I was going to request a Roll Call, but the Good Member requested one for me. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waldo, Representative Hymes.

Representative **HYMES**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today against the pending motion. I'd like to talk to you about why. I'm obviously for term limits. I joined this House recognizing that I, myself, have a term limit of eight years. I'm very much for term limits. However, this Joint Resolution has a lot of flaws in it and I'm going to walk through those. And we actually have our own solution within our own State for this and we don't even need to ask Congress for it.

So, in talking with the U.S. Term Limits, John Birch Society, reading through the Constitution and looking through the *Federalist Papers*, there's a couple of different ways this can play out. Either Congress, once there gets to a certain amount of votes to have a Constitutional Convention, will just act on this on their own. And, most likely, that will be a watered-down version of what we actually want for term limits and they'll grandfather themselves in and we won't really get what we want as a people. The second option is that an actual Convention goes through. And I don't necessarily have any issues with the Constitutional Convention, I'm glad that the Founding Fathers put that in there. The problem that I have is that we live in a time now where the moral character of the people that would go and represent the states at the Convention is not identified in any paper anywhere. And I've actually asked all of those people that I already listed off, who decides who goes to represent the states at the Convention? And none of them have been able to give me an answer on that one, because it's not defined on who gets to go. So, how do you select somebody with the moral character to change our Constitution to represent us in D.C.? Is it our

Congressmen that are already elected? Is it our Senators? Is it somebody from this Body? Is it somebody that doesn't have any political connections whatsoever? That is not lined out anywhere in there. So, I don't believe, until that is established, that we can call for a Convention because I'm not convinced that someone of the moral character that I would like to go there could be selected because there's no left and right boundaries on that right now.

But I'm going to get back to what I originally said at the beginning. We actually have the ability to do this ourselves. We can set term limits, okay, for our own Congressmen and Senators. Now, I understand that we can't pass legislation that's already been overruled; however, there's something that is even more powerful than anybody in this room and that is the vote of the people of Maine. You can actually not vote for those people that are over your term limits. If, for some reason, your term limit is eight, 10, 12, whatever it is in your mind, stop voting for your candidate in your party that has gone over that term limit. Your party can decide to put up somebody else for your party to run for that. Stop backing them financially. And this happens for both parties. The problem is, is that nobody ever really wants to give up power because they're worried if they give up power that someone else from the other party will take that power. And this is for both sides of the aisle. It doesn't have a political party. So, we actually have the power as citizens to vote in and vote out who we want to be in there and, if we truly believe in term limits, we can do this ourselves. We don't have to ask Congress to do this, we don't have to pass a law for it, you can do it at the polls and people in the State of Maine have the ability to set term limits right now today. Thank you.

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

Pursuant to Joint Rule 215.1, this Joint Resolution requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present for adoption.

ROLL CALL NO. 393

YEA - Adams, Andrews, Bagshaw, Boyer, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cray, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Ness, Newman, Parry, Poirier, Pomerleau, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Soboleski, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, Warren, Woodsome.

NAY - Albert, Ankeles, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cyrway, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Fay, Fredericks, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Hymes, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Neil, Osher, Paul, Perry A, Pluecker, Polewarczyk, Pringle, Quint, Rana, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, White B, White J, Williams, Wood, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Abdi, Arata, Boyle, Bradstreet, Eaton, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson, O'Connell, Perkins, Perry J, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sinclair.

Yes, 40; No, 97; Absent, 14; Excused, 0.

40 having voted in the affirmative and 97 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **NOT ADOPTED**.

On motion of Representative ANDREWS of Paris, the following House Order: (H.O. 43)

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 5 provides that every person holding any civil office under this State may be removed by impeachment for misdemeanor in office; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part First, Section 8 vests in the House of Representatives the sole power of impeachment; and

WHEREAS, grave and serious allegations have been raised regarding the conduct of Secretary of State Shenna Bellows; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, that the House Special Investigative Committee is established to investigate allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance and other misconduct by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and to submit its findings and recommendations to the full House of Representatives as to whether cause exists for impeachment. The committee shall conduct a comprehensive review of allegations of misconduct by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows regarding her actions in and after the adjudicatory proceeding in disqualifying Donald J. Trump from inclusion on the State's primary election ballot, including the failure to recuse herself for bias from that adjudicatory proceeding as required by the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. This bias is evidenced by her serving as a Maine presidential elector for Joseph R. Biden in the 2020 election. The committee shall also conduct a comprehensive review of allegations of misconduct by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows regarding her unilateral disenfranchisement of voters and candidate Donald J. Trump and her willful violation of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution; and be it further

ORDERED, that the House Special Investigative Committee consists of 13 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee, 6 of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon the recommendation of the House Minority Leader, and that the first-named member is the chair of the committee; and be it further

ORDERED, that the House Special Investigative Committee:

1. Shall adopt rules to govern the proceedings before it in order to ensure due process, fundamental fairness and a thorough investigation;

2. May administer oaths and compel the attendance and testimony of persons and the production of papers, documents and other evidence under oath, by subpoena, when the testimony, papers, documents or evidence is necessary for or incident to any inquiry relevant to the business or purposes of the committee. The committee may punish any person for the neglect, refusal or failure to appear or to produce papers, documents or other evidence commanded by subpoena and may punish any person who, upon appearance, either with or without subpoena, refuses to be sworn or testify or produce papers, documents or evidence demanded;

3. May hire special counsel and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the committee's responsibilities; and

4. Following its review and investigation of the facts and circumstances relating to the alleged misconduct of Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, shall submit to the House of Representatives no later than March 29, 2024 its findings and recommendations in the form of a final report, including, if the committee concludes such action is warranted, articles of impeachment describing the misdemeanor in office with which Secretary of State Shenna Bellows is charged. The committee

may request from the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee extensions of time to complete its work.

READ.

On motion of Representative ANDREWS of Paris, the rules were **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of voting on the House Order without it being **TABLED** one Legislative day pursuant to House Rule 524.

Subsequently, Representative TERRY of Gorham **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE**.

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 Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I was the only elected official in our State that filed a letter of intervention in the case of the Rosen challenge to President Trump being on the ballot. That gave me access to the hearing; it gave me a seat in the inner horseshoe with the attorneys. I was given 30 minutes of time to speak, the right to cross-examine anybody I chose and the right to submit evidence; which I did, and it ended up being evidence that was used in the Colorado case.

The Secretary was cautioned repeatedly that she did not have authority or jurisdiction over the 14th Amendment, over Section 3. The 14th Amendment, Section 5, states that Congress has the jurisdiction, but that wasn't adhered to; she didn't listen to that. Donald Trump met all the requirements to be on that ballot. He had the right residency, he had the right amount of signatures and he was the right age. That's all that was required of being there, and the Secretary of State was informed of that over and over again. Additionally, as I said before, that she did not have jurisdiction to be able to charge him or keep him off from the ballot.

In December of 2023, Secretary of State Shenna Bellows made an unprecedented decision to usurp all the voters of Maine and remove President Trump from the GOP primary ballot. This was an extraordinarily brazen move based on her deduction that what did or did not happen during the events of January 6, 2021.

I address this Body today on behalf of my constituents and every registered voter in the State of Maine who has the constitutional right to express their support at the ballot box for President Trump. The United States Supreme Court unanimously weighed in on the effort of political partisans posing as nonpolitical public officials, using their authority to decide who should and who should not be voted for in that election. Following the complete repudiation of Secretary Bellows' decision-making, it should be evident to this Esteemed Body that her judgment was flimsy at best, and obstructionist at worst.

It is time this Body exercised its duty to hold Secretary Bellows accountable for her reckless actions. Secretary Bellows had no authority under the 14th Amendment to make her decision and she additionally failed to disclose her many affiliations with the National Democrat Party. Our voters will not stand for anyone who aims to obstruct or stifle the voices of Maine voters for partisan gain. I ask Members of this Body to let the 2024 presidential election proceed without the interference of partisan bureaucrats looking to skew the results in their political favor. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Checks and balances, that's what it's all about. That's why we're

here, that's why we have the other Body at the other end of the hall, why we have a judiciary system, a legislative system and an executive branch. Checks and balances to make sure that no one can unilaterally take matters into their own hands.

In the 130th Legislature, there was a rule set forth by the presiding officers that everyone will wear a mask entering the building. I was one that broke that rule and I did not wear a mask and I came through the building. Within hours, I had a letter saying that I was removed from the Judiciary Committee, I was removed from Marine Resource Committee and I was replaced with a Democrat candidate legislator. I broke a rule. I knew that there were going to be consequences. I didn't know what those rules held for me as far as consequences because it was not outlined.

We're talking about the 14th Amendment. With your permission, I would like to specifically read the 14th Amendment, Section 3, Section 5 and Section 1.

The 14th Amendment, Section 3; as I read through, Madam Speaker, please listen for the Secretary of State shall have the power. "No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability."

Ironically, the new footnotes are already on the website, which states, reversing the Colorado Supreme Court's decision in *Anderson v. Griswold*, the United States Supreme Court held *per curiam* in *Trump v. Anderson* that states; states cannot determine a candidate's eligibility for federal office under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. In *Anderson v. Griswold*, the Colorado Supreme Court had held former President Donald J. Trump to be disqualified from holding the Office of President under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment on the grounds that he engaged in insurrection. As a consequence, the Colorado Supreme Court held that the Colorado Secretary of State could not include President Trump's name on Colorado's 2024 Presidential Primary Ballot. Sound familiar? In reaching its decision in *Trump v. Anderson*, the U.S. Supreme Court observed that Congress enjoys the power to enforce the Amendment through legislation, pursuant to Section 5 of the 14th Amendment, and reasoned that Section 5 grants Congress alone the authority to provide for the enforcement of Section 3 against federal officeholders and candidates. The Court noted, however, the states retain concurrent authority to enforce Section 3 with respect to state offices.

Section 5 of the 14th Amendment vests Congress with the authority to adopt appropriate legislation to enforce the other parts of the amendment, most notably the provisions of Section 1. Section 1: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny [to] any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Madam Speaker, I just read the entire 14th Amendment, Section 3, Section 5 and Section 1. All throughout that, it said Congress has the sole authority. Nowhere did it say that the

States have the authority, nor did it say the Secretary of State has the power to remove a presidential candidate for any reason, regardless of whether or not they perceive them to be part of any type of insurrection. Madam Speaker, this goes well beyond the checks and balance portion of why we are here. This speaks to us as a legislative Body, that it is our duty, it is our obligation to determine what brought our Secretary of State, who has the consulting authority to consult with lawyers, to consult with those in the know, and determine what and how she came to her conclusion that she has the authority to remove Donald Trump from the Presidential Primary Ballot. And what I just read there, Madam Speaker, I don't see it.

People need to be accountable for their actions, much in the way I had to be held accountable for not wearing a mask by being removed from my Committee. Secretary of State Bellows needs to be held accountable. If the shoe were on the other foot and it was a conservative Republican withholding a Democrat presidential candidate for reasons not specified other than a hunch or a belief, you can guarantee that we'd be going through the same process. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 394

YEA - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Quint, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

NAY - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, 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, Pomerleau, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Abdi, Boyle, Bradstreet, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson, O'Connell, Perkins, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sinclair.

Yes, 62; No, 78; Absent, 11; Excused, 0.

62 having voted in the affirmative and 78 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent, and accordingly the House Order **FAILED PASSAGE**.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Aroostook Agency on Aging, of Presque Isle, which has received the Business of the Year - Community Impact Award from the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1490)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Aroostook Agency on Aging served an average of 1,800 individuals monthly and provides essential services ranging from informational support to critical in-home assistance, all aimed at enabling people to age in their home communities. Their dedicated team of over 100 staff members and nearly 150 volunteers collaborate to meet these needs, ensuring older adults and those with disabilities receive compassionate care while caregivers are supported. During the pandemic, they swiftly adapted, assisting over 2,800 individuals with vaccinations and innovative programs for virtual accessibility. They doubled the meal deliveries to over 9,000 monthly and launched the Friendly Volunteer Program and expanded information and assistance services. Looking ahead, they've developed innovative programs like the community-based Memory Center, addressing the pressing issues of memory loss. In addition, their Access Points for Aging initiative will extend services to 20 partner communities throughout Aroostook County, providing vital resources and support. Recognizing the need for sustainable funding, they have established a foundation to secure additional resources.

Celebrating 50 years of service in 2023, we honor their legacy of commitment to the community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Ignite PI, of Presque Isle, which has received the Business of the Year - Economic Impact Award from the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1491)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ignite Presque Isle stands out with its distinctive organizational approach and dynamic business model. Since acquiring the Northeastland Hotel in May of 2021 with just 12 employees, the organization has expanded its team to 52 members, predominantly full-time. Through innovative initiatives and events, they've revitalized Main Street in Presque Isle, establishing it as a sought-after destination for visitors. At the forefront of their endeavors is the workforce innovation center, Ignite Presque Isle's flagship project. This visionary

space serves as a hub for entrepreneurship, featuring the most advanced coworking environment in New England. By repurposing the storefront property, they have pioneered a new area of business development in downtown Presque Isle, enhancing the area's economic landscape. The center seamlessly integrates with existing businesses and services, fostering an entrepreneurial ethos that unites the community for years to come. Hailing as the community connector, Ignite PI takes pride in facilitating connections to funding sources, business planning assistance, expert consultants, educational programs and community training initiatives. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Arthur and Cecile Wood, of Presque Isle, who have received the President's Award from the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1492)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Every year, the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals for their exceptional volunteerism that significantly contributes to the Chamber's success. Since 2019, Arthur and Cecile Wood have been pivotal figures in the annual holiday light parade, embodying the beloved characters of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Their dedication shines through in their meticulously crafted costumes and intricately designed floats, captivating the hearts of both young and old. Arthur and Cecile devote their time and talent to personally create and decorate their float, infusing it with an unmatched elegance befitting their roles. With every detail carefully planned and executed, their commitment to spreading joy is palpable. We just do it for the kids, Arthur humbly expresses, a sentiment that resonates deeply. Thanks to the efforts, knowing Santa and Mrs. Claus personally becomes a reality for children and adults alike. And Mr. and Mrs. Wood, I talk to them at the stores if I'm shopping and they're shopping, they always stop and ask me this question or that question, and I'm always willing to stop and answer them. They're great people and I also graduated the same year in high school in the same class. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Colleen Adams, of Sanford, a sergeant with the Sanford Police Department, who has been named the USA Today Woman of the Year for Maine. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 788)

Presented by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford. Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York, Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford, Representative LANIGAN of Sanford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar. **READ.**

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services Pursuant to Resolve

Representative MEYER for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services** on Resolve, to Reestablish the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1446) (L.D. 2255)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 97, section 7.

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

The Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-550)** on Resolve, to Establish the Stakeholder Group to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 876) (L.D. 2083)

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot

CRAVEN of Lewiston

FREDERICKS of Sanford

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MADIGAN of Waterville

SHAGOURY of Hallowell

ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-550)**.

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-550)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-550)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Make Technical Corrections to the Maine Juvenile Code, the Maine Criminal Code and the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act"

(H.P. 1381) (L.D. 2161)

Signed:
Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MATHIESON of Kittery
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:
Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representative:

ARDELL of Monticello

READ.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, 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.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 9: Rules Governing Administrative Civil Money Penalties for Labor Law Violations, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1398) (L.D. 2184)

Signed:
Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-803)** on same Resolve.

Signed:
Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **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 Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, our objection is not that the Department investigates a complaint. We agree that any employer that refuses to pay an employee their hard-earned wages should be investigated, made to pay back wages and fined. Our concern is how is the determination made to investigate one business over another.

I asked the new Director this question: You mention you want to become more proactive. Could you explain what that looks like? Here was the director's answer: Thank you for the question. It means not just responding to complaints, but investigating employers for labor law violations where we have reason to believe that there might be violations, even if no one has complained. There are two different channels that we could take. One is we receive a complaint, just like the incidents he was mentioning, and we know from past experience or anecdotal evidence that this is an industry or an employer where there's likely to be more violations, so, we expand the investigation out to cover not just the employer, but the entire business. Another proactive investigation is we receive no complaints at all, but we're dealing with an industry which we know is likely to have a high number of violations, so, we allocate resources to investigate that business or that industry to see where the violations are rather than waiting for a complaint.

Madam Speaker, in any other model in this State, profiling would not be allowed. And now we're going to say it's okay for the DOL to profile. Again, we're not against investigations, we're not against making employers pay back wages and fines, but we're against a Department that is now moving employees from education over to investigation. You know, Madam Speaker, years ago, the Department would send employees out to all businesses and they would provide us with up-to-date bulletins. Education should still be our focus. In the Department of Labor's Annual Report on Wage and Hour Complaints and Violations for 2023, there were 190 resolved complaints investigated and only six cases were resolved with penalties, which tells me that when they show up and they inquire and the employer admits the mistake, that most employers, except for six of them, are willing to say we're sorry, we'll make it right. So, that's our objection, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the Good Representative from Milford just said, I also rise in opposition to this pending motion. This rule, as I've talked to many businesses and many businesses in my community, they feel that this rule is not giving proper notice to them to be able to comment on it. And for something that is such an impactful change as this, we should insist on more from the Department of Labor when it comes to making these types of decisions.

As the Good Representative just shared, 190 cases were investigated in 2023; only six had penalties assessed. So, what is driving this expansion of State authority over this issue? And, you know, as he said, this is based on assumptions about certain bad actors, without any proof, without any evidence about who may be a bad actor, just based on the industry that the Department of Labor, whoever's running the Department of Labor at that time, determines that they may be a bad actor. This is not the way to do government; this is not the way to treat our business community. The Maine Department of Labor has provided no data or explanation of how it will make these determinations fairly.

This is another example of why it is so hard for businesses in this State right now. We have seen over the last few years the problems with what happened during the COVID pandemic, with them being shut down and having their livelihoods taken away in many instances; and yet, here we are, attempting to once again making it more difficult for people in the State of Maine to own a business and run a business. I think it is high time we started taking a more proactive approach in how we can help people start a business, how we can educate them on how to deal with the wage and hour laws that can be extremely complex and complicated, instead of just looking for a way to punish businesses at every opportunity. Maine is consistently rated one of the worst business climates in the country and stuff like this does not make it better; it makes it worse. I urge this Body to reject the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This Resolve is a dramatic shift from existing procedure and protocol of how the Department interacts with businesses within the Bureau of Labor Standards. Through these rules, Maine Department of Labor has said it will move away from education and outreach with businesses, which is preventative in nature. Instead, Maine Department of Labor will use strategic enforcement. Strategic enforcement does not rely on complaint or allegations of wages or hour violations, it instead relies on assumptions about which industries and which businesses might have potential bad actors. Maine Department of Labor has not provided data or explanation of how it will make these determinations fairly.

The Department no longer sees a preventative education and outreach as an effective tool to prevent potential future bad actors. The business community is very concerned about what this means for employers, especially small business. There is no evidence from unbiased sources that what actually exists is not a sufficient balance for protecting workers' rights and not unnecessarily burdening employers. The rules indicate the Department will move away from settlement agreements from employers who have been found to be in violation of the law. These have been effective deterrents and often have multi-year commitments, with heavy penalties for violating agreements. The rules indicate the Department will begin using the maximum penalties allowable under the law, which could cripple small

businesses. The Department also proposes to rework the penalty structure in a way that does not differentiate between willful violations and accidental violations. In essence, those who make clerical errors will be penalized and categorized the same as bad actors who willfully try to skirt the law. I urge my colleagues to vote no on LD 2184. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The other day in Appropriations, the Commissioner was speaking about this very issue. The question was asked; is your Department moving from a position of training and instruction and education for businesses to a posture of endorsement? And the Commissioner clearly said that they are not; they are continuing with their posture of training businesses and working with businesses. Then, under further questioning, with other folks testifying, it came to light that these things were happening in terms of changing the enforcement piece, and that created kind of an issue in the Committee room.

The reason I stood was because, as I sit here and I talk to businesses in my district, the number-one complaint that I get from businesses is they struggle to keep up with the regulatory environment that we are placing on them. And so, if we're not going to teach them, we're not going to have a posture of training and education, and we're just going to flip to enforcement, are we not going to just drive more businesses out of the State? I mean, right now, we're struggling; businesses are struggling in our State. And yet, we're going to pass a rule that changes the posture from education to enforcement? I don't think that's where we ought to go. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to speak to a couple of the concerns that have been raised. I think it's a matter of perspective. What I heard in my Committee room and what I heard in the AFA hearing, specifically, about our budget were about the change from education to enforcement. And what I heard in my Committee room was the same thing that I heard in the AFA room, which was that that was a distinction for the budget. It was a change of who was paying for those. That the education was a core value of the Department, they would continue to provide it as robustly as they had in the past, if not more so.

As to the proactive investigation of businesses, Dr. Moyer-Lee, in his testimony, said that they are going to be strategic and evidence-based when determining how to direct its resources. Directing investigation resources towards businesses which are unlikely to have many violations is not an efficient use of the Bureau's hyper-scarce resources. It's a Bureau that is dealing with a very small budget, very small number of employees. They want to be proactive in an actuarial sense. They're going to look at the data of past violations and do a robust study to figure out how, exactly, they should be proactive, because currently the reactive model is not working and it is stretching their resources even thinner. This is a way for them to apply basic common sense and robust data to do their jobs more effectively and be a better use of taxpayer dollars. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 395

YEA - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, 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 A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Boyle, Bradstreet, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson, Lavigne, O'Connell, Perkins, Rana, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sinclair.

Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 13; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and 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 item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 1404) (L.D. 2190) Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2025" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-802)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Natural Resources Protection Act to Enhance the State's Ability to Respond to and Prepare for Significant Flood Events and Storm Surge

(S.P. 858) (L.D. 2030)
(C. "A" S-547)

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. 118 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act Regarding the Ordinances Governing Residential Units Located in Buildings in a Location Zoned for Commercial Use

(H.P. 819) (L.D. 1294)
(C. "A" H-779)

An Act to Improve Maine's Labor Laws by Changing the Laws Governing Elections of Collective Bargaining Agents for Certain Public Employees

(S.P. 860) (L.D. 2032)

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)
(C. "A" H-773)

An Act to Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training

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

An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters

(S.P. 923) (L.D. 2171)
(C. "A" S-549)

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 Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Technical Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses

(H.P. 1218) (L.D. 1903)
(C. "A" H-778)

Resolve, to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Programs Within the Department of Corrections That Prepare Correctional Facility Residents for Employment and Self-sufficiency Upon Release from Incarceration

(H.P. 1271) (L.D. 1978)
(C. "A" H-777)

Were 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 item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SENATE PAPER

Bill "An Act to Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying Expenditures by Consumer-owned Water Utilities" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 972) (L.D. 2254)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, the House adjourned at 12:29 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2024, in honor and lasting tribute to John Cochin, Jr. of Sanford.