

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
22nd Legislative Day
Thursday, March 7, 2024

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

Prayer by Associate Pastor Phill Trevino, Fayette Baptist Church.

National Anthem by Katie Daggett, Hallowell.

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 Resolution: (S.P. 954)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 3, 2024
AS TOPICAL STEROID WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME
AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome, also known as Topical Steroid Addiction or Red Skin Syndrome, is a severe, debilitating condition that can arise from intentional or unintentional exposure to topical steroids; and

WHEREAS, topical steroids are widely prescribed and purchased over the counter to treat acute and chronic skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo and alopecia areata; and

WHEREAS, Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome is characterized by skin flushing, inflammation, diffuse spreading rashes, profuse skin flaking and a burning and itching worse than the original condition, symptoms that typically appear after the use of topical steroid treatments, between treatments or after discontinuing treatments; and

WHEREAS, symptoms may take several months to several years to subside, leaving some Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome sufferers bedridden and housebound, unable to work, care for children or go to school; and

WHEREAS, a prolonged withdrawal and recovery period can take a significant toll on a person's mental and physical health, and 81% of adults and 56% of children experiencing Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome report feeling anxious or depressed and 47% of adults and 11% of children experiencing Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome report suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of topical steroid addiction is unknown due to a scarcity of published research; and

WHEREAS, the scarcity of research on Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome impedes efforts to define diagnostic criteria; understand the causes, mechanics and effects of the syndrome; develop appropriate treatment protocols; and educate providers and patients about the syndrome and steroid stewardship; and

WHEREAS, a lack of awareness of and education about Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome among patients and providers can lead patients to question their providers' medical oversight and providers to suspect their patients of medication noncompliance and occasionally parental neglect; 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 designate February 3, 2024 as Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome Awareness Day and to express our support for increased awareness and prevention education on the signs of topical steroid dependence and the risks of Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 439)

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

March 6, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am appointing Representative Matthew D. Beck of South Portland to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, replacing Representative Lois Reckitt, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 440)

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

March 7, 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:"

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 2041 Resolve, to Review Traffic Fatalities Occurring While an Operator Was Under the Influence and Subsequent Prosecution with Respect to Those Occurrences

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 1819 An Act to Create the Maine Medical Cannabis Advisory Commission and the Medical Cannabis Alternative Health Board

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative DHALAC of South Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1449) (Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, JAUCH of Topsham, OSHER of Orono, RANA of Bangor)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2024
AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been celebrated since 1911; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have contributed greatly to the State's, the country's and the world's history; and

WHEREAS, those Maine women include Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to the United States Cabinet; Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; Olympia Snowe, the first woman to serve in both chambers at both the state and federal levels; Edna St. Vincent Millay, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, the first registered Maine guide; Samantha Smith, an international peace advocate; Gail Laughlin, the first woman in Maine to practice law; Dorothea Dix, a nurse and advocate for the mentally ill; Frannie Peabody, an HIV/AIDS activist; Judith Isaacson, a Holocaust survivor and educator; Mary Low, one of the first American women to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree; Elizabeth Russell, a groundbreaking geneticist; Florence Whitehouse, a suffragist, activist and novelist; Rachel Talbot Ross, the first African American woman to serve as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives; Valerie Stanfill, currently serving as Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court; and Janet T. Mills, the first woman in Maine to serve as Attorney General of Maine and the first woman to serve as Governor of Maine; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for American Women and Politics, in 2024 a record 32.8% of the 7,386 seats in the 99 state legislative chambers in the United States are currently held by women, including 43.5% of the seats in the Maine Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Maine is one of 26 states with a woman serving as a presiding officer of its Legislature; 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 contributions of Maine women throughout our history, the ongoing march toward gender equality, both in Maine and around the world, and the designation of March 8, 2024 as International Women's Day.

READ.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today just because I have a feeling that our dear departed colleague, Lois Reckitt, would have something lovely to say. I don't have the words that she would, so, let us all remember her in our way today. Thank you.

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

On motion of Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1450)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs shall report out, to the House, legislation to prohibit a Secretary of State from administering an election involving a candidate for whom the Secretary of State was a presidential elector.

READ.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. A person who has been an elector in an election should not be allowed to oversee an election where the candidate they were an elector for is on the ballot. They should recuse themselves and allow a qualified deputy to preside over the election. Thank you.

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: 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. 396

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

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

ABSENT - Albert, Boyle, Bradstreet, Carlow, Craven, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson, Lanigan, Riseman, Sampson, Shagoury, Woodsome, Zager.

Yes, 60; No, 77; Absent, 14; Excused, 0.

60 having voted in the affirmative and 77 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Order **FAILED PASSAGE**.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 44)

ORDERED, that Representative Richard G. Mason of Lisbon be excused Feb 13 and 15 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Kevin J. M. O'Connell of Brewer be excused Feb 27, 28 and 29 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Edward J. Polewarczyk of Wiscasset be excused Feb 28 and 29 for health reasons.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Connell.

Representative **O'CONNELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you can see, and as all my constituents can see, I was not here last week and it says for personal reasons. It wasn't personal reasons. We had a storm blow through and I worked three days around-the-clock. I wish that could be represented on this. My constituents need to see that I'm not missing these days for personal reasons. I have to keep them in power. How many of us here work for a living? Should we be there right now? I'm just saying, Madam, I would just ask --

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Chair would advise Members to notate on the forms the specific reason, that can be reflected.

Subsequently, the House Order was **PASSED**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-553)** on Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers"

(S.P. 257) (L.D. 589)

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 Not to Pass** 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 TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-553)**.

READ.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Montville, Representative Zeigler.

Representative **ZEIGLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support LD 589. This bill deals with having the PUC and Efficiency Maine Trust look at new technology to produce beneficial electrification in regards to transmission lines. This new technology will allow the existing lines to carry more power during peak hours, but more than that, it decreases the need to build new lines, decreasing costs. As we increase our use of

electricity to heat homes and power transportation, we will need more generation. But if we use existing lines with upgrades, we can add that generation with better efficiency and lower costs.

The bill also asks Efficiency Maine to join with the Governor's Office of Energy to come up with a three-year plan to incentivize commercial industrial groups to do things like upgrade connections and also re-conductoring lines. These incentives will pay off. I've heard in my Committee many times, by all parties, that we need to plan our energy production and our goals. This is a way our agencies can do that and then report back to the Legislature in order to monitor progress. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-553)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-553)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-554)** on Bill "An Act to Limit Utility Shut-offs"

(S.P. 798) (L.D. 1962)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
GEIGER of Rockland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** 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 TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-554)**.

READ.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Montville, Representative Zeigler.

Representative **ZEIGLER**: I rise to support LD 1962. This bill will develop rules so that during extreme heat or weather between mid-April and mid-November, a gas or electric utility cannot terminate their services. And we use the parameters by the National Weather Service to decide what those specific weather conditions are. What this does is it assists individuals

to stay in their homes with utility services during periods of stress and economic hardships. This protects the health of our constituents. Society always benefits by having people living in a stable, safe environment. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-554)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-554)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Provide Heating Relief with Tax-free Home Energy Savings Accounts"

(S.P. 757) (L.D. 1873)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-556)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

CARMICHAEL of Greenbush
LIBBY of Auburn
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

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

READ.

Representative PERRY of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative CARMICHAEL of Greenbush **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 Greenbush, Representative Carmichael.

Representative **CARMICHAEL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On January 5, 1880, in a small Piscataquis County town of Greeley's Falls, the lights come on in Maine for the first time. I think, since that time, we've seen many things change. What was, at that time, probably a very neat novelty and a rarity, now, I think, is a very essential way of life. Electricity has become essential to maintain life in Maine, especially for vulnerable and elderly citizens, and I think because it's so essential, that I think we should treat it that way in our income tax policies. So, I ask that we vote against this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand opposed to the pending motion. And I was a bit surprised when I looked at this last evening, that this bill didn't pass and come to us with an Ought to Pass motion. And let me just explain a couple of reasons why. Madam Speaker, you've heard me, on this floor, stand and explain that when we pass bills in the EUT Committee that raise rates for Maine ratepayers, there is no fiscal note. That is considered to be something that we don't need to bring before the Appropriations Committee, or even a fiscal note before the voting members. However, this bill, which has a relatively small fiscal note compared to some that we've passed on to ratepayers through bills from the Energy, Utilities, Technology Committee, would do a great deal to help Maine citizens, Maine ratepayers with their ever-increasing electric rates.

Madam Speaker, I've brought it up in Committee several times that, not only when we pass bills that add to the rates for Maine ratepayers, but also when we pass bills that help Maine ratepayers of low income such as the bill that I sponsored, the extension of the arrearage management program and this bill that we just passed previous to this one, where that low-income ratepayers will not be subject to fees for reconnection and other things. Those fees that normally provide some monies to utilities then have to be absorbed by other ratepayers, therefore, raising the rates of the rest of us.

This particular bill would assist folks who are seeing ever-increasing electric bills and are having a hard time to meet payment of those bills, along with all the other essentials that they have. And as I have mentioned in Committee several times, every time we pass a bill that raises rates for some to help out the low-income ratepayers, we raise the number of people that are near that bar where that they can no longer afford their electricity. This bill, which would allow someone to, as I understand the Committee Amendment, to receive a credit, if you will, not have to pay up to \$2,500 on their income tax, would go a great way towards helping those folks that are really paying their electric bills and helping those who cannot. I'll give you one example. I had a friend; an old, elderly gentleman, he's retired now; he's trying to keep his Christmas tree farm going, and he approached me a few days ago and, in our conversation, he told me that he relied on his heat pump more this winter. Burns wood, but he thought that that would make it easier for him and, when he got his \$650 electric bill for the month that he used that extensively, he was surprised. And, Madam Speaker, this bill would have assisted him. Maybe he could've gotten back a portion of that from his income tax.

So, therefore, I would ask that we all consider this bill as a way to help all Maine ratepayers, including those who have low income that might be paying some income tax to the State of Maine, in trying to survive as we transition and as we realize that the electric rates are only going to go up, at least for the near future. So, I would ask that we vote down the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as they say, I did not plan on speaking on this bill, but I was prepared, so, here we go. I want to tell you a bit about the bill because it started out as an energy savings account. People could open a specific account for energy savings and that would be tax exempt. It's a lot of work, a lot of effort to try and do, only the

people who have the means to open the account, save their money, set it aside, use it for this purpose would benefit. It really doesn't do something for everyone. The amended version is a deduction, a deduction on your income tax up to \$2,500, for electricity used, and the maximum benefit would be \$178 per year for someone who was able to take advantage of it.

There's nothing wrong with the bill. I mean, there's nothing wrong with most of the bills we get down there in Taxation. The problem is we have more bills to give back tax incentives than we have money, so, we have to prioritize. So, on the Tax Committee, we're really trying to take a holistic approach. And I sympathize with the gentleman we heard about with the \$650 electric bill on his heat pump, but our approach in Tax is to help him if he had decided to buy the wood. So, we've done that and we're trying to avoid these really specific types of incentives. And I think what we've done over the last couple of years in this Legislature, with fully funding revenue sharing, 55% school funded, general assistance increases; that's money that goes directly to your city and town to lower your property taxes. We've expanded the Homestead Exemption, puts money back into homeowners' pockets; \$90 million in this Legislature more for the property tax fairness credit, direct relief to people, refundable child tax credit, refundable earned income tax credit, a pension credit; no one knows, we don't get credit for it, we just passed a bill last year, \$90 million more for pension relief for seniors.

So, what we're doing in Tax is trying to take a holistic approach, to give money back fairly, to keep the balance of that three-legged stool which is property taxes, income taxes and sales and excise taxes. I think we've done a pretty good job. I think we, as a Legislature as a whole, have a lot to be proud about what we've done to help the people from Maine and going down the path of some of these more focused, specific tax incentives or breaks or whatever you want to call it, does not seem to fit in with the bigger picture of what we're trying to do. So, that's why the motion is Ought Not to Pass and we'll keep working in Tax to deliver relief to people through the simplest means possible and the fairest means. So, that's the reason for the Ought Not to Pass motion, and I think we ought to stick with it. 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, if I may. At \$2,500 --

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, sorry. With \$2,500 per person of a sales tax or a tax credit, what would the fiscal note be to the taxpayers of Maine, just so we can have it on the record? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who chooses to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Perry.

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the question. I said I was prepared, but I neglected to mention it. In 2025, \$45 million; '26, \$53 million; '27, \$57 million out of the General Fund to give a maximum of \$178 to people who can manage to keep track of their electricity bills and file it on their income tax, and does nothing for the people who are non-filers or just, you know, aren't aware that that's something they should be doing. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Greenbush, Representative Carmichael.

Representative **CARMICHAEL**: Thank you Madam Speaker, I was just going to answer the same question. 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. 397

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hasenfuls, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, 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, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Landry, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Boyle, Bradstreet, Campbell, Copeland, Craven, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson, Sampson.

Yes, 77; No, 64; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-804)** on Bill "An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes"

(H.P. 186) (L.D. 288)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

HASENFUS of Readfield

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MATHIESON of Kittery

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

NEWMAN of Belgrade

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **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 Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take us on a little journey to explain why I cannot support the motion before us today. And the journey is to about 20 years ago, when the State made a decision to remove youth from group homes and place them in homes. When group homes were already there, being very productive parts of society, trying to help raise children who are at risk. And when this move happened, to bring them into family home areas, which I agree is much better for them, they didn't have the places to put them, Madam Speaker. And what we're doing with this is probably pretty similar. I actually lost my job because of that change. I worked in group homes. I'm a certified behavioral health professional and it really negatively impacted me, but it also negatively impacted those youth because the funding was cut before things were there and in place and ready to go. Madam Speaker, these youth suffered even more and are now flooding our emergency rooms even more. And my fear is, Madam Speaker, if we pass this, we're going to see an increase in the crisis that we already have in our emergency rooms because these youth aren't going to the programs that already exist to help them, instead of creating new programming. So, for that reason, Madam Speaker, I cannot support the motion before us.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative Madigan.

Representative **MADIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Many of you have heard me talk about both adult and children's behavioral health for many years now. And I used to sit on the Criminal Justice Committee. While I was there, I was frankly shocked that we were deciding things around juvenile justice without actually talking to the Department of Health and Human Services, without actually addressing mental health issues. This bill actually would put money towards those services that will keep kids out of emergency rooms. It actually augments what the Department of Health and Human Services is already doing. Things like multi-systemic therapy, functional family therapy, high-fidelity wraparound; and I'm sure a lot of people don't know what those are, but those are evidence-based programs that show what works with kids.

The Good Representative from Pittsfield, I also have worked in the field when group homes closed. I also worked in the field when we had Youth and Family Services youth shelter in Skowhegan. There are many things that need to happen to keep kids out of the emergency room, to keep them from coming into the juvenile justice system. We won't solve that problem for free, and mental health services, which is what this does, is a start. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Lookner.

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, I think everybody would agree that, ideally, families can be relied on to protect, nurture and support their children as they grow to adulthood, and that children raised in these families, you know, learn to trust that their caregivers have their best interests

in mind. That's the ideal situation, but unfortunately for a lot of kids in our State, that's just not the case.

Most of us, I would reckon, could not imagine being 12 years old and not having a safe place to go after school, a warm bed to sleep in at night, but that is exactly what a lot of young people in our State are facing, and we need to do better. Youth who find themselves facing such circumstances have very few coping skills, tools or resources at their disposal to navigate society, which can often seem cold, indifferent and punishing in ways that they don't understand. They may end up acting out in ways as cries for help that land them at odds with the criminal justice system, which is too often the only place that they can access any type of services in our State, although those services often do more harm than good. Robust research shows that youth who end up involved in the justice system are set up for a lifetime of negative outcomes, including institutionalization and recidivism into adulthood. This bill is about providing services so that these youth can avoid those outcomes.

Our State has been identified by the Department of Justice as being in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act for our over-reliance on incarceration and institutionalization for youth who make mistakes. For years now, we have convened stakeholder groups, commissioned studies, hired outside groups of experts, published reports and everything about the need to create alternative services to incarceration in the community but, unfortunately, all those efforts have largely gone unheeded and ignored. Youth experiencing such hardship do not have the means of hiring lobbyists to get their voices heard or their needs met in this building.

This bill is about finally making robust investments in underfunded services so that youth who make mistakes can avoid becoming involved in the criminal justice system to begin with. Primarily, this bill is about increasing public safety for this group of youth who lack safety in all dimensions. When youth have nowhere to turn for safety or help and end up acting out in ways that we don't like, committing petty crimes and temporarily inconveniencing us by disrupting our daily routines, we are failing them because we have not provided the safety that they need. We must make services available in the communities so that we can increase public safety, especially for this group that lacks safety in their lives. That's what this bill seeks to address. There are programs in this State run by dedicated professionals who have made it their lives' work to help youth in crisis. They do tremendous work with few resources. The funding in this bill will go towards supporting those incredible programs all around the State so that youth with nowhere else to turn will not have to leave their communities in order to access services. This funding will go toward low-barrier shelters, youth centers where kids can go and get help and wraparound services in every geographic region around the State.

Of course, we cannot legislate families to be perfect, and if there are efforts taken in future sessions to support keeping kids in families, I would be more than happy to support those efforts, but we can provide behavioral health and treatment services to youth and their families in their communities so that they can avoid a lifetime of hardship, adversity and justice involvement. For the same amount that we spend on inadequately addressing youth in crisis in the correction system, we can create and bolster a robust system of housing and support services for these kids near where they live, so, even if they don't have families they can rely on or privileges that they can fall back on, they may go on to live full and successful lives. So, please join me in supporting the motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With respect to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have great hopes for this program, I wish this program would actually do the things they're talking about and provide behavioral and mental health services to our youth. That's what's needed. That's what we cut out when we got rid of group home funding and pushed it to family in-home service funding.

Madam Speaker, when I read this amended version of the bill that's before us today, the initiative provides one-time funding of \$20 million. Only \$20 million to address all of the wonderful things that were said that were going to be addressed over here; the homelessness, the at-risk youth, providing them homes, basically creating group homes again to help these youth who are in trouble; that they will be created geographically dispersed throughout the State to provide at-risk youth and youth involved in juvenile justice system; low-barrier access to shelters, youth centers, comprehension need assessments and wraparound services. The problem, Madam Speaker, is it does not once in here reference that it is actually providing behavioral and mental health services to these youth and what they need. It's creating group homes without creating group homes, and we need those services, the true professionals that are helping those youth in crisis to be doing that. Twenty million dollars can go a long way, Madam Speaker, to help the youth who are in crisis stuck in our emergency rooms right now, not getting the services they need. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand up because I was on Criminal Justice and I worked diligently, we worked on trying to help the juveniles that are in the Portland center, and we managed to get from 300 down to 25 that are left in the center. So, we managed to do amazing work. But there are some serious juveniles that have committed serious heinous crimes that are either murder or aggravated assaults, sexual assaults; very dangerous individuals. And many of them probably should've been tried as adults and maybe didn't, but they are a danger to society and it needs to have careful work help to get them back in the public.

By doing this, this actually puts the same thing, what you're doing in Portland, all over the State, and it would be very difficult for security, for safety to the public, to the individuals that are working with them. Trying to find the help as it is difficult, but to spread it all over the State is even more difficult to manage these individuals. I, as a law enforcement officer, used to go to 52 places around the area with Spurwink, and they had very similar situation where it was mental health issues and whatever and there would be two or three or four people at one house, dealing with one or two individuals at those homes. And I would get many calls, having to go to those calls because they have threatened or harmed or did major damage to the homes, and they didn't have the people that really were capable of handling the situations. They weren't trained for those very assaultive situations and they were also scared.

This is putting people at harm's way. This is not what you think it is. It is not covering and not helping the people that really need help. We have a beautiful facility, it's owned by the State, we don't even have any rental fees on it, we own it, we have education programs there, we have mental health programs there and we have the facility to keep people safe. So, I am not going to vote for this, I think that this is really a big mistake by

spending \$20 million to put people in harm's way. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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. 398

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, 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'Connell, 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, 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, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Boyle, Bradstreet, Craven, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson.

Yes, 80; No, 64; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-804) 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-804)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish an Officer on Tribal Relations (H.P. 1166) (L.D. 1834)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
BAILEY of York
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland
KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
MORIARTY of Cumberland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris
HAGGAN of Hampden
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)** Report.

READ.

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

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **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 Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill creates an Office of Tribal and State Affairs. It's an additional paid position in the Secretary of State's office to appoint a neutral person to consult with tribes and basically have a relationship between the State and the tribes for communication about legislation that may affect the tribes.

I'm standing before you right now because this position is not necessary and it's an unnecessary expansion of government because each of the tribes are able to have a Representative in this Body. Most of them choose not to, but that option is there and that option is already budgeted for. Just like you and I, we hear the legislation going on here, we have access to the information to bring back to our communities. The Tribal Representatives can do the same thing. It's up to each of us to make sure that our voices are heard here and that our community members and the people that we represent know what's going on. It's not up to the taxpayers to make sure that another group of people or a sovereign body understands what's going on here.

Madam Speaker, this is a new position that, like I say, does expand government. I think communication is super-important, but I think that this can also be achieved without additional monies and additional government. 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. 399

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, 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, Newman, O'Connell, 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, Andrews, Arata, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Ardell, Boyle, Bradstreet, Craven, Cray, Faulkingham, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson.

Yes, 81; No, 60; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The RESOLUTION was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the RESOLUTION was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-808)** on Bill "An Act to Allow Equitable Compensation of Certain Board Members"

(H.P. 1376) (L.D. 2152)

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 Not 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 to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill allows for State agencies to provide reasonable compensation to individuals who want to participate in State advisory boards and commissions. It does not mandate State Agency participation, but rather allows for it under the

discretion of the named State Agency overseeing that board of commission and must be provided within their existing resources. This change would increase access to people who are otherwise unpaid and cannot take a day off from work to drive to Augusta and participate. It increases access for those with valuable lived experience to contribute to boards and commissions in ways that are currently unavailable. Thank you.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Currently under State law, they're allowed to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses; travel, et cetera. This is an expansion that would change honorary positions of boards and members that, you know, people used to take pride in being selected to serve on, rather than being able to, you know, receive credit for just doing the right thing. It's going to allow them to be paid, which takes away from volunteerism. In our Calendars to now, we're seeing lots of Spirit of America awards promoting volunteerism. This is a way to take away from volunteerism and I encourage the membership to vote down the pending motion. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 400

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, 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, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Campbell, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, 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, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Boyle, Bradstreet, Craven, Cray, Galletta, Gramlich, Jackson, LaRochelle, Roberts.

Yes, 79; No, 62; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, 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-808)** 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-808)** 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. 867) (L.D. 2039) Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Board of the Finance Authority of Maine to Allow for the Addition of a Proxy Designee" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 872) (L.D. 2071) Resolve, to Fill All Vacant and Expired Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board (EMERGENCY) Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 871) (L.D. 2070) Bill "An Act to Implement a Facility-based Monitoring System for Slot Machines" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-552)**

(S.P. 881) (L.D. 2088) Bill "An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-551)**

(H.P. 1111) (L.D. 1732) Bill "An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-805)**

(H.P. 1317) (L.D. 2055) Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Implementing Electronic Visit Verification for Hospice Providers Within the MaineCare Program Unless Mandated by the Federal Government" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-806)**

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

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

(H.P. 527) (L.D. 838) Bill "An Act to Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-807)**

On motion of Representative JAVNER of Chester, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Unanimous Committee Report was **READ**.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise today; just wanted to bring awareness to this bill and I want to thank my colleagues for their work and dedication on this issue, the Health and Human Services Committee, really appreciate their support here on this bipartisan bill. And just what this bill does would allow for the reverse-genealogy DNA testing for unidentified remains. A constituent who runs the Missing in Maine nonprofit told me about this issue that our State; we have anywhere between 20

and 30 unidentified remains in our State's possession and we have over a hundred and some missing folks in our State, really high per capita, for Maine. And this technology will allow us to test those remains, work backwards and hopefully identify the families that these folks are missing from, give them closure and perhaps some of the missing folks here in Maine are simply in our State's possession and maybe we can save some taxpayer dollars by not, you know, looking for folks that are here. So, it's a really great idea, it's the least we could do for these families that are looking for closure, looking for loved ones; families like the Moreaus in Jay who lost Kim in 1986 and he's still looking. Richard is still looking for her, putting up missing posters on light poles in Jay. So, I appreciate the bipartisan work on this, it will give a glimmer of hope to these families and I just wanted to raise that awareness for folks and a lot of gratitude for my colleagues today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Subsequently, the Committee Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-807)** 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** and sent for concurrence.

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 yesterday, 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 Dino Frost, of Pittsfield

(HLS 734)

TABLED - January 16, 2024 (Till Later Today) by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

PENDING - **ADOPTION**.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 973)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow School Administrative District No. 52 to Issue Temporary Notes for a Wastewater Treatment Project" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 974) (L.D. 2257)

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 Create an Income Tax Credit for Investments in a Team's Qualified Minor League Baseball Facility to Keep the Team in the State"

(S.P. 975) (L.D. 2258)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Receiving Compensation for Assisting a Person to Obtain Veterans' Benefits Except as Permitted Under Federal Law"

(S.P. 976) (L.D. 2259)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Permission to speak on the record?

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: So, in the six years that I've been part of this Body, I don't think I've ever done this, but in light of the situation, I felt that it was necessary. I would like the record to reflect that had I been here for House Order 43, Roll Call 394, I would have voted yes. And in light of the fact that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle did not think that it's necessary to even open an investigation into the Secretary of State's disenfranchising all of those voters, that we were fortunate enough that the Supreme Court voted 9-0 to allow former President Trump to be on the ballot. I would like to once again call for the Secretary of State's resignation. Thank you.

On motion of Representative WORTH of Ellsworth, the House adjourned at 11:55 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 973).