

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
23rd Legislative Day  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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

Prayer by Father Frank Morin, Waterville.

National Anthems of the United States, Canada and France by Melanie Saucier, Quebec.

Pledge of Allegiance led by the Honorable Michel Lajoie, Lewiston.

The Journal of Thursday, March 7, 2024 was read and approved.

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

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 980)

**JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE**

**MARCH 12, 2024 AS FRANCO-AMERICAN DAY**

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is named after the Province of Maine in France, and the towns of Paris and Calais owe their names to the capital city of France and the French port city of Calais, respectively; and

WHEREAS, more than 1/3 of the population of Maine is of French and Canadian descent, and Franco-Americans in Maine have contributed much to the beauty and quality of this State; and

WHEREAS, French is the primary language of thousands of Maine citizens and there has been a resurgence in the use of the French language and a heightened appreciation of Franco-American heritage throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, clubs and organizations to promote French culture and language have sprung up throughout the State, including the Franco-American Caucus at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, fluent French-English bilingual people are a cultural and economic resource to the State; and

WHEREAS, cultural tourism can be greatly enhanced by the genuine Franco-American centers throughout the State, and the large Franco-American presence in Maine can further strengthen our relationships with Canada, France and the rest of the francophone world; and

WHEREAS, the first Franco-American Day was celebrated in March 2002 at the State Capitol; 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, proclaim that Tuesday, March 12, 2024 is Franco-American Day, to be celebrated at the State Capitol; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Franco-American Day be celebrated to commemorate the rich history of the French people in the State of Maine and the United States of America.

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

**READ.**

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

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I rise today because the Franco-American story is an integral part of Maine's

story and my story. French-speaking Mainers have shaped our history and our culture for nearly as long as we have been a State. When Acadian French-speaking people were forced out of the Maritime provinces by the British Crown, they found refuge in Maine, particularly in the St. John Valley. When the American textile industry was on the rise, French-speaking people from Quebec came to places like Biddeford, Augusta, Waterville, Brunswick and my hometown of Lewiston, seeking better jobs and finding an industry that needed workers. This is our shared history and evidence of how our State has become stronger through enrichment by other cultures. It shows us how we benefit by embracing our diversity.

The individuals we are honoring today through induction into the Maine Franco-American Hall of Fame are an important part of that story. We celebrate these extraordinary Franco-American Mainers in the Hall of Flags later, as each one of them in their own way has added to the vast fabric of the amazing quilt that is our State. Madam Speaker, the story of Franco-American Mainers has much to teach us. I look forward to celebrating our shared history as we march into the future. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**Recognizing:**

Donald Bisson, of Biddeford, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Bisson worked for Verizon for several years in the World Trade Center before retiring in 1998. He then returned to Maine and eventually became the manager and president of the Biddeford Food Pantry, where he has worked for the past 19 years. He also serves as cantor at the Good Shepherd Parish. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 841)

Presented by Representative MALON of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Sheehan.

Representative **SHEEHAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I rise today to recognize Donald Bisson for his induction into Maine's Franco-American Hall of Fame. He is the embodiment of the Franco-American spirit, which upholds kindness, resilience and generosity above all else.

You may have heard Don's name in the press as his generosity has been covered by many Maine papers over the years. Born and raised in Biddeford, Don has spent the last 19 years serving his community as manager of the Biddeford Food Pantry, including during the height of the pandemic, when I first met him, when food pantries largely saw an uptick in demand and a drop in donations. At that time, he was serving roughly 600 families. Regardless of background or circumstance, Don

ensures that anyone who comes to the food pantry is fed, whether they are a resident of the community or not. His ethos is that no one leaves hungry.

His commitment to community extends beyond the food pantry, as he also serves as cantor at Good Shepherd Parish, using his voice to uplift others. Don's tireless efforts to foster connections and bridge socioeconomic divides is a gift that not many have. For that reason, we honor him today as a beacon of the Franco-American spirit. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to recognize this remarkable individual.

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

**Recognizing:**

Richard L'Heureux, of Topsham, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. L'Heureux is a retired United States Navy Master Chief Petty Officer who served two tours in Vietnam, one in country with the Seabees and one in the Gulf of Tonkin aboard the USS Intrepid. He also served a tour at Subic Bay in the Philippines and as Command Master Chief at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois, the largest naval training facility in the world. He received the Navy Commendation Medal and several Vietnam service medals as well as the Terence Cardinal Cooke Award for humanitarian support of military families. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 846)

Presented by Representative JAUCH of Topsham.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative GALLETTA of Durham.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ZAGER of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise to honor Richard L'Heureux of Topsham, and I also want to acknowledge and extend appreciation to Representative from Topsham, Representative Jauch, for her kindnesses today.

Our families have known each other for half a century, and we met back in the Philippines; where Dick was already well into a very distinguished career in the Navy and I was being born. And he and Julie extended innumerable kindnesses to my family, especially from the first hours that they had arrived at the naval station. He and my father worked together at the Naval Justice Center, and there's a few good stories from what I've gathered. For any Members and guests who aren't familiar with the Navy, it is the Chiefs that run the show. That is something that any new enlistee or officer candidate learns pretty early on, so, it is folks like Dick that really keep our ships afloat, our sailors fed, as they serve our country. So, the Chiefs run the show and the Chiefs' Mess is actually the best place on any Command for food and also some bawdy humor. There was one time when my mother was a guest of Dick at the Chiefs' Mess, which was quite an honor for anyone to get to go to the Chiefs' Mess. And for something that had to do with her ID, the person at the door wouldn't let her in. I won't go into all of the details, but there was some rather colorful language from the Master Chief who was the host and suffice it to say, there's a reason why the expression is 'cursing like a sailor,' but I'll decline to tell the details for this genteel audience.

So, since then, the L'Heureux; and we have had the honor to be with the L'Heureux for many, many family occasions and

it is wonderful to get to honor him as an inductee in the Franco-American Hall of Fame, for acknowledging what he and so many other people of French descent have given to the common good in this country. And, also, to acknowledge the enduring and longstanding and very strong alliances and friendships that people of Maine and the rest of the country have had with the French people and the Canadian people, so, much appreciation to our honored guests. In all, I just wanted to thank Dick for being a wonderful friend, a real role model of service. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Recognizing:**

Robert Chenard, of Waterville, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Chenard has worked for years in Franco-American genealogy as an author, lecturer and instructor and has volunteered for 32 years with the Taconnett Falls Chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society. Mr. Chenard's work has connected many with their Franco-American roots. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 847)

Presented by Representative WHITE of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WHITE of Waterville, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Members of the House. I considered reading this in French, but my wife talked me out of it. So, Robert Chenard was born in Waterville, Maine, educated in Waterville schools and graduated from the University of Maine at Orono. He did graduate work there and later, in Texarkana College in Texas. He served as an Army officer in France, West Germany and the States. He is the father of three daughters, with four grandsons and five step-grandchildren. Robert retired from the U.S. Federal Civil Service as an Army civilian, having served both overseas and in several states.

Since retirement over 40 years ago, he has made it his goal to research the ancestry of the Franco-Americans in the Central Maine area, as well as many Franco-Americans from all over Maine and from all six New England states. Over the past 20 years, Robert has published several volumes on the subject of genealogy, written many articles in newspapers and in genealogy publications. He has lectured on the subject of Franco genealogy to a number of genealogy and historical societies, gave genealogy classes and TV presentations from 1977 until 2015. He produced his genealogy website, *the French Connection*, that received awards and recognition as one of the top 100 genealogy websites. In 2008, the Maine Genealogy Society presented him with the Award of Excellence in Genealogy Service. Over the years, Robert has been a member of several genealogy and historical societies in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Quebec. He served in various capacities in the Maine Genealogy Societies as a Director, Vice President and Treasurer. His latest work is a compilation of all the birth and death records of the 19 oldest parishes in Beauce County, Quebec, covering the years 1738 to 1900, taking nearly seven years to translate from the original French and compile them into a huge database organized by family name.

Bob's work is invaluable to the preservation of the Franco-American heritage. I am proud to present Bob Chenard for induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Recognizing:**

Cecile Thornton, of Lewiston, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Ms. Thornton worked at MPBN from 2000 to 2006 and at The Public Theatre in Lewiston from 1997 to 2000. She has been a board member of the Franco-American Collection since 2021 and currently serves as Board Treasurer. She has volunteered in a number of roles, including as administrator for French Maine USA on Facebook, as both an English Conversation Partner and as a tutor with Literacy Volunteers, as facilitator for the French Club at the Lewiston Library from 2017 to 2018 and as facilitator for the French Club at the Gendron Franco Center from 2016 to 2018. She promotes the French language by hosting two weekly French conversation groups via Zoom. Through these groups, she not only helps people improve their French language skills but also serves as a conduit to teach people about Franco-Americans. She recently organized a "le mois de la francophonie," or Francophonie Month, event at the Franco-American Collection, featuring a panel of immigrants from Quebec, France, Rwanda, Djibouti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has also immersed herself into the immigrant community in Lewiston-Auburn. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 848)

Presented by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Craven.

**Representative CRAVEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Cecile Thornton is a bedrock of the Franco community in Lewiston, the city in which she was born and raised. She reaches out to new French speakers coming into the community and she volunteers with Literacy Volunteers to both teach both French and English. Ms. Thornton has been instrumental in preserving and promoting the French language within our community. She hosts two family French conversation groups which serves to help people improve their French skills and teach about Franco-Americans. Ms. Thornton facilitates the French Club at the Lewiston library. She facilitated the French Club at the Lewiston library from 2017 to 2018 and the French Club at the Gendron Center from 2016 to 2018. Ms. Thornton also organizes Francophone month at the Franco-American Collection, which features a panel of immigrants from Quebec, France, Rwanda, Djibouti and the Democratic Republic of Congo. For these and many other reasons, it is my honor to nominate Cecile Thornton for induction into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Recognizing:**

Denis Ledoux, of Lewiston, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Ledoux is a writer and a history teacher who has been working for over 30 years to help Francos and others write their memoirs. These memoirs include his mother's memoir, "We Were Not Spoiled - A Franco-American Memoir," and his own memoir, "French Boy - A 1950's Franco-American Childhood." He is working on a sequel to his memoir, "My Nineteenth-Century Life - A Franco-American Seminary Memoir." He also writes fiction, including "What Became of Them - Stories from Franco-America," "Lives in Translation - Contemporary Franco-American Writings" and "Mountain Dance and Other Stories," which won a Maine Fiction Award in 1989. Mr. Ledoux has served on various boards, including the Franco Centre at St. Mary's and the Franco-American Collection. He has served twice with the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, where he worked to promote Franco-American writers, publications and literary events. He was also active in Rassemblement des artistes franco-americains, or Gathering of Franco-American Artists, from 1982 to 1994. He has spent decades promoting and preserving the stories and histories of Franco-Americans. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 849)

Presented by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Craven.

**Representative CRAVEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Denis Ledoux is a writer, a teacher and a committed preserver of stories of Franco-Americans. He has worked for more than 30 years to help Francos and other writers write their memoirs and he has published two memoirs of his own, *French Boy - A 1950's Franco-American Childhood* and *My Nineteenth-Century Life - A Franco-American Seminary Memoire*. Denis has also written fiction stories and speaks the American experience and his book *Mountain Dance and Other Stories* won a Maine Fiction Award in 1989. Madam Speaker, Denis is also active within the community and has served on numerous boards including the Franco Centre at St. Mary's and the Franco-American Collection. For these reasons and more, it is my honor to nominate Denis Ledoux for introduction to the Franco-American Hall of Fame.

I also want to thank my dear friend, Doris Vana, who's actually in the audience and has made both suggestions for both nominations from Lewiston and is herself an inductee into the Hall of Fame. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Recognizing:**

Danielle Sylvester, of Winslow, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Ms. Sylvester, who was born in Quebec City, Province of Quebec, Canada and became a dual citizen in 1976, worked for the Maine Workers' Compensation Board as a translator and has owned a restaurant for the past 8 years, having worked in the business for 20 years. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; (HLS 859)

Presented by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.  
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

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

**READ.**

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in order to speak about our friend, Danielle Sylvester. She was born in Quebec City, Province of Quebec, Canada, in 1966 and in 1976, she became a dual citizen after successfully completing a mandatory course. She married Fred Sylvester, with whom they have three children, and she began her career as a translator for the Maine Workers Compensation Board and then she also did 20 years in the industry of restaurant work and she actually owns Bee's Diner down in Winslow, Maine, for eight years. She's a very hard worker. I enjoy going there almost weekly and the people in Winslow and surrounding towns just love her. She's very charismatic and her husband works diligently side by side with her. And also, *Empire Falls* was filmed at that little restaurant and it's a very cozy one and she survived the flooding; they did a tremendous work and got it back in operation after a high water table and very fortunate to have them back and keep going and I'm very proud of them. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **MADIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to extend my congratulations to Danielle Sylvester. I have eaten at Bee's many times. The pancakes are great, I recommend the donuts as well, they do a great job with bacon. And also, I was going to mention that *Empire Falls*, you know, part of that was filmed there. And I actually was there that day because my sister was working across the street and it was quite the to-do locally. But, thank you, Danielle, for a wonderful place to get a great breakfast and sit in our communities. Thank you.

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

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative LaRochelle, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **LaROCHELLE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak about Mary Jeannette Michaud and her husband, the late Victor Michaud, two inductees to the Franco-American Hall of Fame. They are two outstanding Augusta citizens who dedicated their career to teaching children and preserving Franco history for the Augusta community.

In the past, Augusta was the location of several manufacturing companies where thousands of people in the community were hired to provide labor. Most of the workers were Franco-Americans who came to the Augusta area and were among the thousands of families who had immigrated from French Canada. Victor and Jan began the project of preserving this history by conducting interviews with former workers. Jan conducted the interviews while talking about workers' experiences in the mills, while Victor filmed each piece. The result was the oral history *Manufacturing Augusta*, which has been preserved for posterity. The Michauds led the organization to preserve the legacy of the mills and to tribute the Franco-Americans who lived in Augusta and worked in these factories. They raised \$20,000 to further the program. After Victor passed away in 2019, Jan donated the funds to the Kennebec Historical Society to help preserve Franco-American history.

Today, we thank both Victor and Jan for their hard work and dedication to preserving this important part of Franco-American culture. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would not have wanted to miss this opportunity. I am just delighted to see my dear friend, Jan Michaud, in the well of the House with her son, Ed, here today being honored so appropriately. In the 24 years that I was the City Manager in Augusta, most of those years, Jan Michaud was my conscience when it came to dealing and recognizing and acknowledging the value that the Franco-American community brought to and contributed to the City of Augusta. She's a treasure. Her husband, Vic, was her partner in all of this. He was a treasure as well.

With your indulgence, Madam Speaker, I'll read a bit more from the nomination papers that Representative LaRochelle submitted to say that Victor attended St. Augustine School and graduated from Cony High School in 1963. He received his teaching degree from the Farmington State Teachers College in '67, and his Master's degree in math education from the University of Southern Maine. He married Mary Jeannette Jelacour on June 17, 1967, and had two children, Edward and Nicole. Victor taught math and science for 29 years, with the majority of his career at O.C. Woodman Middle School in Gardiner, and had a lifetime passion for skilled woodworking.

Mary Jeannette, or Jan, has spent her life career in education, a total of 37 years. Most of these years were for the School Administrative District 11 in Gardiner. She has a Bachelor's degree in education from Farmington Teachers College, which is now known as the University of Maine at Farmington. She also has a Master's degree and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from the University of Maine. Jan taught students in grades seven and eight for 16 years, and then went to Gardiner Area High School and happily taught freshmen through seniors there for seven years. Next, she became assistant principal for four years at Gardiner High. This was followed by eight years as principal at Helen Thompson School in West Gardiner, where she had the pleasure of working with students, staff and community. *Merci, Mademoiselle.*

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Sargent, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am honored and pleased to rise to speak about one of our inductees. Dr. Fern Desjardins of St. Agatha; did I say it right? You may be able to surmise that St. Agatha and York are not near to one another in our great State, but I have gotten to know Dr. Desjardins through my work on the Education Committee here in the last year and a half.

In life, every once in a while, one encounters a person for whom skill, discipline, passion and commitment all align with a love of a topic. Experiencing Dr. Desjardins and her work now as the Chair of Maine's Board of Education, a major job, epitomizes all of those things and you realize how fortunate we are to have her in the State. Education is at the heart of this woman. She's been a teacher, a principal, a superintendent; and award-winning, I might add, in all of those places; and now she is diligent in making certain that, frankly, for all of our districts' certification, construction, the rules are upheld in order for us to serve our children.

I've met many, many, many inspiring and impressive people in my life, I've been privileged to do that, and I'm very, very happy to add Dr. Desjardins' name to that list because she does us all honor by the work that she does. Congratulations, Dr. Desjardins.

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#### SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

##### In Memory of:

Charles Daniel Arnett, of Winter Harbor. Mr. Arnett was a veteran of the United States Navy, having served for 22 years. He was an active member of the Birch Harbor Baptist Church. Mr. Arnett will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of 45 years, Rose, his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 858)

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

##### READ.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to rise for a moment to honor my Uncle Dan. My Uncle Dan was a really important person in my life.

I think I should mention how much he loved my Aunt Rose. He told me right before he died that I love her more now than I have my whole life. I know that now he's gone to Heaven to be with his son, James, my cousin. Can't imagine the awesome reunion that they had there. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention some of his friends. Uncle Dan lived on the Harbor Point Peninsula and he had a couple buddies, Wes Shaw and Pete Schroeder, who also passed on before my Uncle Dan and I can imagine those guys gathering around a lawnmower or something, trying to figure out how to get it running.

But my Uncle Dan was a huge supporter of mine, not only in my political career but just in everything that I did, and I remember for a lot of years, my Uncle Dan really lived his faith. He was one of those people that lived his faith, he wasn't one of those yes, I'm a Christian, check the box type of men, he was a person who was very bold in his faith. And I remember for a while thinking that was, you know, a little bit much, but he led me to become someone who is more bold in my faith and I came to realize that he wasn't doing that to get me to come to his church or to build his church or anything like that, he was doing that for me. And I appreciate that because of my Uncle Dan, I became a lot more strong in my faith and I'm going to miss him a lot. So, I just wanted to stand and honor him and say I love you, Uncle Dan, and I can't wait till I see you again.

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

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#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 441)

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

March 12, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Transportation has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator LaFountain of Kennebec, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 2098 An Act Regarding Multiple Special Designating Plates for Certain Disabled Veterans

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 442)

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

March 12, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:

on March 7, 2024

Catherine Robbins-Halstead of Searsmont for reappointment and Beth Schiller of Bowdoinham for appointment to the Land for Maine's Future Board.

Pursuant to Title 5 MRSA §6204, this reappointment and appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Robert Checkoway of Freeport for reappointment and Gordon Kramer of Enfield, Lloyd Cuttler of Carrabassett and Richard B. Bronson, Jr. of Bangor for appointment to the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission.

Pursuant to Title 30 MRSA §6212, this reappointment and these appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

James P. Gardner, Jr. of Easton to serve on the Loring Development Authority.

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

on March 11, 2024

Sarah LeClaire, Esquire of Woodland for reappointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §1002, this reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Tina Wilcoxson of Cumberland Center for reappointment and Nathan Moody for appointment to the Maine Retirement Savings Board.

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §172, this reappointment and appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

Sincerely,  
S/Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules"

(H.P. 1451) (L.D. 2261)

Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips. Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, PAUL of Winterport, SMITH of Palermo, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senators: BLACK of Franklin, LYFORD of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook.

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

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE  
Refer to the Committee on Taxation  
Pursuant to Public Law**

Representative PERRY for the **Joint Standing Committee on Taxation** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Process for the Sale of Foreclosed Properties Due to Nonpayment of Taxes"

(H.P. 1452) (L.D. 2262)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 358, section 2, subsection 7.

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

The Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and sent for concurrence.

**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-811)** on Bill "An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances"

(H.P. 104) (L.D. 163)

Signed:

Senators:

LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec  
BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford  
MASON of Lisbon  
THORNE of Carmel  
WOOD of Greene

**READ.**

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

Representative MASON of Lisbon **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 Lisbon, Representative Mason.

Representative **MASON:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am in opposition to the pending motion. This bill would require a lifetime license holder, purchased after December 31, 2024, to report to the Department if they are planning on hunting, fishing or trapping that year. The Department says they need this information for a number of reasons but, Madam Speaker, anyone who has purchased a lifetime license before December 31, '24, does not have to report to them. How accurate is this information going to be? How long will it be before they come

after the 100,000 lifetime license holders before December 31st of '24? I feel it's a foot in the door to get the rest of us to have to report. Lifetime license holders purchase their lifetime so they don't have to be bothered with them. Every time I go to get a moose permit or whatever it may be, I look, oh, I don't have my license, I have to get my license. And I've always had it in my mind, I need to get my lifetime license so I'm not bothered with it anymore. I see no need for this bill and I ask you to follow my light.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I grew up on a farm and I would say that, you know, we did a lot of, sometimes hunting woodchucks or whatever and whatever, but we always felt that it was a goal to get a lifetime license. And everybody, you know, my father was a millworker and a lot of millworkers, they hunted and they hunted for their families for deer and moose and fish, but we always liked to be able to get someday a lifetime hunting and fishing license combined and we never thought that it would ever come to this where you're going to require to go and renew it every year.

You know, as you get older, you're not maybe well, you might not even feel like going hunting that fall or go fishing in the spring and then you might even forget about that you had it but, you know; you've got it, but you just don't think about it and then, what happens later on if they see this, well, they have to renew and then maybe there might be some penalty, eventually, if you don't renew it. I don't quite understand why we have to renew it since they have permits for moose, when the deer are taken, that they keep track by permits, that they have to go and get their tag; same thing with turkeys, with bird season, you go and get special licenses for that. I just don't see the reasoning behind this and, to me, it takes away all what we've always looked forward to is the lifetime for licensing for us older people. So, and also, young people look forward to getting it so that later on that they never have to get a license again. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in opposition to the pending motion and I hope I can just get everybody's attention for a few moments on this.

I have three children, they all have a lifetime license. I know many people that are the same way. Those licenses are purchased so that it's not burdensome for the individual to have a license if they ever want to hunt and fish in the future. The most significant thing that I see here is that the Committee realized that re-applying for this license every year is burdensome. So, they grandfathered those people that have the lifetime license. My youngest daughter, Harper, is six. That means; this is the part, you know, I want to bring peoples' attention to; that this law may be 90 years or longer before it's fully implemented. If we realize that it's too burdensome for the people that already have a lifetime license, then why would we want to change that and apply that burden onto people after this date?

I just want people to realize, and I think the number was 100,000 that have these lifetime licenses, mostly young people. If someone has gone through the work of paying this big up-front fee that you have to do to buy the license; my parents paid for all the ones for my children, they were the ones that did that, they did that as a gift to them when they're younger so that for their whole entire life, they'll have a lifetime license. If someone's gone through that and, you know, it's the State that's offering this opportunity, you pay a big amount up front, the

person has it for life, for people that don't know, a lifetime license amounts to. Some of these people may never hunt or fish again, that's why the Department does it, because they're collecting revenue from people that would normally when they get older might not even live in Maine but they've already paid a fee for that.

So, Madam Speaker, I just can't understand and I don't know how it came about to get to this Report, but if we realize that it's too burdensome for the people that already have the lifetime licenses, why would you change that, Madam Speaker? This is a good program. This will disincentivize people from using the program, it will decrease revenues, it will decrease opportunities, it will be just more government in the way of people carrying on traditions that we support here in the State of Maine. I urge the Members to please heed my call and vote against the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I serve on the Committee and I'm lucky enough to be one of those that purchased it at 62. The whole intent of purchasing it at 62 was that I would not have to bother with this anymore, I could just forget about it. So, when the Department brought this bill forward, there were certain questions that were asked, such as will the Department lose any revenue by not knowing how many lifetime license holders there are? Answer: No, our revenue is not in danger. The other question was, so, why do you need this data? Well, we would like to know how many people are hunting and putting, you know, pressure on big game. Well, they said, there's about 100,000, when asked the question. So, there's different zones in the State of Maine. If I'm hunting in Zone 4 and then I'm hunting in Zone 18, what difference does it make? They know the data when they see how many deer were shot and tagged. Same with moose. That's a permit. So, therefore, I could not see any reason why they needed the data.

And the other thing that concerned me was that they're saying well, this is just all let the Department know; therefore, we can check you off to say yes, there's one more person that's going to hunt and fish this year. Well, I bought a lifetime license, I plan on using it. Now, what happens if I don't call them or go on the internet and let them know? Well, right now, there's no penalty. But another fear that I have is that, you know, this could lead to where well, it's all free right now, it's all voluntary, but then in a year, they could change it and say now it's mandatory. Oh, yeah, let's add a fine if you don't do it. And if you think I'm just playing with words here, I'd just like to remind this Body that it wasn't that many years ago that we passed a seatbelt law that had no teeth to it at all, just wear your seatbelt. And then it changed. Well, they can't pull you over and give you a ticket. Well, then it changed. And now; I believe we all should wear seatbelts, but my point is, though, that today it's voluntary, tomorrow it could be mandatory. Thank you.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know if there's an error in our information here, but the file or directory is not found for the fiscal note on this, on potential loss of revenue and also administering the check-in or the letting the Department know; there has to be some sort of fiscal note attached to that and I'm not seeing that in our files. Would you know or any other Member know what that amount is? Thank you.



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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and to let you and this Body know that there was a survey taken of hunters and fishermen of the four things they did not want to find in their tent. One was snakes, one was mice, one was bugs and one was camels' noses. This is the camel's nose in the tent for further legislation. It does nothing; there's no teeth, there's no penalty, it is not mandatory for reporting; it excludes over 100,000 people, as you have heard, that have hunting and fishing licenses; and it does nothing other than bean count, and at the cost of inconveniencing every Maine resident who buys a lifetime hunting and fishing license that they more than likely bought as a convenience to not have to remember to buy one every year. I urge the Body to vote against the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I too stand in opposition to the pending motion.

For the first 20 years of my working life, I sailed in the Merchant Marines, was gone 50% or more of the time during those 20 years. My wife for many years has purchased for me, she purchased for my son that hunts and fishes and also for our son-in-law. Every year at Christmas, she would purchase us the combination hunting/fishing license. And I can tell you there were several hunting seasons that, when I was away, I did not hunt. So, when the Department says they need this for data, it doesn't make any sense at all. Somebody who goes in and buys a license every year may not hunt or fish that year, whether they're purchasing just a regular license. So, that doesn't make any sense to me.

The other piece of this is when someone buys these lifetime licenses for a young child, which there's a limit on old that they can be when you buy it, you are somewhat taking a risk. For instance, the Good Representative from Winter Harbor, if he has three children that have these, I would say the percentages are in the State of Maine that not all three of those children will probably end up hunting. Maybe only one of them will. That's been true in my family and we've hunted for generations, and it was true in my wife's family who hunted for generations. Not every family member ends up hunting. So, there's a risk when you purchase these licenses that they won't be used, just like there was for my wife when she purchased mine at Christmastime that I would be away for hunting season. So, I think that we need to keep that in mind. I think the Department gets some funds from this that they invest that when, as the Good Representative said, you pay a large amount of money up front to get this license for a child or in your later years for you, as I did for the rest of my time until I can get the over-70 free license, which isn't far away. But it's a risk that they may not use that license ever and it's a benefit to the Department to have those monies and I don't think this is about collecting data. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dill.

Representative **DILL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I'll just say a couple things. Yeah, I'm on the IF&W Committee also, and part of the reason that we did this is to figure out the percentage of success. It's okay that you know that X number of deer were killed or whatever it is, but we don't know percentages; percentages of numbers are hunting. It also helps us to set bag limits if we know how many people are out there hunting.

In going forward, I would admit that we are leaving out 100,000 people, but going forward, if you know it's part of the process, it's really not that burdensome, and it's still a deal if you get a lifetime license, you're not paying \$50 every year for a new license.

And finally, one of the things that I felt was important was that we often will have advisories for some reason, whether it be the meat has got PFAS in it or whatever it happens to be and part of it, yes, you can put out public service announcements, but if you don't know addresses of the individuals, it's hard to get a hold of everybody. So, going forward, at least we'll have that information. So, 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. 401**

YEA - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Graham, Gramlich, Kessler, Kuhn, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Moonen, Murphy, O'Neil, Osher, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Bradstreet, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Dhalac, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Jauch, Javner, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Moriarty, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Perry A, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rana, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Schmersal-Burgess, Shaw, Sheehan, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White B, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Albert, Andrews, Boyer, Boyle, Brennan, Carmichael, Cloutier, Galletta, Geiger, Haggan, Hall, Hepler, Malon, Montell, O'Connell, Riseman, Sampson, Williams, Worth.

Yes, 49; No, 83; Absent, 19; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

49 having voted in the affirmative and 83 voted in the negative, with 19 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was NOT ACCEPTED.**

Subsequently, on motion of Representative LANDRY of Farmington, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass Report was ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Establishing a State Calendar for the State of Maine"

(H.P. 1425) (L.D. 2222)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay  
ABDI of Lewiston  
ADAMS of Lebanon  
COPELAND of Saco  
DHALAC of South Portland  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Representative:

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

**READ.**

On motion of Representative STOVER of Boothbay, 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.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 853) (L.D. 2025) Bill "An Act to Provide for Medical and Vessel Breakdown License Exceptions for Commercial Menhaden License Holders" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1378) (L.D. 2154) Bill "An Act to Make Corrections and Updates to the Laws Affecting Children and Families" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1428) (L.D. 2227) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 80: Reduction of Toxics in Packaging, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1433) (L.D. 2234) Bill "An Act to Require Telephone Solicitors to Use the Reassigned Numbers Database" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 905) (L.D. 1409) Bill "An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-814)**

(H.P. 1327) (L.D. 2065) Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Aquaculture Leasing Laws" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-815)**

(H.P. 1335) (L.D. 2076) Bill "An Act to Exempt from Excise Tax Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Stationed Out-of-state" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-812)**

(H.P. 1348) (L.D. 2124) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of an Off-track Betting Facility to Receive Funding If the Facility Is Sold or Relocates" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-813)**

(H.P. 1402) (L.D. 2188) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Milk Commission (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-810)**

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

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

**ENACTORS**

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Amend Licensing Requirements for Landscape Architects

(H.P. 1322) (L.D. 2060)

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

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Implement a Facility-based Monitoring System for Slot Machines

(S.P. 871) (L.D. 2070)

(C. "A" S-552)

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

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities and to Convene a Stakeholder Group Regarding Licensing and Operations

(S.P. 881) (L.D. 2088)

(C. "A" S-551)

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. 104 voted in favor of the same and 3 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce

(H.P. 1357) (L.D. 2133)  
(C. "A" H-784)

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 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, to Fill All Vacant and Expired Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board

(S.P. 872) (L.D. 2071)

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

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank

(H.P. 1394) (L.D. 2179)

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

**Acts**

An Act Regarding the Maine Development Foundation

(H.P. 167) (L.D. 262)  
(C. "A" H-796)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute

(H.P. 182) (L.D. 284)  
(C. "A" H-783)

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Regulation of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing

(H.P. 211) (L.D. 337)  
(C. "A" H-791)

An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers

(S.P. 257) (L.D. 589)  
(C. "A" S-553)

An Act to Provide Regional Support to Deliver State and Federal Programs to Municipalities in the State

(H.P. 379) (L.D. 602)  
(C. "A" H-789)

An Act to Establish Separate Inauguration and Transition Committees for a Governor-elect and to Limit Donations to Each

(H.P. 522) (L.D. 833)  
(C. "A" H-794)

An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste

(H.P. 645) (L.D. 1009)  
(C. "A" H-775)

An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code Regarding Payments by Health Insurance Carriers to Providers

(H.P. 903) (L.D. 1407)  
(C. "A" H-790)

An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program

(H.P. 1138) (L.D. 1775)  
(C. "A" H-797)

An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Board of the Finance Authority of Maine to Allow for the Addition of a Proxy Designee

(S.P. 867) (L.D. 2039)

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Advisory Councils and Boards Related to the Department of Marine Resources

(H.P. 1326) (L.D. 2064)  
(C. "A" H-801)

An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

(H.P. 1349) (L.D. 2125)  
(C. "A" H-782)

An Act to Increase the Cap on Bonds Issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to Reflect Current Housing Production Needs in the State

(H.P. 1416) (L.D. 2209)  
(C. "A" H-788)

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 Direct the Maine Connectivity Authority to Develop Proposed Legislation to Increase Broadband Internet Access

(H.P. 161) (L.D. 240)  
(C. "A" H-798)

Resolve, Establishing a Working Group to Coordinate Collaboration Among State Agencies for the Purpose of Promoting Smart Growth and Development in High-use Corridors

(H.P. 1071) (L.D. 1673)  
(C. "A" H-787)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes

(H.P. 1150) (L.D. 1787)  
(C. "A" H-786)

Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Regarding Utility Shut-offs

(S.P. 798) (L.D. 1962)  
(C. "A" S-554)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Study Timely Access to Psychiatric Medication Management Services Across the State

(S.P. 876) (L.D. 2083)  
(C. "A" S-550)

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, March 7, 2024, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (10) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-781)** - Minority (1) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Safe Cosmetics Act"

(H.P. 1224) (L.D. 1908)

TABLED - February 29, 2024 (Till Later Today) by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-781)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-818)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-781)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED.**

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-781) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-818)** thereto was **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-781) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-818)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Refer to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs Pursuant to Public Law**

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs** on Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Regarding the Sale of Pari-mutuel Pools for Simulcast Races"

(S.P. 977) (L.D. 2260)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 440, section 13.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS.**

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

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

**Refer to the Committee on State and Local Government Pursuant to Public Law**

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government** on Bill "An Act to Further Clarify the Meaning of 'Private Road' and 'Public Easement' in Certain Provisions of Maine Law"

(S.P. 982) (L.D. 2264)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 387, section 4.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

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

The Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Davis.

Representative **DAVIS**: Thank you Madam Speaker, I request permission to speak on record, please.

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

Representative **DAVIS**: Thank you. I rise here today because it bothered me that somebody thought it was the right idea to call in a bomb threat against the State House last week. It's not right and we all had bills and issues that we care about and that the people we represent care about. But sending in a bomb threat and putting peoples' lives in danger just because you disagree with what they may have to say is terrible and is wrong.

I called my friend in Calais over the weekend, basically to check on her, and once I found that out; she was on one of the targets on Friday with the threat, and I wanted to check on her. No, we don't have the same views on things, but she's got every bit and as much right to her own opinion as I do. And threatening somebody's life and someone's family isn't the right thing to do, neither.

I've made some great friends here being up here for the last two years, and friends like the Representative from Farmington, the Representative from Woolwich and Bangor, Orono, just a few names to mention. Remember, the public has to remember that when it comes to family and peoples' safety, that letter after your name doesn't mean a person is a bad person.

So, I hope that we can get through the next six weeks and keep that in mind as we go. And I hope the police finds out whoever made these threats, or anyone else that had been threatened amongst us and throw the book at them. Because every one of us here has put up a bill and there's always somebody that doesn't like it, and if you're here any amount of time, that could happen. So, to the Representative of Calais and anyone else that was involved in that, dealing with that situation with the threat, it's been an honor to serve with you this term, and thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Calais, Representative Perry, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **PERRY**: I would like to thank the Representative from Machias, Representative Davis. We had a lovely conversation. Just because we do disagree, we can still be friends. And I have been very proud to be a part of the Washington County delegation and we have great conversations that don't end up in trauma. And so, I really appreciate his call, it was a lovely conversation, and thank you.

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

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On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, the House adjourned at 2:03 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in honor and lasting tribute to Charles Daniel Arnett of Winter Harbor.