

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
41st Legislative Day
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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

Prayer by Pastor Calvin Redden, Central Church, Augusta.
National Anthem by Josephine Marzilli, Cape Elizabeth.
Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

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

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Carla Caron, of Winslow, who works for the Waterville Soup Kitchen, and who has received the Exceptional Volunteer Award from the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 1053)

Presented by Representative WHITE of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, Representative CYRWAY of Albion, 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. Although Carla is not here this morning, she is likely at the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen volunteering, as she does almost every day that they are open. Carla is the President of the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen, and she works tirelessly to fundraise and to support the many volunteers who help serve hot, nutritious meals whenever they are open. Carla connects with the Soup Kitchen guests with love and compassion. Her kindness, generosity and commitment to making a difference in the lives of countless individuals is without measure. I am grateful for her friendship and I am proud to honor her with this Sentiment this morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It seems like the Good Representative from Waterville took all the words I was going to use about Carla. Carla is my daughter-in-law's aunt and I know her quite well. She is a tireless worker, has a great heart and I really appreciate all the work that she does in the city of Waterville and the surrounding towns. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **MADIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thought I'd share a few stories about Carla. As the other Representative from Waterville said, she's the President of the Lighthouse Waterville Area Soup Kitchen, where a lot of folks who are struggling or who are homeless come and get freshly made hot meals every day. It is a very welcoming place and Carla has opened up the doors of that place, so that service providers and other folks that might be able to help folks get connected with services or get a place to live come in. She even opened up those doors to those of us who were looking to help solve the problem, and so, we started coming every week just to meet with people who came for a meal and various service providers, including people working with substance use disorder and homelessness and mental health issues and all of it, really.

I met a very good friend there, not just Carla, but a man who had been formerly homeless who played guitar for people. He got into recovery by coming to the Lighthouse Soup Kitchen every day and because of Carla's warmth, generosity, hot meals and welcoming atmosphere, he stopped using drugs and he played guitar for everyone every day. And so, he became my friend and actually is sort of my guitar teacher now. He actually is at open mic night at Mainely Brews in Waterville on Wednesdays. If you would like to ever take a visit and see him, he's totally awesome.

And I just recommend if you're ever in Waterville and you want a low cost or free meal and to be in a place that is welcoming, truly welcoming to everyone and just so full of love and acceptance, then I encourage you to stop into the Lighthouse Soup Kitchen, talk to the folks there and get a chance to meet Carla. Thank you very much, 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. Carla is well-loved by all in the area. She has this terrific smile and she does it in pride and we all care about her. So, thank you, Madam Speaker, I'm glad she's receiving this exceptional Sentiment. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

the Honorable Joseph Edward Brennan, of Portland. Mr. Brennan was a veteran of the United States Army. He joined the law firm of Casper Tevanian in 1963. He won election to the Maine Legislature at age 29 in 1964 and was elected Cumberland County attorney in 1970. In 1972, he returned to the State Senate, where he was elected immediately to serve as Minority Leader. In 1974, he ran for Governor for the first time, losing to George Mitchell in the primary but then being elected Attorney General by the State Senate. He led negotiations between the Maine tribes and the Federal Government, which ultimately resulted in the Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980. He was elected governor in 1978 and was reelected in 1984, becoming the first Democrat to win all 16 counties since the Civil War. Perhaps his most important contribution as Governor was his decision in 1980 to appoint George Mitchell to serve in the United States Senate to finish the term of Edmund Muskie. Senator Mitchell went on to become the Senate Majority Leader and negotiate a peace agreement in Northern Ireland. After his governorship, Mr. Brennan was elected to the United States Congress twice, in 1986 and 1988. He completed his public service career by serving three United States presidents as a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission from 1999 until his retirement in 2013. Mr. Brennan will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of 30 years, Connie LaPointe Brennan, his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(SLS 1888)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just a few words about Chief Executive Brennan. I was fortunate enough to know Chief Executive Brennan in the late '70s and early 1980s, when he was Chief Executive and I was a City Manager of Calais, and then later, when he was a Member of the Maine delegation to the U.S. Congress. He was an inspirational leader; he was a warm and caring Irishman. He had a brilliance about him and he inspired any number of people, young people at that time; young like me; and others. I had great admiration for him.

One of his mentees and a close friend of mine, Frank O'Hara, will have a piece in the *Press Herald* and the *Kennebec Journal* this weekend, I believe, and Frank shared that with me yesterday and I just want to read one paragraph which I think sort of sums up Joe Brennan. Frank wrote, "Brennan surrounded himself with bright people from all sorts of backgrounds – potato farmers, football coaches, university professors, union organizers, bar owners, corporate lawyers, student activists – and listened carefully to them all. Joe invited all of us to come up with bold ideas. When you did, he would vet them carefully, sometimes with David Flanigan in the corner playing Devil's advocate. But once he bought in, he would fight for your proposal, and defend it to the hilt. That is how his Administration succeeded in implementing game-changing ideas to protect rivers, reform education, protect public lands, create the Land for Maine's Future program, create the Finance Authority of Maine, establish the HOME Program, build fishing piers and cargo ports, institute home care for the elderly, and establish energy conservation programs. The Brennan Administration created the toolkit for modern state government. In the process, Joe earned the undying loyalty, respect and

affection of everyone who ever worked for or with him." Rest in peace, Joe Brennan.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Montell.

Representative **MONTELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I too rise to remember the Honorable Joseph E. Brennan, and I agree with much of what my good friend and the Representative from Augusta had to say.

I met Joe when I was in high school, several decades ago. I did some work in the area of substance abuse prevention and treatment, and the Chief Executive decided to appoint me to an advisory council because of my work and I really appreciated it. And I realized he was a mentor to me and helped me to continue my work towards public service and for that, I'm truly grateful.

Joe would continue to kind of come in and out of my life over the years. I helped to run his Augusta office when he ran for U.S. Senate, and later, my husband and I were at his wedding; my husband was a filmmaker at the time and I remember bats in the belfry at the cathedral in Portland, but it didn't faze neither he nor Connie. And, interestingly enough, we never know when our paths will cross again. I recently had a rental property come up and we rented to Joe's niece. So, I thought that was so lovely that she was able to come back and connect and it was just in time.

So, I'm grateful for what he's done for the State of Maine and grateful to have known him. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I want to echo and reiterate the previous speakers. Joe Brennan was truly an iconic political figure in the State of Maine.

His family and my family grew up on Kellogg Street in Munjoy Hill, two houses away from each other, and were lifelong friends. But when I first ran for office in Portland, a reporter from the *Portland Press Herald* called and he said, are you related to Joe Brennan? I kind of hemmed and hawed and I finally said, well, I think we're second cousins if you go back to Ireland. So, the next day in the newspaper; Mike Brennan's running for this and he's the second cousin of Joe Brennan. I call up the reporter and I said, look, you know, I didn't really say, I wasn't sure, why'd you print it? And he said, well, my editor really pushed me, so, I put it in. And I said, well, okay. The next day, ran an article and said, Michael Brennan claims no relationship to Joe Brennan. And finally, Joe Brennan called me and he said, are we related? So, we agreed that we were. We couldn't decide exactly how, but we were related and I'm very proud to say that I am related to him in some way and, again, his contributions to the State of Maine are well stated and his passing, we will certainly miss him. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

Craig Wood, of Saco. Mr. Wood had a career as a plumbing and heating salesman at F.W. Webb, North Hampton Plumbing Supply in Greenfield, Massachusetts and The Granite Group in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. An avid runner and triathlete, he completed five marathons: the Maine Marathon, the Hartford Marathon, the Vermont City Marathon, the Philadelphia Marathon and the New York City Marathon. He served his community as a member of the Saco Shoreline Commission. Mr. Wood will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of 40 years, Diane, his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(SLS 1889)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COPELAND of Saco, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative Copeland.

Representative **COPELAND**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to say great words about Craig Wood and what he meant to our community and the work that he did. He was a member of the Saco Shoreline Commission, as was I at the same time, and one of the things that he did was he brought different perspectives; you know, as you can imagine, the Shoreline Commission was mostly us that lived down by the shore; he lived inland, so, his perspective was so needed. And I really appreciate that, and he did it kindly. So, I'm just so sad to miss him and just want to say that he kept people together, he brought people together to talk about ideas and to figure it out. So, it was a great collaboration and he will be sorely missed. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Michele Ann MacLean, of Freeport. Ms. MacLean began her professional career as a real estate paralegal with the Augusta law firm of Sanborn, Moreshead, Schade and Gifford. She next joined attorney Linda Gifford at her firm, where she became an integral part of the firm's real estate practice. During this period, she first became acquainted with government affairs, working on behalf of the Maine Association of Realtors. She went on to establish her own government affairs consulting practice, known as Capitol Strategies, which she ran successfully for more than 20 years, serving clients in a number of industries, including paper and forest products, telecommunications and electric utilities, pharmaceuticals and electronic gaming. Ms. MacLean will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 1058)

Presented by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.

Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Representative SACHS of Freeport.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MONTELL of Gardiner, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Montell.

Representative **MONTELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise today to remember Michele Ann MacLean. First, I want to thank the Good Representative from Freeport for allowing me to put this Sentiment in. Michele had, before her passing, had recently

bought a condo in Freeport, I believe to have a fresh start, and that just wasn't to be. Michele struggled in recovery, but it was kind of under the surface, because Michele had an amazing, bright light that would light up a room. She always had a smile, she was always kind and she always had a giggle, and I'm proud to call her my friend.

Michele was a classmate of mine, we grew up together, we were cheerleaders together, we had dinner parties together, we were neighbors, we both had shelties, we both love dogs and she was part of this great big puzzle I call, you know, refer to the Legislature as, you know, being part of the lobby; again, she had exceptional qualities. I know that she was well regarded by her peers. When Michele started her career as a lobbyist, it was back; I mean, I was here in the 118th as staff and she was lobbying for the paper industry. Not a popular thing to do back then, particularly for a female. So, I was incredibly proud of her for her bravery and her hard work ethic and the way she continued to conduct herself.

I remember a couple of really great moments. For instance, when the Patriots won, she was very excited to bring the gold ball here and made sure that fans that were particularly; Patriot fans were able to come down and have their pictures taken with it. She was always doing kind things for people, dropping things in her own life to do good for others and to help people, whether it was with their children; I heard from several of her lobbyist friends, helping with their children or helping them with whatever or doing kind gestures, and all the while, struggling on her own, feeling ashamed to reach out to get help.

I was so hoping that her family could be here, but it's still incredibly hard, it's still a very open wound, but she leaves behind, you know, a lot of love, she has two wonderful children and I just want to say one of the lobbyists said that she was her candle in the wind, and I think we know what happens to candles in the wind, they either get brighter or they get snuffed out. And so, I'm sad, but I will remember her with love and gratefulness to have known her. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, 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 Recognizing Noah Hurd, of Waldo

(HLS 900)

TABLED - March 21, 2024 (Till Later Today) by Representative HYMES of Waldo.

PENDING - PASSAGE.

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

Representative **HYMES**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'll make this pretty quick. So, Noah Hurd is with us today, they will recognize him here in a few minutes, but I just want to say that this kid is definitely going places. Not only is he on the basketball team, he's also on the baseball team, he's graduating this year, he's on the honor roll and he's looking forward to going to Husson University for Conservation Law and eventually hopefully becoming a game warden. So, I'd just like to thank him for his hard work and dedication and wish him the best. Thank you.

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

Resolve, Approving the 2024 Draft and Arrangement of the Constitution of Maine Incorporating Amendments Approved at Referendum in 2023 and Providing for Its Publication and Distribution (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1480) (L.D. 2291)

TABLED - April 15, 2024 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **FINAL PASSAGE**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the rules were **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERATION**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-983)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Madam Speaker, could somebody just kind of give a brief overview of what the amendment is? Because this is the first I've heard of it. If you don't mind.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to answer the question. We last year passed a Resolve requesting that the Chief Justice reorganize and republish the State Constitution based on the Constitutional Amendments that were passed by the voters; actually, that was earlier this year, I apologize; based on the Amendments that were passed last year by the voters. The Chief Justice has done that and this new Resolve just directs the Secretary of State's office to publish that reorganized, updated version of the Constitution. The amendment before us is just a technical fix to correct an error. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was rising to actually echo the sentiments of the Good Representative from Portland, so, we'll make it a record; a couple days in a row, we agree.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-983)** was **ADOPTED**.

Subsequently, the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-983)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1478) (L.D. 2290) Bill "An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-982)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

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

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

(C. "A" H-971)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, the rules were **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERATION**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-971)**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the rules were **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of **FURTHER RECONSIDERATION**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby **Committee Amendment "A" (H-971)** was **ADOPTED**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-981) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-971)** which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-971) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-981) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-971) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-981)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

Acts

An Act to Provide Relief to Federal or State Employees Affected by a Federal Government or State Government Shutdown

(S.P. 906) (L.D. 2113)

(H. "A" H-970 to C. "A" S-647)

An Act to Amend the Mining Excise Tax Laws

(H.P. 1445) (L.D. 2251)

(C. "A" H-969)

An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission

(H.P. 1444) (L.D. 2252)

(C. "A" H-973)

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.

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

(S.P. 879) (L.D. 2086)
(C. "A" S-679)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 534

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Crockett, Dunphy, Galletta, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lanigan, Roberts.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases

(S.P. 958) (L.D. 2238)
(C. "A" S-684)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 535

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, 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, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Crockett, Dunphy, Galletta, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lanigan, Roberts.

Yes, 73; No, 70; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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)
(C. "A" S-704)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative LIBBY of Auburn, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I ask if the government should be in the business of picking winners and losers. And I ask because that is exactly what this bill does. And I realize we may be tired of discussing this bill *ad nauseum*; people may be very glad to see it in their rear view when we finally dispense with it. But Madam Speaker, I don't think that we have taken this bill with the seriousness that it deserves, and my own speech yesterday contributed to the lightness with which we've considered this bill.

The bottom line is that this bill before us, LD 2258, creating an income tax credit for investments in the Sea Dogs is corporate welfare. There is no other word for it. What does that mean, exactly? Well, Madam Speaker, that means using Maine taxpayers' money; their money; in this case, to benefit a wealthy out-of-State company that doesn't want to foot the bill that they should. This private equity firm should be duking it out with the City of Portland, Madam Speaker, but instead, they have come to the Legislature to get funds from Maine taxpayers. Madam Speaker, just this week, families and businesses all over Maine wrote a check to pay their taxes to the State of Maine. And that was not an easy check to write for many of them, in all of our districts around this State. Things are tight. Things are very tight for our constituents and it is not fair to ask them to foot the bill, especially when Diamond Baseball Holdings has the funds to cover it. They just don't want to. And so, instead, we are asking Maine taxpayers to do that. What kind of precedent does that set?

Madam Speaker, just over the river from my district, we have wonderful hockey and basketball teams. They bring economic development to our area. I know many, many, many hockey families who basically live over there watching these games every hockey season, which I think is 12 months out of the year. These two teams are phenomenal. Are we going to give them a tax credit on the backs of Maine taxpayers? That's only fair, if we're going to do it for Portland. If we're going to do it for one team, are we going to do it for the rest, Madam Speaker? Are we going to put taxpayers on the hook to provide corporate welfare when the other teams in our State ask for it? If we're not, then why are we doing it for one?

Madam Speaker, this is a property that is owned by Portland. It should be paid for by Portland or by Diamond Baseball Holdings, not Maine taxpayers. This is not just about helping modernize a facility, this is about bailing out the City of Portland. Now, there are a variety of opinions on the policies that are put forward by the City of Portland, but under no circumstances should Maine taxpayers be responsible to bail out the city for the financial decisions that they make. This is, in short, an abuse of Maine taxpayers, using their dollars to fund something that is absolutely inappropriate. In any other context; think about any other company, substitute some boring office business. We wouldn't even be debating this, Madam Speaker, certainly my side of the aisle would not be debating and supporting this if it weren't America's favorite pastime. Madam Speaker, the proper role of government in this situation is for the government to get out of the way. If we want to support the Sea Dogs, then let's buy season tickets, but let's not ask Maine taxpayers to foot a \$2 million bill.

Madam Speaker, we've had a number of votes on this bill, and it's been very interesting to me to see the vast differences between the first vote and the second. Madam Speaker, there's been a significant shift within this Chamber, and I have to wonder if the policy itself has changed, because I haven't seen any amendments come forward that change what we're debating in this Chamber. And yet, votes have changed so significantly; I have to ask why. So, I hypothesize, Madam Speaker, that there must be some benefit in order to flip votes so drastically.

Madam Speaker, Maine people reference Washington D.C. and, yes, often Augusta, Maine, as the swamp. And to me, there's nothing swamplier than --

Representative **SHEEHAN**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **SHEEHAN**: I'm sorry to rise, but I believe that the Member from Auburn is impugning other Members' characters by implying that they're receiving some benefit from the votes that they take.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford objected to the comments of Representative LIBBY of Auburn because she was questioning the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would ask the Member to limit her remarks to the bill and remind her not to question the motives of other Members or impugn their character.

The Chair reminded Representative LIBBY of Auburn that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me stick very closely to the facts. Here are the facts: we've had a few different votes on this bill; the results have been drastically different. I will not hypothesize any further on the reason why, I will simply leave it to Maine people to contemplate.

Madam Speaker, if this were any other business, we wouldn't be having this debate. But because America's favorite pastime is involved, suddenly, corporate welfare is acceptable. Madam Speaker, instead of the government picking winners and losers, giving corporate welfare, let's support Maine people. Let's cut their taxes instead of giving away money to a company that doesn't even live here in Portland. Let's support Maine people. Madam Speaker, is it a principle if it changes depending on the business? Please follow my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. More than 30 years ago, a group of business people in the Greater Portland area had a dream. That dream was built upon an earlier attempt at bringing professional baseball to the grand State of Maine. An earlier experiment, some of you will recall, brought a triple-A team to Old Orchard Beach back in the '80s. Unfortunately, it failed for a lot of reasons; lack of funding, poor location, fog rolling in from the coast, black flies in the spring; and it failed. And this group of people, one of whom was a person well known in the greater area and active in the community, Bill Troubh; he succeeded in getting the support of the City of Portland, a lot of investors from Maine; not corporate people; but people who wanted baseball here in Maine. They succeeded in not only putting together the option on Hadlock Field and making available the use of that field through the city and the opportunity to invest in improving it. They got the franchise from the Boston Red Sox, which has resulted in many, many regional and statewide memories of baseball and its grand traditions, including the wall, including the *Field of Dreams* feature in the summer and many other areas of promoting, marketing and succeeding in a hugely successful double-A franchise here in the grand State of Maine.

Baseball has been a rich tradition in Maine for many years. Many of you among us, myself included, have participated in that national pastime in Maine and love it. I do not view this as anything but an opportunity to prevent finances from out of State luring a successful franchise away from this grand State to another location more in an urban setting. I think this is a treasure worth keeping, and I would hope that many of you would see it in that light and give this bill its final Enactment. It is not about selfishness or greed; it is about tradition and a national treasure here in Maine. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. I don't see this bill as corporate welfare at all. I see it as a very smart, sound, wise and profitable business decision by the State of Maine. The Sea Dogs are asking for \$10 million over 15 years, \$133,000 per year, in order to stay here in Maine. The Sea Dogs will bring in \$450 million through State sales tax in those 15 years. A \$10 million investment for \$450 million back; that's not corporate welfare, that's a smart, sound business decision to an incredibly generous and great corporate business partner here in the State and corporate citizen to our State. They give away hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in charity and they are our home team. I implore everybody in this House to please save the Sea Dogs, save them here in our State and vote yes on this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek.

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess I'm just rising today still in dismay that a corporation of this magnitude can't afford to build a clubhouse and they're asking for tax breaks from the State of Maine. And our State still has so much need. We had people in the hallways looking for teachers' pay and more ed tech pay and child care and it; you know, there's been asks for tax breaks to offset loss from landlords who went to low-income tenants, but we're unable to pass that. But we're going to take all these tax dollars to this billion-dollar company, and I'm struggling with really understanding how that's even possible.

But I'm just going to read a little bit of some more information that I learned, and other people in this room may already know it, but the Sea Dog ownership changed from family-owned corporate-owned two to three years ago, when a giant private equity firm, Endeavor, bought from the Burkes family. At roughly the same time, Endeavor changed the entire nature of Minor League Baseball by also buying up many other teams. Within a year or two, Diamond Holdings, also a giant PE firm, bought Sea Dogs from Endeavor, and now owns 28 Minor League teams. Gretchen Morgenson, a nationally recognized finance expert and author of *These Are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs and Wrecks America*, points out that PE giants play a corporate shell game by using subtitle corporate names. That's in play here. At first blush, you think that Diamond Holdings owns the Sea Dogs, and they do, but the real owner is Silver Lake, because they own Diamond. And Silver Lake is the 11th-largest PE outfit in the world. Which means that if I were to prepare a list of the top 1,000 people or corporations in the entire world who should never come close to getting a handout, Silver Lake would be on it. Silver Lake is not a billion-dollar company, its worth is 100s of billions. PE have long built their fortunes atop astonishing regulatory and tax provisions which, one; omit sect oversight and filing requirements, and two; give them the carried interest tax loophole.

The notion that these Hadlock improvements are required by Major League Baseball? Well, it can be seen as another con. The statement is technically true, but a close review shows that MLB, Silver Lake, Endeavor and Diamond are, in many respects, just one big family. Silver and MLB have massive joint ownership of Fanatics, a huge sports apparel outfit. The management and corporate dictatorship of these four entities has some significant interchangeability. So much so, that you can imagine them all on Zoom calls saying, hey, I know, let's get State legislators to fund the improvements of these ballparks by painting the MLB as a distant third party and posing these new

capital costs. And the Maine Legislature isn't the only Legislature to whom Diamond is now going to get a handout. This is part of the plan they're executing in concert with MLB.

So, you know, I will end it there, but just to say, you know, we all have great memories of the Sea Dogs, we all have emotions, we heard them, we shared them yesterday with one another. I personally have great family memories of the Sea Dogs, enjoy them. This isn't about my memories. This is about whether our State is going to give this corporate company; yeah, I don't know what else to call it; a handout, that they have more than enough money. This isn't about everything else that they're doing, this is about the fact that they have the ability to do what they need to do. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. At first, I felt the same way about the taxes on this situation with the Sea Dogs. But in thinking back, one phrase always comes to me is 'play ball.' It's a very famous saying that they always say at the beginning of a game. And Honorable Paul Gauvreau, he was in this legislative Body and he also was Assistant to the Attorney General's Office, and he had a little museum, a baseball museum right here in the State House in his office. It was amazing. And in talking and spending time with him, he could tell me all kinds of stories, all kinds of events, but it was always about being friends with people all over and also the kids and how he enjoyed going just to watch the kids' faces. I also had events down at the Sea Dogs with the DARE students, and we'd have a DARE event and the Sea Dogs would actually come and autograph things for the kids. They also invested in fundraising, those type of things.

So, it's not just our tax money, it's really a community thing for the whole State of Maine and it gives a chance for somebody to go do something fun. We really, as through the years, with the weather is changing and whatever, I think baseball is going to be around a while and let's keep it here; to me, it is a good investment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **RUSSELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to frame this just a little bit differently. We make decisions here every day for the greater good, and I think that this is such a decision. So, here's maybe another way to look at it.

Amazon, not too long ago; I think four or five years ago; put out sort of bids to communities and states for a new warehouse. And some people applied. And most of the people that applied; and Amazon's not a \$100 billion company, it's a trillion-dollar company; and yet, this is the way our country works, whether we like it or not. They have an advantage, they had upwards; between five and 10 thousand jobs. Let's just say Eastport wanted to make that bid, or Machias, still a county in Maine that doesn't share the low unemployment rate that many of our other counties did. Would we make an investment in that county to help them acquire that business? Would that be for the greater good? Would we get returns that would far outweigh the investment that we got?

So, I think that's the type of decision; this won't be the only one that we make, they'll be many more, and I think for the good of our State, we need to consider all of them. I don't think we want to put the message out that because of the size of the company or the money they make; this a capitalist system, it's how we work, we're independent states, we bid against each other, and I think that this is one of those decisions for the greater good, both economically and quality of life. So, I hope that we finally Enact this. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lebanon, Representative Adams.

Representative **ADAMS**: I wasn't going to speak, but I will speak. We just had a huge property tax increase in the towns I represent, so, to give them that kind of money is just; you know, if you look at the summary, it's up to \$15 million. So, I'm going to vote no and I hope everybody else follows. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to apologize to you, Madam Speaker, and to the Body. I misspoke when I spoke earlier. It's not a \$10 million investment over 15 years, it's a \$2 million investment over 15 years at \$133,000 per year for a \$450 million return on investment. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 536

YEA - Albert, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyle, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cloutier, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Cyrway, Dill, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Faulkingham, Gere, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Jackson, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lyman, Madigan, Mason, Mastraccio, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, Murphy, Newman, Nutting, O'Connell, Parry, Perry A, Perry J, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Rielly, Runte, Russell, Sampson, Sargent, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Shaw, Simmons, Skold, Soboleski, Stover, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White B, Wood, Woodsome, Worth, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Andrews, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Boyer, Cluchey, Davis, Dhalac, Dodge, Fay, Foster, Fredericks, Gattine, Geiger, Gifford, Golek, Gramlich, Griffin, Hymes, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Libby, Lookner, Malon, Mathieson, Milliken, Ness, O'Neil, Osher, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Quint, Rana, Riseman, Roeder, Rudnicki, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Sinclair, Smith, Strout, Supica, Theriault, Warren, White J, Zager.

ABSENT - Crockett, Dunphy, Galletta, Hasenfus, Jauch, Roberts.

Yes, 92; No, 52; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

92 having voted in the affirmative and 52 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Consumer Privacy Act"

(S.P. 807) (L.D. 1973)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-713)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

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

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-713)** Report.

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

READ.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **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 Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We have before us the second of two of the large privacy bills that we've worked, and if anybody has any buyer's remorse from how they voted on last night's bill, you have the chance to right the wrong this afternoon. LD 1973 is the primary privacy bill that the Judiciary Committee worked. This bill does take the Connecticut approach, which is the framework that has been adopted or enacted by 11 of the 15 states that have comprehensive data privacy laws. To be very clear, this bill was not put in by big tech companies. This bill in the Connecticut framework actually does strike a balance. This is not big tech saying, we love this bill, this is perfect, it's not going to change anything for us, but it was big tech companies seeing the writing on the wall that states are beginning to enact comprehensive data privacy laws, that the federal government at one point had even taken up a comprehensive data privacy concerns and they knew that they had to get involved in this. So, this isn't something at all that they want, but it's something that they were involved in crafting in the sense that they knew that we had to strike a good balance.

Now, the Connecticut framework; and we don't have time today to really dive deep into the definitions of each of these; but the Connecticut framework around data minimization, sensitive data, biometric data and targeted advertising. And I think it's clear by now that I'm not an individual that just goes with the flow or just buys into something because there's a group of other individuals that buy into something. So, that's not my motivation here. Instead, my motivation is the people in this State. Those people include our consumers, for one, whether they're buying lobster, camping equipment from the iconic L.L. Bean, supplies to make their own granola or season Sea Dogs tickets, they deserve for their data to be protected.

My motivation is the people in the State of Maine who are employed by larger businesses, the ones whose companies are going to have to comply to an important but costly data privacy bill, driving up the cost of doing business. And, finally, my motivation is the people of the State of Maine who are business owners. This bill really, truly does strike a balance between the interests of your consumer and the interests of our businesses, and I would encourage you to please support or please oppose; don't support; please oppose the pending motion. What we have in front of us is the answer for Maine's privacy laws. We have a chance to get this right. Thank you.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, this is the bill that Amazon, Google and Meta want you to vote for. Maybe they didn't introduce it, but boy, do they have an army of lobbyists here advocating for it. There are some major, major flaws with this piece of legislation. There is a lot of the Connecticut framework that is fine; that's why both bills adopted a lot of the Connecticut framework. But here are the flaws that should concern all of us.

This bill does not protect minors from targeted advertising. There is voluminous data reporting lawsuits ongoing all over the country about how damaging targeted advertising is to minors, generally speaking; to teenage girls, in particular. Attorneys General all over the country are taking action on a bipartisan basis against these companies, because of how they manipulate data of minors and target ads to them. This bill doesn't care about that problem.

This bill also says, more or less, that companies can do anything they want with Mainer's data, as long as they put what they're doing in the privacy notice. As you've heard, Madam Speaker, and as we all know, we don't read all of those privacy notices all the way through. We scroll as quickly to the bottom as we can and click agree and we move on. I think our constituents would be horrified to know that we passed a law saying these companies can do whatever they want with your data as long as it's written somewhere in a privacy policy. That is not the kind of privacy protections that Mainer's deserve or want.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to highlight one more major flaw with this bill. It also allows for the collection of biometric data, pretty much unlimited as long as it's disclosed in the privacy notice. Biometric data means your facial scan, your retina scan, your fingerprints. You know, if your username or password somehow gets shared or sold or leaked, that's probably going to cause you some pain, but it's something that you can fix. You can pretty easily change your usernames and passwords. If your Social Security Number, which we all agree should be sensitive data, somehow gets shared or sold or leaked, that can have far more serious consequences for your finances, for your family, for your entire life, but again, you can

get a new Social Security Number. It's going to be a giant pain, Madam Speaker, but you can do it and you can get that fresh start. What you cannot do is get a new retina, a new fingerprint. It is dangerous to say that companies can collect this data on Mainer's with no rules as long as they put it in the privacy notice that we don't read.

This bill has major flaws. We can do better, I believe we did better on a different bill, but at the very least, I ask you to reject this bill for its dramatic flaws. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to clarify that the source of the bill was actually tech companies. I have an email open on my computer right now from the lobbyist from Meta dated January 2023, saying Maggie, thank you for our conversation in the hallway, I, the Meta lobbyist, am the official quasi co-chair of this bill and have worked on drafting it for the Senator from Oxford. We would like to discuss it with you.

That conversation was had with me all along and they continue to support this bill. Mainer's need to be clear that we can make our own protections, we do not want bills that are written by tech companies, we do not want to reinforce business as usual. Mainer's deserve better. So, please vote with the motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The difference between the two versions is an exemption for nonprofits for the State of Maine. And the current bill, as I believe it does not exempt; the current one before us does not exempt the nonprofits, and the prior bill does exempt nonprofits. And in my version, nonprofits should be fully; disclose everything. And with that, I'd like to say thank you, Madam Speaker.

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. 537

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, Jackson, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Morris, 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, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, 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 - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Roberts.

Yes, 81; No, 63; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-709)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Cannabis Laws"

(S.P. 32) (L.D. 40)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
BRENNER of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
ANDREWS of Paris
BOYER of Poland
COLLINGS of Portland
HYMES of Waldo
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:

Representatives:

MALON of Biddeford
MONTELL of Gardiner

Came from the Senate with the Majority **UGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-709) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-717)** thereto.

READ.

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **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 Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just want to give you a little bit of a history on this particular bill while you're thinking about it. This bill's really been about two years in the making, and the bipartisanship on this was a lot of work and they did a good job.

A lot of this is technical and the stakeholders were all involved, meaning we had the Good Senator from Androscoggin County and the Good Senator from Kennebec County worked really hard with both the industry and OCP. So, basically, the Department is on board with this as well. And the amendment

that will be coming, just so that you know, is more about disclaimer and some technical things as well. So, I just wanted you; and a lot of this also includes the rulemaking. So, I just wanted to give that and let you know this was a bipartisan effort and we believe it cleans everything up, it's more of a technical than it actually; and it's about the industry more than it is about cannabis. So, thank you.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I've been looking into this and yes, there was a lot of work done of the stakeholders, but the stakeholders were a collaborative effort of 10-plus cannabis advocacy groups in Maine and then the OCP, and that's it. They did not include Maine Public Health Association, the Maine Medical Association, Maine Osteopathic Association and the Maine Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, which is a very important piece, I would think, as far as talking about health issues.

So, I think the one thing that really, you know; this shouldn't be taken lightly, you know, when you look at the cannabis industry. You know, it's saying it deserves a thoughtful deliberation of all stakeholders; well, this didn't include all stakeholders and it just went; it's not just the industry representatives that should be included. And I think if we're going to be honest with each other about looking at safety for our children and the welfare of even adults, we should be taking a look at this on the public medical part. For one thing, I got a sheet today and it said that this treats cannabis like alcohol or tobacco, because these substances are highly addictive and toxic in low doses. Well, and it says it does not, but also that they want to be treated about the same. And the reason why that cannabis should not be treated the same as alcohol and tobacco is because the federal government has designated cannabis as a Schedule I drug still, which means there is limited research on cannabis health effects on the body and lack of federal regulation infrastructure.

To date, it says we, you know, where the public health concerns are considered and they really want removed from the bill, and it was removed from the bill, is that right now, in the original form of LD 40, it allowed children to smoke cannabis, permitted off-premises sales of medical cannabis without municipal approval and much more. So, some of the concerns had been addressed. It's a 60-plus page bill that has 100-plus statutory changes. More balanced stakeholders engaged will improve the process of the bill.

Also, considering how to exempt cannabis hospitality establishments from clean indoor air laws are not considered, and that's; to me, we experienced that right here in the House not just too long ago, we could smell marijuana in here. And it offends me because I don't want to smoke marijuana, I don't want to inhale it, I just feel that that's my right. And for this to say, well, we can go to any establishment and do it, it's going to be a problem.

Also, this includes free giveaways, including vape cartridges and edibles, up to two samples per person per day. It's also removing controlled entry and allowing minors to enter the cannabis store. I don't want to be having my child brought into a store because they want their cannabis and it gives that child the sense of it being normal. That is wrong. And I just think that we really have to be careful and there's no reason why the child even has to be there. Many people that smoke cigarettes, they don't go in the store bringing their kid or to get alcohol. Many times, they just bring them home and then if they need to go get something, they go get it, and it doesn't have to

be going to a Schedule I drug establishment and taking their child in there. Increasing youth exposure to cannabis products and paraphernalia, marketing and lowering the standard of deterring the youths from going into those establishments are very important and we just don't want them exposed to that.

And then there's another part. It erodes customer trust and transparency by allowing for unproven patient testimonials as advertisements on cannabis products. A lot of these advertisements are just testimonials that are not proven fact. And if there was so much fact, we would've had much more on these papers and would've had statistics. They don't have any.

So, here we are, we're going to vote something in that really needs a lot of work. Now, the medical association in these say that we could work on this and maybe next year, if they really, truly wanted to put this collaborative effort, to have them included, maybe they could come up with some good ideas and I think it would be much more stable for what we'd be doing. As it is, we just don't think that this is ready for primetime and it's just making a loose way of doing things and we're just endangering more kids. Right now, the statistics of kids right now and users; the data on youth use is 32% of high schoolers and 9% of middle schoolers report having used cannabis at least once, and 19% of the high schoolers and 5% of the middle schoolers used it in the last 30 days. Fifty-four percent of the high schoolers and 22% of the middle schoolers think it would be sort of easy or very easy to get cannabis. That's over half the high school kids. Tell me that's not influencing kids. We really need to start thinking about our children and our welfare of their health. They don't call cannabis dope for nothing. We want our kids to be having a degree someday and college, we don't want them to lose the concentration and also the skills to be able to study and also it has them; the way of feeling laid back and they don't have the energy, there's a whole lot of problems that exist with cannabis and we've got to take that in consideration when we make these votes.

So, I'm asking the Legislature, Madam Speaker to at least do this for our children and our State. We have to take a responsibility at some point. Let's not ruin it for our kids. I look at these pages and they all got a gleam in their eye, they want to be somebody. I listened to that song this morning, it came to my heart. Let's not take that away from them. Please, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I, too, rise in opposition to the pending motion, I think for a lot of the reasons that the Good Representative from Albion cited. Also, coincidentally, you know, I'm on the Budget Committee back home in Vassalboro and a member of the School Board wrote to us regarding the school budget and about all the problems that they have. Included to that is the incidents that they see of marijuana causing learning and behavior problems.

Madam Speaker, I think there's a sense that things are getting a little bit out of control with this matter. Before, I've mentioned several times, that I am very concerned about the makeup of stakeholder groups and I think that a more balanced stakeholder group gives us better perspectives on all items that we consider here. We need to slow things down and I urge you to vote no on this, so, we can develop a wider range and a better-balanced stakeholder group, including those members that the Good Representative from Albion mentioned in his testimony. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise just to do a couple of things. One, I wanted to just set the record straight and say that every single one of those organizations that was named was at the table; was invited to talk. I spoke with paid lobbyists from all those organizations and some executive directors, we reached out multiple times and we worked really hard to find consensus.

But I really intended to rise to thank the lead, Representative Rudnicki, for her collaborative work on this, and seeing as we're coming to the end of our work in Veteran and Legal Affairs, I wanted to thank her and all the Members for the hard work, especially when it comes to cannabis, which can be really contentious, and somehow, we made it through and found a consensus and I'm hoping folks will not let it turn them off from requesting to be on the VLA next session, because I'm looking forward to getting back and doing some really good work with all of them. 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. 538

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Andrews, Ankeles, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Blier, Boyer, Boyle, Brennan, Campbell, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Cray, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Ducharme, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Fredericks, Galletta, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hobbs, Hymes, Jackson, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Malon, Matlack, Milliken, Moonen, Morris, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Russell, Salisbury, Sampson, Sargent, Schmursal-Burgess, Shaw, Sheehan, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Warren, White B, Wood, Woodsome, Worth, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Bell, Bradstreet, Bridgeo, Carlow, Carmichael, Craven, Cyrway, Davis, Doudera, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Foster, Geiger, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Javner, Lemelin, Lyman, Madigan, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Meyer, Millett R, Montell, Moriarty, Murphy, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Pringle, Quint, Sachs, Sayre, Shagoury, Smith, Walker, White J, Zager.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Millett H, Roberts.

Yes, 96; No, 47; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

96 having voted in the affirmative and 47 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-709) was READ** by the Clerk.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-717) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-709) was READ by the Clerk and **ADOPTED.**

Committee Amendment "A" (S-709) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-717) 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" (S-709) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-717)** thereto in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-979)** on Bill "An Act to Create Equity in the State's Cannabis Industry"

(H.P. 972) (L.D. 1517)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
BRENNER of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
BOYER of Poland
COLLINGS of Portland
MALON of Biddeford
MONTELL of Gardiner
RIELLY of Westbrook
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris
HYMES of Waldo
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **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**: 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. 539

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Wood, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, 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.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Millett H, Roberts.

Yes, 80; No, 63; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy 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-979)** 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-979)** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act"

(S.P. 812) (L.D. 1983)

Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on April 11, 2024.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-677) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-697)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker **TALBOT ROSS** of Portland moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As I pull up my note from the speech the other day, this bill is truly not necessary. The State of Maine is working with Maine businesses to the tune of 98.6; and my computer's not up yet, and I apologize; but it's nearly 99%, according to the testimony from Anya Trundy at DAFS. We are working with the Maine employers. This bill here would make it extremely cost-prohibitive for towns who are using State dollars, counties who are using State dollars, or any State projects.

So, I would ask that the Body look at how they voted last time on the Roll Call vote and follow that and vote against the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 540

YEA - Abdi, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mathieson, Meyer, Millett R, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Crafts, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Eaton, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, Matlack, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rana, Rudnicki, Sachs, Sampson, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Milliken, Roberts.

Yes, 68; No, 75; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Legalize Historical Horse Racing and Electronic Beano to Allow Maine Gaming Licensees and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes to Compete with Other Gaming States"

(H.P. 1275) (L.D. 1992)

Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-968)** in the House on April 15, 2024.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding Offshore Wind Terminals Located in Coastal Sand Dune Systems"

(H.P. 1456) (L.D. 2266)

Minority (2) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on April 9, 2024.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (11) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-887)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Madam Speaker, I move to Reconsider.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer that that motion is not in order. There are no matters before the House. It's been forthwithed. The Chair would remind the Member the matter is no longer in possession of the House, the Chair has mattered acted sent forthwith. There's no mechanism in which I can honor the motion. The Chair is not in possession of LD 2266. The matter has been forthwithed; it's no longer in our possession. The Chair would like to meet the Leaders in the Well of the Chamber.

ENACTORS

Resolve

Resolve, to Rename Bridges in the Towns of Limerick, Hiram and Limington

(S.P. 183) (L.D. 402)

(S. "A" S-705 to C. "A" S-698)

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

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

Act

An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage Violations

(S.P. 179) (L.D. 372)

(C. "A" S-688)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative ARATA of New Gloucester, was **SET ASIDE**.

Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to this; to Enactment of this piece of legislation. As I said yesterday on the initial bill, I think that the wage and hour violations in this are too strict and too stringent. It is attempting to punish people who make an honest mistake. I don't think this is the path that the State should be going down; I think we should be working to work with people when they make a mistake and absolutely punish the bad actors and this bill that we are about to vote on does the exact opposite. I think it goes too far in the wrong direction. I would encourage this Body to reject this bill. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 541

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, 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 - Adams, Ardell, Crockett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Lanigan, Lavigne, Roberts.

Yes, 77; No, 64; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0. 77 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1092)

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

April 17, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today adhered to its previous action whereby it Engrossed Bill "An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming"

(H.P. 1140) (L.D. 1777) as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-932) in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act"

(H.P. 1270) (L.D. 1977)

Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-975) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-984)** thereto in the House on April 16, 2024.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 to Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 542

YEA - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Davis, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lemelin, Lyman, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Underwood, Walker, White B, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Cyrway, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hobbs, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Thorne, Warren, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jauch, Lanigan, Lavigne, Roberts.

Yes, 57; No, 85; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

57 having voted in the affirmative and 85 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

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

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act

(S.P. 32) (L.D. 40)

(S. "A" S-717 to C. "A" S-709)

Was 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.

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

An Act Regarding Restoration and Protection of Coastal Sand Dune Systems and Permitting of an Offshore Wind Terminal on Sears Island

(H.P. 1456) (L.D. 2266)

(C. "A" H-887)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to check my mic and make sure it's working. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was really proud of the House when we voted on this bill the first time. We made a strong statement that our environmental laws are important and that Sears Island is a beautiful and pristine location. I've seen the studies. If a port is needed, there's other locations to look at for that port. Madam Speaker, we know that we do not need to fast-track and blow by our environmental laws to build a port for this. I'd really love to see the House stick together, Madam Speaker, and not enact this law today. So, I will be voting against the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. Thank you for allowing me to rise and speak again in defense of Sears Island, the last uninhabited, undeveloped island on the east coast. Let me repeat; the last of its kind.

The NRCM and the Maine Labor Climate Council have been roaming the hallways trying to persuade legislators in this Chamber to vote for the destruction of Sears Island, but they have been doing so with disinformation and misinformation. As a matter of fact, the Maine Labor Climate Council is working with a D.C.-based company called Greenlight America, a radical agitation group who describes themselves as a nonprofit

focused on getting permitting and approval for green energy projects pushed through more quickly. Remember that; more quickly. Not more responsibly, not more informed; just more quickly. Greenlight America says the biggest bottleneck to fast-tracking projects are local efforts turning out constituents. That's right, the Maine Labor Climate Council is working with a group that thinks the people of Searsport and the State of Maine with real questions and concerns are the problem. They say, do it now, Maine can't wait. We even named our climate action plan 'Maine Won't Wait.' But maybe, if we pass this bill, we should consider renaming it Maine won't wait for environmental impact studies.

In the hallway, behind closed doors and through phone calls, legislators are being told that dredging is an issue at Mack Point and that is why we need to destroy Sears Island. They say the Army Corps of Engineers would not issue permits for dredging at Mack Point. However, based on reports available, including Moffatt & Nichol, that is false. Actually, there's been a study done in October of 2023, contracted by Sprague Energy and completed by Appledore Engineering. They found there is an alternative terminal layout for Mack Point that has a lower-impact alternative than the original. This layout provides the 100 acres required while reducing the required dredging amount by 85%.

Unfortunately, those lobbying for this bill are not providing accurate or up-to-date information and are purposely misleading people or are just not informed themselves. And further, where is the concern for the dredging that will be required to bury hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of electrical cables six feet below the ocean floor, snaking through prime fishing grounds, on their way to points of delivery on the mainland where chemical analysis has not been done.

Legislators are being told that if we don't destroy these sand dunes, we will miss out on \$250 million of offshore wind power grants from the federal government. That is also false. Sears Island could still be part of an alternative analysis for Mack Point without this bill that would remove critical environmental protections. Legislators are being told that the dunes on Sears Island are manmade. That is also false. Unfortunately, that has been repeated many times on this floor and even in the news. But just because something gets repeated over and over again, does not make it true. According to Maine.gov, this area is considered a coastal sand dune. And please remember, there are only three sand dunes in this entire region of Maine.

We are told that the already industrialized Mack Point will require 35 acres of overwater fill into the marine habitat that is already degraded because of the current industrialization, but we are not told that Sears Island requires 25 acres of overfill, with 800,000 cubic yards of harvested soil from the island that will destroy acres of eelgrass meadows, essential fish habitat, a fisheries nursery and shellfish beds. We are talking about destroying sand dunes today, but that is just the seed of what this could grow into.

For those who care about wildlife, we are told whales are not harmed by wind power. However, NOAA has issued more harm and harassment permits, called takes, for the endangered North Atlantic right whale than there are population. If whales are not harmed by offshore wind, then please tell me why offshore wind developers need permission to harm them? And remember, extinct is forever.

We are told that warming oceans are a problem, but we are not told that each substation, of which there would be several in the Gulf of Maine, each release 81 million gallons of chemically treated 90-degree water back into the Gulf per day; 81 million gallons at 90 degrees per day per substation. We are

told wind power will reduce our carbon footprint, but we are not told the BOEM, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, says that is blatantly false. For those who want to listen to the experts, then please listen. Just read the Vineyard Wind environmental impact statement, page 66. From start to finish, they found floating offshore wind would actually increase carbon emissions.

The people in the hallways are not experts. They are just financial beneficiaries from the proposed destruction and we are being misled. We are told there will be jobs, thousands of jobs for decades, and that is false, as there's no guarantee of a 3-gigawatt wind project at all. Remember, this port is being built to launch an array of 12 test turbines to see if the new technology is viable. It was determined the research array was not even feasible without a port. We are talking about destroying an island for a test. The jobs leave once the port and the 12 research turbines are launched. So, yes, there will be short-term jobs, but at the expense of long-term jobs. That's what states who wait to study the issue have found. Long-term jobs are ultimately lost due to electricity hikes and their downstream effects. Do we destroy an island to test a technology that is four to six times more expensive than the fixed-bottom turbines failing up and down the east coast? And then what? With the existing Mack Point port literally right before your eyes, does Searsport really need two dry liquid cargo ports across the channel from each other? And please remember, Mack Point has a railroad that goes to it.

What about hurricanes? Where are those assessments? Did you know that New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities reported in a document dated 2/14/24 that Atlantic hurricanes pose a significant threat to the offshore wind sector and that despite this risk, relatively little technical research has been devoted to quantifying and assessing it? No environmental assessment, no economic assessment, no job assessment, no hurricane assessment, no information at all.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change even reports that retaining intact ecosystems is more useful in combatting climate change than wind projects. Let me repeat that: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change even reports that retaining intact ecosystems is more useful in combatting climate change than wind projects. Do you sense a theme? All feelings and fiction and no facts. I have yet to hear a compelling reason as to why we should not wait for data and information. Don't we want to cast informed votes in this Chamber that accomplish stated goals? Or do we want to waste years and billions of dollars because we just wouldn't wait?

The last thing I'll say, and I know I'm not alone when I ask this; how did we get to the point where environmental groups that once worked vigorously to protect our environment and wildlife no longer do? I expect it from the unions; they want money; but what is happening to those tasked with protecting the environment? A recent report called "Conflict of Interest" shed a little light on that. It finds groups like the National Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation and the Conservation Law Foundation, among others, have received millions of dollars from the wind industry since 2018. The only thing green about the Sears Island port project is the money that special interests, labor unions and foreign companies are making. We just have to ask ourselves if we are willing to destroy the last uninhabited island that we have, so that a handful of people can profit at the expense of our environment, our oceans, small businesses, taxpayers and ratepayers. Sears Island deserves the protections afforded it in law, especially when there is a viable port alternative. Maine must wait for more information.

Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we are the only thing standing in the way of this island being destroyed permanently. This will not be able to be undone. If we enact this bill tonight because of pressure and purposely bad information, the local treasure to the community and to the people from around the world that Sears Island is today will soon be no more and never again. Please remember why we voted against this destruction the first time around. Please vote your conscience tonight, what you know to be right. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrington, Representative Strout.

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I, too, rise in opposition of the pending motion. As I've spoke before, several times, I'm really an environmentalist at heart and I agree with everything the Representative from Winterport has stated, along with other facts and figures. But I also want to make awareness to; this is, you know, not just in that backyard, it's concern about the entire coast and the protections and the regulations that are put upon the people that also own sand beaches.

And I just wanted to read something from my constituent who has been denied two DEP permits with trying to fix their sand dunes. It says: I understand the proposed wind port on Sears Island is also being impacted by the sand dune designation and regulations. It has been argued the benefit of the project supersedes the environmental concerns. At this juncture, I would like to suggest that this area of Sandy River Beach be considered exempt, similar to the Sears Island dune, so long as all permitting requirements are met. One might argue the benefits of effectively restoring the shoreline quickly rather than waiting for the dunes to recover and recolonize over time outweigh the risks associated with the significant erosion towards the cottages and wastewater. What would be the process for requesting such exemptions similar to the Chief Executive's request for exemption for the dune protection on Sears Island?

I feel like if we move forward with exceptions and exemptions, then everybody that has these concerns should also be allowed to have these exemptions and exceptions. And I believe that that may do long-term effects to the sand dunes and the responsibility for these, but if you open it up for one for industrialization, it seems like you would open it up for all to protect their land. So, I just wanted to rise and say I support my constituents and they should have the same opportunities as the State of Maine. Thank you.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This seems to be one of the 131st's signature bills before us. As earlier in floor debate I've been accused of being old, so, I've driven past that island for years. Years back to the '70s when the State secured it, years back when they signed an agreement to preserve 660 acres, or two-thirds of the island, and more recently, we had this bill before our Committee.

So, I decided on Sunday that maybe I should just go and take a look at the island. And I've heard about the pristine island. Obviously, the preserved land is valuable; it does take two-thirds of the island but also it takes probably about 80% of the shorefront. So, I approached the island and there's an access road, which was actually built on a dune. Beside the access road, there's a railroad bed that has been established. So, we open the gate and as you're going through the gate, you see Mack Point to the right, you see another port to the left and

you proceed down this State highway which has been engineered and constructed to State standards. It's a two-lane highway with a yellow line down the middle. Actually, you go by a few fire hydrants on the way out to this so-called established site, or the preserved site for development. And so, we approach the site and it's basically cleared, very close to the 100 acres that has been determined to be the site for this particular purpose, and you look at the site, it's all been engineered, the catchment basin has been established for your surface waters, drainage, culverts and it's all field. It's field that has grown up on gravel, gravel that's been brought in to establish the site. The growth is alder and small birch, some bolling pines, but it's basically a space that the State of Maine, since our fine Chief Executive Brennan, McKernan and King, have defined for development of our third port.

As you all know, we have a three port plan. The port of Portland, the port of Eastport; Portland has no chance for expansion; Eastport, if you've ever driven it, is fairly significant, steep down to the port, with a 20-plus-foot tide.

And this space, as we got close to the coast, I could see the dune which is to be built upon. As I mentioned in earlier speeches, there are two dunes, there's a dead dune and a live dune. The dead dune, which has been created by a jetty that was constructed by DOT, is dead and is basically a pile of sand with so much driftwood and debris that you can't get to the sand. The debris has piled up so much that it covers half the jetty. Now, I thought the jetty might be a small part of this new pier but, in fact, the new pier will cover that dead dune and will not extend into the bay any more than the jetty, which has been established many years ago. It will be about 18 acres, and if we were to look at Mack Point, they would need to develop 30 acres in the ocean, plus dredging. This jetty is at deep water, so, there's no dredging on Sears Island. The dredging at Mack Point will be exposing tons of chemicals that have been naturally sealed over the years.

This has been in the works for a long time. It had nothing to do with offshore wind and, in this case, the dead dune which is there will replenish itself. If you look at Penobscot Bay, the tides come in and up the Penobscot and the tides go out to the bay. And in that case, it creates an eddy and brings the sand in and takes the sand out. So, you know, I'm not seeing this as an offshore wind; I'm not seeing this as destroying dunes. Also, in this bill, there are funds for other dunes across the State that could be supported, rebuilt and replenished. So, we're trying to do something and all these entities are in here to appoint; I'm just hoping that we talk about this in one form, and that is the third of the three-point plan that can be established based on this project, because this project is before them, and I've got assurances from both Commissioners that if anything was to be proposed for the site, it could be used for another port, other manufacturing. We have manufacturing in South Brewer, Cianbro has a huge structural site where they do laydown and they export by barge huge, massive structures. So, there is a chance, and especially in this case where the rail service that goes into this site has the option to have a two-tier container rail. So, there's a lot of opportunity here, this is one project that is proposed. They are separate and the cost of the pier itself is \$590 million. The State is looking to the EPA and the U.S. DOT to grant it to diminish the cost to the State. So, I would say that this is a good proposal for the State and I would support it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 543

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Dhalac, Dill, Doudera, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hall, Hepler, Hobbs, Jackson, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry J, Pringle, Rielly, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, White B, Woodsome, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Collings, Cyrway, Davis, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Eaton, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Perry A, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Worth.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Milliken, Rana, Roberts.

Yes, 77; No, 65; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 1007)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively, when there is a need to conduct business or consider objections of the Governor.

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

READ.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the Joint Order be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Madam Speaker, this Joint Order looks highly unusual, so, I would pose a question to the Chair. Is the purpose of this Joint Order to carry over bills for the purpose of a special session?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the negative, as in no. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Madam Speaker, I'm just unclear about the way this is written.

Subsequently, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **WITHDREW** his motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Joint Order.

The same Representative **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. 544

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, White B, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Order was **PASSED** in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-985)** on Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1420) (L.D. 2214)

Signed:

Senators:

ROTUNDO of Androscoggin

DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport

ANKELES of Brunswick

COLLINGS of Portland

FAY of Raymond

GATTINE of Westbrook

MATLACK of St. George

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-986)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

BLIER of Buxton

CARLOW of Buxton

DUCHARME of Madison

MILLETT of Waterford

READ.

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

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **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 Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in opposition to the Majority budget. The Appropriations Committee has spent the last three months working on getting to rapture on this supplemental and change package. We started with moving in those items that we could agree on. Those types of things include initiatives to align allocations with available revenues and increasing or decreasing allocations to align with revenue projections. We then moved on to those items that required more discussion, like positions. We first moved in those positions that were funded from federal funds or other special revenue. We then looked at the new positions that the Administration proposed, a total of 165 new positions between fiscal '24 and fiscal '25. We listened to the business cases for those positions, and where we felt the positions were needed, we agreed unanimously to move them into the supplemental. Of course, there were some that we did not reach agreement on and had divided Reports, divided votes. We then looked at those 'continues and makes permanent' positions that result from either a federal program that is coming to an end, a position created by financial order when we are not in session or in a budget document. We first moved in those positions that had a sunset, a definite time when they would be done. After that process, the Committee discussed the remaining positions and voted either to include or not. The Committee then moved to the language piece of the budget. We debated the various issues in the language pieces of the budget. We found some common ground in some areas and in others, we divided.

I'm reading a book called *Extreme Ownership*, written by two Navy SEALs, about leadership. One of the principles of leadership is extreme ownership. This calls for the leader to accept responsibility for failure to achieve the desired outcome. As the Republican Leader on Appropriations, I take full responsibility for our failure to achieve the great Representative from Waterford's condition of rapture when we have a unanimous budget. The Majority budget before you is the result of that failure. Extreme ownership requires that when we fail, we analyze the situation at hand, we prioritize the issues and then, attack those most pressing first. The result of that prioritization is the Minority budget. The Minority budget and the

Majority budget are very similar. We found unanimity in a broad range of issues in this supplemental; however, our prioritization requires that we offer a different path forward. A path that we believe prioritizes the greatest needs of all the people of Maine, stays within available funds of the unallocated surplus, without taking money from other programs, and creates a path forward that will meet those needs in a timely manner.

The largest difference in the Minority Budget is that we fund \$6 million flood relief package from unappropriated surplus, rather than use the Budget Stabilization Fund. The discussion about the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund for flood relief is clearly outside the statutory authority defined in the Budget Stabilization Statute. The only way to use this is to write one of my least favorite words, notwithstanding, to make this happen. Remember, using notwithstanding language means if there is a law that says we can't do this, do what we want, we're going to ignore it and do what we want anyway because we can. Because we use those funds, it limits some of the things that we can do for all of Maine people.

However, we believe that there are three critical areas that must be addressed. The Minority budget prioritizes these needs, these critical needs. One, flood relief; two, mental health; and three, nursing homes and veterans' homes. In the first case, approving the Minority budget with an emergency preamble and a two-thirds vote tonight allows these funds to be available to use the minute the Chief Executive signs it.

Two, mental health. LD 2237, sponsored by yourself, Madam Speaker, and we thank you, has provided a broad-based framework for improving the mental health services in our State. We thank you for that work and would advise that your bill has moved, in its entirety, into the Minority budget. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services provided a number of initiatives, called the Mental Health Resiliency Package, that were largely unanimous votes of the Committee. The Minority Report includes many of those initiatives, such as LD 1236, "An Act to Increase the Provision of Children's Behavioral Health Services in Rural Areas and to Provide Support for Families of Children Receiving Services," or LD 1305, a "Resolve, to Design and Implement a Community-based Model of Care for Adolescent Mental Health," or LD 907, "An Act to Meet the Needs of Individuals with Severe Behavioral Health Diagnoses," or the language that we included instructing the Department of Health and Human Services to issue an RFP to develop one or more psychiatric residential facilities to meet the needs of adolescents who have high levels of behavioral health needs that are not being met in current outpatient facilities, which also included a \$2 million appropriation to support that effort.

For the nursing homes and veterans' homes, the Majority Report includes one-time money to help the nursing homes in our State that are trying to meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable senior citizens. The funding model is broken for this system, and they need help desperately. Rarely does a month go by without news of this nursing home or that long-term care facility planning to close. This is in part because the reimbursement for services mechanism through Medicare and MaineCare have not kept up with the costs. The Minority Report asks that money to be ongoing until the rate rebasing effort is complete, at which point, there is the hope that the new rates will help solve this structural deficiency. Maine veterans are struggling with similar reimbursement issues; the Minority Report includes ongoing funds to meet those needs until the reimbursement situation is corrected.

Other initiatives that are different in the two Reports include money to meet the request of Maine farmers for 25% of the new tiers plus \$7 million, for a total of \$15 million, which gets us to just about 50% of what the latest production cost analysis shows that they should be receiving. That number was \$34 million. Now, you'll remember, Madam Speaker, that we commissioned that report with a \$50,000 appropriation, because the farmers were struggling 12-18 months ago and they came to us and said, we need help; we said, okay, we're going to accelerate the process, we're going to give you money to do it and you give us the number that you need. They gave us the number and we said, oh my, I can't, we can't do that, we're only going to give you just a portion of it. We're trying to get them to 50%, or close to 50%.

The Minority budget also includes all 32 State Troopers that the Chief Executive requested in her supplemental budget request. The plan for that, that these new officers will complement the current force to help bolster the Maine State Police, so, they can assist more in patrolling the rural areas of our State. We have reports of folks calling for police services in some areas and being told it'll be two hours or more before an officer would be available to help them. I cannot imagine that, if you're home in Portland and you call for a police officer, it's going to be two hours. I can't imagine that. But it is where I live. The rural areas are suffering. It is largely rural areas that are affected by these police services. They've been working with the counties to create agreements, but without the officers to do it, it doesn't help. The Minority Budget also includes \$8 million to meet the State mandate that our county jails provide medication-assisted treatment to prisoners that suffer from substance abuse disorder. The Majority only meets half of the request from the Maine Sheriff's Association for reimbursements for meeting this mandate.

Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we have acknowledged our failure. We have analyzed and prioritized the needs of the Maine people. We have developed plans to meet those needs in a bipartisan fashion. The Chief Executive said, find a way to get this done, find a middle ground. Now, all we have to do is execute the plan, Madam Speaker. The Minority Report is the middle ground. To execute this plan, we have to defeat the Majority Budget that doesn't meet the most pressing needs of all Maine people, and enact the Minority budget tonight. Please follow my light and vote down the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow, and just take one moment to remind Members to speak to the motion before us, the motion is acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report.

The Chair reminded Members to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: I'm getting ahead of my skis here. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it was said on the floor last year that budget bills are so encompassing and so vital to the interests of the Maine people that they may almost be a sacred document. I'll confess, I don't consider a lot of the work we do here to be quite so sacred, but I found there was some wisdom in what the Member had said. It's true, there is no greater demonstration of how we serve the people of Maine, no greater instrument through which we can improve the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors back home. Madam Speaker, this Body has a long, august history passing bipartisan budgets that pass with broad, bicameral support. I've spoken at length in previous debates about my conviction that we ought to

resolve to using bipartisan budgets, and I concede that such an endeavor requires stamina and leadership and an unbridled, untamed and irrepressible sense of historic purpose. Generations of erstwhile Legislatures have come together in peace and in crisis, in amity and enmity, to craft a State budget that reflects the true strength and spirit of our great and humble State. And I've come to the floor once again to just express how haunted I am by the devastating and disappointing disfigurement to the legacy of this institution, an institution to which we all belong, regardless of our party, our creed, regardless of our geography and other concerns.

Madam Speaker, I have more thoughts to share on the role that this Body has in preserving our State's unique culture, but just in the interest of time, I must now turn my attention to the failures of the present matter. The first of which is the woeful underfunding of Maine's nursing homes, which are closing at alarming rates across this land, leaving seniors with so much uncertainty in their golden years, when things really ought to be made more simple for them and their families. My friends on; and I say friends, and I mean it; my friends on the other side of the aisle praised the agreement that they reached with the Maine Health Care Association. This agreement doesn't go far enough. This budget does nothing, absolutely nothing, to solve the progressing plight of Maine's seniors, and we are plunging our nursing homes into more instability. We have a sacred duty to provide support for our seniors now, not at some future date.

We heard a great deal about mental health on the floor yesterday afternoon, and I am really glad that the subject has caught up to our attention because it's a generational concern for many Maine families, my own included. And I wasn't quite sure how to say this on the floor today, but I want to inform the Body that I bring a perspective to the issue. On the 10th of May, 2000, my father shot himself in the forest behind our home following a long and tragic battle with depression. He was found two days later, dead, by a pair of hikers, leaving my mother to raise her infant son by herself. And my heart is with all of those people who know this sinister disease. And with the winds of change at our backs, we stand before the precipice of profound opportunity to transform lives for the better, and we've hopelessly missed the mark yet again. We have a sacred duty to fund a suite of bipartisan mental health legislation, totally ignored by this supplemental.

Madam Speaker, there are many similarities between the two Reports, and I commend the several areas of bipartisan agreement. However, the contrasts couldn't be more clear. This budget is far from sacred, it doesn't even come close, and for those reasons, I will vote in opposition to the pending motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for my colleagues for speaking in opposition to the motion. I also am in opposition to this motion, Madam Speaker, because it does not go far enough, but yet, goes too far on certain items.

One of the items that I am concerned about, although I do agree we have a housing crisis within our State; I will never say that we do not; but the truth of the matter is that when I was on the Housing Committee and when Maine State Housing came in, they were hoping to get \$30 million. Last biennial, we allocated \$100 million, and we're going to allocate another \$50 million towards housing. A hundred million dollars on projects that most of them haven't even broke ground yet. Now, most of you already, if you own homes, you've hired contractors, you notice the difficulty from finding people to build or remodel the

things that you currently own. And so, when you allocate this type of resources into an environment where it's already struggling in the workforce, you drive the cost of the building of that specific unit higher. And so, what are we doing? We're driving the American Dream away from our children. When the average home in our State costs \$353,000 and we keep driving more money when buying materials, driving the cost to build a single unit goes up and up and up and the interest rates are high, how is someone ever going to be able to purchase a home? Now, I understand that most of this is for subsidized housing, because we want to create housing. I understand. Let's create carpenters, electricians and plumbers. Let's create people to build the housing that we need. We're not doing that, we're not focusing on that.

We allocated \$5 million to help trailer park owners. Last week, we heard that the trailer park owners were not interested in purchasing their co-op and joining in their co-op, but yet, we had the opportunity to remove that \$5 million from the budget, the Majority Budget, and we did not do that. Madam Speaker, I think we're going down a road that is going to be irreversible. Every action we take has a reaction. The actions we're taking today is eliminating the opportunity for our younger generation to homeownership. So, that is one item that I am not in favor of.

As well, Madam Speaker, and we served together on the Blue Ribbon Commission, LD 1515 was presented in the Majority budget. We have an EMS situation in our State. We need to keep that conversation moving forward. It was rejected. Very unfortunate, Madam Speaker. We have a new EMS Director, we've allocated \$30 million, not all that money has gone out; the conversation needs to continue to happen. Again, we've rejected that motion. Very unfortunate.

And then, the State Troopers, Madam Speaker. Commissioner Sauschuck came and said he needed 32 officers. Now, listen folks, we're living in a new world. We've got computer fraud, we've got elderly fraud, we've got AI. Those take resources from State Troopers for detectives. They're not coming in with a wish list, they're coming in with officers they need to protect us from the new world. And yet, we reject that.

Madam Speaker, there's some commonalities between both Minority and Majority budgets. We have stayed within the State guidelines of what we need to do without robbing from the Budget Stabilization Fund and taking resources from the Highway Fund, the DOT, which they definitely need to take care of our roads and bridges. So, Madam Speaker, I reject the Majority Report on this. I ask that you please follow my light. Thank you so much.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. In looking through this 239-page budget, I saw a lot of Behemoth-type numbers. Twenty-one million dollars homeless assistance; \$20 million homeless families and kids; \$11 million milk; \$51 million housing money. And way down at the bottom of it is the Office of New Americans, with no number on it. The Office of New Americans fiscal note was \$302,060. What is that doing in the middle of this budget? That bill was not reported out of Committee, and yet, here it is. And looking at the language of creating the ONA, Office of New Americans, it gives them rulemaking authority, routine technical rulemaking authority in that office. But that office is in OPIF, and OPIF does not have rulemaking authority, routine technical rulemaking authority.

The committee that ONA calls for is an advisory committee of at least 10 members who are immigrants; nine appointed by the Chief Executive, one appointed by the President of the

Senate, and one appointed by you, Madam Speaker; to make their own rules. No legislative oversight, nobody from this Body, nobody from the Senate. The backstop to that would be the Attorney General, to make sure everything is copacetic in what they're doing. This is an Executive Order signed on March 4, 2019, "An Order Regarding Administrative Rulemaking:" "Whereas, the promulgation of rules and regulations is an essential policy-making function of State government;" and whereas, whereas, whereas; "Now therefore, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to my authority conferred to me by the Constitution, do hereby order the following: I. Process. Agencies and boards... shall, prior to issuing notice of rulemaking and submitting a proposed rule to the Secretary of State for publication pursuant to 5 M.R.S... provide the Office of Attorney General with the opportunity to perform a legal pre-view of proposed rules." That's the backstop for the Attorney General. In March of '23, another order was signed by the Chief Executive, "An Order Regarding Administrative Rulemaking," all of the exact same things applied, except for when you get down to process, agencies and boards, it says, "shall use best efforts to provide the Office of Attorney General with the opportunity to provide legal oversight on it."

So, what we have, Madam Speaker, is an office which is going to make its own rulemaking, own routine technical rules, no oversight. None by the office it's in, none by the Attorney General. How long do you think it's going to be, Madam Speaker, very respectfully, before someone puts in a 150-signature petition and tells them exactly what they're going to put in here for rules? And I went down to the Revisor's Office and asked if I could put in an amendment for this bill, which would make it major substantive rules, so, we would have some legislative oversight over what they do, but the bill came out, the language on this budget came out 6:30 this morning and, as you well know, it was shut off as far as amendments at 9:30. Nothing could be done about this.

This is bad news for our State. Not only by putting this in the budget and not allowing it to come before this Body, so that we can speak on behalf of our constituents and we can have our say in even just this portion of this, just the Office of New Americans being in here, this is fast-tracking and going by everything that we stand for, Madam Speaker. Oversight, government, what's fair and what's right and telling us, the people of this State, the hardworking citizens of this State, we don't have a voice in this, you have to take it, that's it. That's what this is saying to me. And I think this is unfair, I think it's unwise for us to do this, and thank you, Ma'am.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. There's a lot of stuff here that people can be for and against, but as somebody that has served six terms on Transportation, as somebody that stood in this Chamber about 10 months ago, where we all agreed that sustainable funding for highways and for our transportation system was necessary. And in a unanimous fashion, because, unlike this current budget process here, that was a two-thirds, that was a two-thirds budget, it was an emergency budget, which every budget has been through the Highway Fund in all the years that I've been on Transportation. I've looked at this, and after standing in this Chamber 10 months ago and us all agreeing; within 10 months, we're already taking money back out of our transportation system. It didn't take long. We said we wanted a sustainable funding, we all said that that was exactly what we needed, we

all said that we probably needed more, and within 10 months of that historic agreement for long-term highway funding and transportation; to cover our transportation needs, we're already peeling that back. As I've said on the floor many times before, at some point, we're going to put our transportation needs first, or even second or third or fourth, not always at the end of the line. And it's so disappointing that in this budget, we're pulling money out of roads. I believe that costs for everything that we do today, from food to feed our families to every cost we have are going up, but in this Majority budget, we're saying that isn't true in our Highway Fund and isn't true to cover the costs of our ongoing transportation needs.

It's just very frustrating; like I said, there's a lot of things in the budget; one of my other ones, my big ones is support for the veterans' homes and for us not to support ongoing needs there is disappointing. My father spent the last three years of his life at the veterans' home in Scarborough, and for us not to take care of our senior veterans, people that have lived here, have served here, have served this country and have been most of them Mainers their whole life and we're not funding them on an ongoing basis is very, very frustrating. And anybody that goes over to the veterans' home in Scarborough and see what a great job they do taking care of our veterans, you would see why we're so passionate on making sure that they have funding.

As I said before, I'm very disappointed that, in this Majority budget, that they took more money out of roads at a time when costs are going up. This \$11 million that's coming out of the roads could be \$11 million, or could be as much, depending on the project, as \$50 or \$60 million with federal matches. So, that's what has been decided isn't a priority here in Maine to continue to fix our roads and bridges and our transportation system. And as I said, it's just very frustrating, after historic changes we made last year and every person in this Chamber supporting those changes, that this budget is taking those away. So, I'm hoping we can defeat this Majority budget and move to the Minority budget and we can keep funding our roads and not take the money away. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **Blier**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to rise a second time, and I just want to thank the other side. And I just want to make one comment that is deep to my heart. You know, I am a true Mainer, grew up in Northern Maine, live in Southern Maine; and the truth of the matter, this side of the aisle represents the rural part of Maine, for the most part. And gosh, I wish we could come to someplace, Madam Speaker, where we can really negotiate and come up with a two-thirds budget. That is true democracy. We've been running simple majority budgets for years now. That tells our side that we don't matter. We don't have a voice in any of these budgets. We represent the people in our State. When we say we're helping the people of Maine, you're not helping our people. Let's work together, let's negotiate. Yes, you're going to have to lose a little bit and we'll have to win a little bit, but then, the whole State will be covered. Isn't that democracy? Join us. This is what's important, the whole State, not certain pockets, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fort Kent, Representative Theriault.

Representative **Theriault**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members of the House. Oftentimes when the pages stand in front of us, I think about what it was like to be a kid visiting the State House and thinking about the responsibility that we all have to represent the people in our respective districts.

Just a couple months ago, we got word up in the County that another nursing home had closed. And my response to the people that reached out was this was supposed to be worked on years ago, and now, in this Majority budget, we're kicking the can down the road again. Where are these families going to put their loved ones? Are they going to have to move them to Bangor? Are they going to have to move them out of the County? We're putting a large responsibility on families that are barely able to get by right now.

When the Commissioner of Public Safety was in front of us, he said we have a major gap right now with rural patrol. And for this budget to just, I don't know, cut it in half from 32 officers on the State Police down to 16, seemed like an arbitrary number. So, when our constituents have to call the police in the middle of the night, and a lot of these towns don't have officers in their; and the town doesn't pay for police officers, it's up to the Sheriffs and the State Police, and some of them are going to have to go hours waiting for a response.

The veterans' home issue was another issue. We've been talking about this for as long as I've been here, and I know it's been going on before I got here. And we're doing another one-time fix for a real problem that has real consequences for people around the State. We can do better than this.

Oftentimes, I think power can get the best of us, but we have to remember the example that we can be for these kids that sit in front of us. We can be better, we've done better in the past, we've gone off the rails and I hope that, in this process, we've learned that when people work together, you can get stuff done. We have an opportunity here to do the right thing. Please follow my light and oppose this motion and see where we can go from here. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrington, Representative Strout.

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition of the pending motion. So, I'm new, this is my first term. I've enjoyed meeting all of you and having interactions, but I think you've learned, those that haven't met me, is being a mom is my first priority. Here, my second is the constituents of where I represent. And I take my community; I take pride in it, they're hardworking, and they don't get a lot.

So, when the storms hit in January, it devastated a lot of communities and families in my area. They've put blood, sweat and tears in their wharfs, their boats, their towns, their communities and it was washed away not once, but twice. Passing this budget does not assist those families or the families along the coast to rebuild, or western Maine that lost a lot in their storms. If it doesn't show dedication, I was the only one from this aisle, if you remember, in the revamp of the Coastal Caucus, and we all sat together and we talked about the need to help everybody that was devastated by those storms. Now, I'm not much of a politician, I don't know if I ever will be, but I know my job here is to stand and look out for the people. The only way that I can see that that's going to happen is if this budget does not pass and we're able to pass the one that includes the money to fund not just my area and the hardworking people, but all of the people along the coast that bring in their hard work and the tourism and the pride and the continuation of sustainability for heritage.

So, I hope that we can come together and look for what really will benefit most of the people. The other things in this bill also help many other people and families, so, I hope we can come together and make something for this session work that really does benefit the people. Thank you.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I was in law enforcement for many years and I volunteered my time, go to 30 nursing homes during Christmastime with a Christmas float. And I escorted the float and we'd go to all these nursing homes and sing Christmas carols to them. And some of them are very heartbreaking. Clearview, Fairfield, kids laying on the floor, can't speak, handicapped, can't walk, it was so sad. People that haven't been visited. One man hadn't been visited for five years by any family member. This is atrocious if we don't help them. I got a call from the lady that is director at Clearview and she's begging me to go see them. And now, what am I going to tell her when we don't fund them?

The farmers. I have a farm out in Albion; devastating, his building is gone for his heifers, the corn was knocked down by the wind, 20 acres; he's got over \$100,000 lost and he went and applied three times to FEMA and to EMS, Maine EMS, and got nothing. Nothing. And they said; you know what they told him? They said, well, there was accidentally; we took the farmers' money out of FEMA and guess what, we don't know where that is going to be put, so, we can't help you. That's what they told him. Here he is, 67 years old, he can't take a loan out and think he's going to make it back in the time when he's going to retire. He's got family that wants to take it over, but they're not quite ready yet. It takes money. And so, we should be helping that person. And so, the tier program; it's nowhere near what it should be. That's not going to help them. It's going to help them a little bit, but you're going to end up losing all these farms that we lost a third of just last year. Now we're going to lose the rest. When is responsibility going to kick in? We need people to be responsible about taking care of our people in Maine.

The veterans; I can't believe it, I look at this and it says, Maine Veterans' Home one-time only and it says, unknown amount. That's on the Majority vote. We're looking at on the Minority, \$31 million; I mean, \$5,100,000. So, that's for veterans' home ongoing. At least there's a plan.

Here it is, Maine Emergency Management, nothing. Maine Emergency Management on the other side, \$2,500,000. At least there's a plan. What are we going to do? Keep stripping everything so that they have nothing? What do we do?

I don't even know where to start when I get these phone calls after today. When this vote goes, and if it goes Majority, I am not going to know what I can tell them. I don't want to blame the Democrats, I don't want to blame the Republicans for not being able to get it done, that's not who I am. I care about everybody here. Please, don't vote for this majority, it's not doing it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I've always wanted to say this, I did not intend to rise, especially on a budget. But here I am today. I stand confused about this budget, Madam Speaker.

When we were elected, when you and I were elected, we were elected to represent our district, not our party. Our districts have Independents, our districts have Democrats and our districts have Republicans, and sometimes equal share of which. And a lot of Independents seem to make up a lot of; or unenrolled make up our elections, and those are the people that we are serving and the money who we are allocating today, it's their money. Mine being District 141; it's Shapleigh, Newfield, parts of Sanford and Springvale. And it may not seem like it's a big deal, but not going through with the \$60 million or \$50 million

for the flood relief does affect my rural towns, Madam Speaker. It affects them because they're the people that work on the coasts. They're the people that go there for their summer jobs or their extra income, or the kids see an opportunity outside of their life, maybe in Newfield.

I, myself, have been in the wedding industry, and I don't know if all of you realize, but we have almost; close to a billion dollars brought in in revenue to the State from weddings. Most of those expensive weddings happen on our coast. A coast that was devastated and a coast that's not being represented in this budget, which is extremely confusing for me, Madam Speaker.

There's a lot of good elements in this budget, but this one is just baffling. A lot of our coastal towns are not represented by this side of the aisle, surprisingly. It seems that we are representing a party and not the people of Maine. I just ask everybody when they look at this budget and they go to vote, take the letters that they are, R's, I's and D's, and let's get rid of the party and vote for the people and vote this budget down. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank all of my colleagues who are in the seat to hear me. You have heard the issues my colleagues have brought forward. I share their concerns for the lack of consideration given to rural communities within this budget. This bill was released at 6:30 this morning due to the disrespectful budgetary process that has been handed to us. I have not had the opportunity to read through the complete budget, and will be voting no. May I pose a question to and through you, Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you. Have any in this Body who have decided to vote yes on this budget actually read through it, or the alternative that we have offered?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to respond.

Seeing none, 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. 545

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyle, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, 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 B, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts.

Yes, 77; No, 67; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) was READ** by the Clerk.

Representative **BOYER** of Poland **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-988) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985)**, which was READ by the Clerk.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I come hat in hand, asking for \$100,000, one time, for those that can't ask for it for themselves. These are our loved ones that are deceased, that are in the State's possession, in the basement, in the cooler and they are unidentified. There's about 20 of them, Madam Speaker.

We had a bill that went through, it got a lot of support and we're looking to fund it this way one time through other special revenue, through funeral licensing. Maybe I didn't draft it in the right way the first time, maybe I'm a Republican, maybe you don't like weed, maybe the process has gone sideways, but please don't take that out on these families. These families like Judy and Wayne Richardson, who lost their daughter in a homicide; Ramona Torres, who lost her angel years and years ago that are still keeping the faith, Madam Speaker. Like Ray Moreau, who lost Kimberly 38 years ago and he still puts up flyers in Jay on the light poles.

So, I'm asking, again, hat in hand, humbly, if we can use this licensing funds to pay for the DNA tests and give some closure to Maine families and even save some money. Maybe State Police is looking for missing people that are simply in the State's possession, unidentified. I really hope we can put politics aside and just do some good government here. Thank you.

Representative **TERRY** of Gorham moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-988) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-988) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985).**

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 Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "A" (H-988) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 546

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

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson,

Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Montell, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Crockett, Drinkwater, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts.

Yes, 75; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-988) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative TERRY of Gorham **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-989) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Terry.

Representative **TERRY**: Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I rise to offer an amendment to LD 2214. This amendment makes only two minor technical changes to language in the bill after two minor errors were identified after the bill was drafted and printed. These changes are included to reflect the intent of the Committee's Majority Report. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "B" (H-989) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) was ADOPTED.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended by House Amendment "B" (H-989) 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-985) as Amended by House Amendment "B" (H-989) thereto and sent for concurrence. ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine

(H.P. 1478) (L.D. 2290)
(C. "A" H-982)

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. 110 voted in favor of the same and 10 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Establish the Social Equity Program

(H.P. 972) (L.D. 1517)
(C. "A" H-979)

Was 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.

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

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I ask a question of the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you. Madam Speaker, yesterday, LD 225 was before this Body and we stripped out the Emergency Enactor amendment in response to the non-concurrence from the other Body. We sent that bill back to the other Body, where it remains. That was the bill that would have provided the flood relief money from the Budget Stabilization Fund. By stripping out the Emergency Enactor amendment, what that does is once that bill is passed with no Emergency Enactor on it, then it requires that folks are going to wait for that money for 90 days after this Body adjourns, which I assume will be today or sometime today, *sine die*. We offered in our budget proposal a way to get there to provide money immediately, or as soon as the Chief Executive signed it. I would just like to know if there is a plan and could somebody tell us what the plan is for getting flood relief to these people who are going to lose their entire summers while we fiddle around waiting 90 days for money that a month and a half ago, I told the Chief Executive we could get her a two-thirds vote if she took it out of Unallocated Surplus.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the Member that that bill is not before this Chamber at this time. That bill is not in the possession of the House.

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

Emergency Measure

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

(H.P. 1431) (L.D. 2229)
(H. "A" H-981 to C. "A" H-971)

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

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

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Approving the 2024 Draft and Arrangement of the Constitution of Maine Incorporating Amendments Approved at Referendum in 2023 and Providing for Its Publication and Distribution

(H.P. 1480) (L.D. 2291)
(H. "A" H-983)

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. 116 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

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

Representative **LOOKNER**: 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 Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to say *chag sameach* to all my fellow Jewish legislators. It's a happy Passover coming up. And I wish to express before this Body my sincere desire for a ceasefire in Gaza. Thank you.

After Midnight

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

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

(H.P. 1420) (L.D. 2214)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) thereto in the House on April 17, 2024.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, the House voted to **RECEDE**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "C" (H-990) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-989) and "C" (H-990) thereto was **ADOTPED**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-989) and "C" (H-990)**.

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 to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-989) and "C" (H-990). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 547

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, 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 B, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Campbell, Crockett, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts.

Yes, 75; No, 66; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended by House Amendments "B" (H-989) and "C" (H-990)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 496)

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

April 17, 2024

Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 22, MRSA, Subtitle 22, Part 4, Ch. 401, §1726.2, I am pleased to appoint Sabrina Abbott of Auburn to the *Maine Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council*, effective immediately.

Ms. Abbott will serve on this council as a representative of health insurers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 479)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 30 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 16 Unanimous Reports
 - 2 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 12 Ought To Pass As Amended

5 Divided Reports
2 Leave to Withdraw
6 Gubernatorial Nominations
Sincerely,
S/Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair
S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 480)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC
SAFETY**

April 15, 2024
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:
32 Total Number of Bills and Papers
11 Unanimous Reports
 3 Ought Not To Pass
 4 Ought To Pass
 3 Ought To Pass As Amended
 1 Referred to Another Committee
21 Divided Reports

Sincerely,
S/Pinny Beebe-Center
Senate Chair
S/Suzanne M. Salisbury
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 481)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

April 10, 2024
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:
43 Total Number of Bills and Papers
19 Unanimous Reports
 4 Ought Not To Pass
 4 Ought To Pass
 11 Ought To Pass As Amended
9 Divided Reports

15 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Joseph Rafferty
Senate Chair
S/Michael F. Brennan
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 482)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**
April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

34 Total Number of Bills and Papers
19 Unanimous Reports
 8 Ought Not To Pass
 2 Ought To Pass
 9 Ought To Pass As Amended
15 Divided Reports

Sincerely,
S/Mark W. Lawrence
Senate Chair
S/Stanley Paige Zeigler, Jr.
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 483)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

April 15, 2024
The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

28 Total Number of Bills and Papers
18 Unanimous Reports
 1 Ought Not To Pass
 6 Ought To Pass
 11 Ought To Pass As Amended

5 Divided Reports
2 Leave to Withdraw
3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Stacy Fielding Brenner
Senate Chair
S/Lori K. Gramlich
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,
S/Donna Bailey
Senate Chair
S/Anne C. Perry
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 484)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 62 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 52 Unanimous Reports
 - 23 Ought Not To Pass
 - 6 Ought To Pass
 - 23 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 8 Divided Reports
- 1 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,
S/Joseph M. Baldacci
Senate Chair

S/Michele Meyer
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 486)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 12 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 7 Unanimous Reports
 - 4 Ought Not To Pass
 - 1 Ought To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 3 Divided Reports
- 1 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,
S/David LaFountain
Senate Chair

S/H. Scott Landry, Jr.
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 485)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 51 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 26 Unanimous Reports
 - 7 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 16 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 1 Referred to Another Committee
- 22 Divided Reports
- 3 Gubernatorial Nominations

The Following Communication: (H.C. 487)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 35 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 16 Unanimous Reports
 - 3 Ought Not To Pass
 - 3 Ought To Pass
 - 10 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 5 Divided Reports
- 4 Leave to Withdraw
- 10 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senate Chair
S/Tiffany Roberts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,
S/Michael Tipping
Senate Chair
S/Amy J. Roeder
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 488)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 69 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 23 Unanimous Reports
 - 10 Ought Not To Pass
 - 13 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 30 Divided Reports
- 1 Leave to Withdraw
- 15 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Anne M. Carney

Senate Chair
S/Matthew W. Moonen
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 490)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 12 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 8 Unanimous Reports
 - 3 Ought Not To Pass
 - 1 Ought to Pass
 - 4 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 1 Divided Reports
- 3 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,
S/Cameron Reny

Senate Chair
S/Allison Hepler
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 489)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 56 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 6 Unanimous Reports
 - 3 Ought Not To Pass
 - 1 Ought To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 14 Divided Reports
- 5 Leave to Withdraw
- 31 Gubernatorial Nominations

The Following Communication: (H.C. 491)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 33 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 10 Unanimous Reports
 - 3 Ought Not To Pass
 - 1 Ought To Pass
 - 6 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 19 Divided Reports
- 1 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Tim Nangle
Senate Chair
S/Holly B. Stover
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,
S/Benjamin M. Chipman
Senate Chair
S/Lydia Crafts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 492)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 57 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 24 Unanimous Reports
 - 12 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 9 Ought To Pass As Amended
 - 1 Referred to Another Committee
- 28 Divided Reports
- 5 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,
S/Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair
S/Joseph C. Perry, Sr.
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 494)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 47 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 26 Unanimous Reports
 - 9 Ought Not To Pass
 - 17 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 15 Divided Reports
- 3 Leave to Withdraw
- 3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,
S/Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair
S/Laura D. Supica
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 493)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 24 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 19 Unanimous Reports
 - 9 Ought Not To Pass
 - 2 Ought To Pass
 - 8 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 3 Divided Reports
- 2 Leave to Withdraw

The Following Communication: (H.C. 495)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Select Committee on Housing during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 28 Total Number of Bills and Papers
- 18 Unanimous Reports
 - 7 Ought Not To Pass
 - 11 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 7 Divided Reports
- 3 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,
S/Teresa Pierce
Senate Chair
S/Traci Gere
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1110)

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

April 17, 2024
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report from the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act to Legalize Historical Horse Racing and Electronic Beano to Allow Maine Gaming Licensees and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes to Compete with Other Gaming States" (H.P. 1275) (L.D. 1992) in non-concurrence.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1112)

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

April 17, 2024
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act" (H.P. 1270) (L.D. 1977) in non-concurrence.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1089)

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

April 15, 2024
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it Engrossed Bill "An Act to Prohibit Tobacco Sales near Schools" (H.P. 1383) (L.D. 2157) as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-842) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-942) thereto and Senate Amendment "A" (S-691) in non-concurrence.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1090)

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

April 15, 2024
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it Engrossed Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers from Predatory Medical Credit Card Providers" (S.P. 925) (L.D. 2174) as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-678) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-700) thereto in non-concurrence.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 1091)

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

April 15, 2024
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it Indefinitely Postponed Bill "An Act Concerning Automotive Right to Repair" (H.P. 1227) (L.D. 1911) and all accompanying papers in non-concurrence.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue

(H.P. 1103) (L.D. 1714)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED in the House on June 21, 2023. (Having previously been **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-620)**)

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-620) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-731)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I think we all agree that these need to be funded. I don't think it's a sustainable way to fund it through the money that goes from the excise and sales tax from adult use cannabis. This Body just voted to cut that excise tax. I think the Members of this Body understand that these folks are overtaxed and if these guys are on payment plans, these guys and gals are on payment plans, with Maine Revenue Services, because they're not large enough, so, our current system does not incentivize small craft businesses and the previous vote by this Body was a recognition of that, a recognition that cannabis is the number one agricultural crop in the State, Madam Speaker. We help the dairy farmers, we help other folks when they need it. The cannabis industry is asking for relief. By funding it in this way, we're putting that relief in jeopardy and I hope we can figure out another way. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, our tablets do not seem to be keeping up with what we're on.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 548

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Arford, Beck, Bell, Blier, Bradstreet, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Cray, Cyrway, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Foster, Fredericks, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, Ness, Newman, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perkins, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Polewarczyk, Pringle, Quint, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Strout,

Supica, Swallow, Terry, Walker, Warren, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Boyer, Carmichael, Costain, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Galletta, Gifford, Griffin, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Sampson, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Theriault, Thorne, White J, Wood.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Campbell, Crockett, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts, Underwood, White B. Yes, 99; No, 39; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

99 having voted in the affirmative and 39 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

ENACTORS

Act

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

(H.P. 1420) (L.D. 2214)

(H. "B" H-989 and H. "C" H-990 to C. "A" H-985)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 549

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Campbell, Crockett, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts, Underwood, White B. Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1482)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that all legislation not finally disposed of upon adjournment sine die of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature be carried over in the same posture to any special session of the 131st Legislature.

READ.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the Joint Order be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Joint Order.

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 Indefinite Postponement. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 550

YEA - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, 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, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Campbell, Crockett, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts, Underwood, White B. Yes, 63; No, 75; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Joint Order **FAILED**.

Subsequently, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **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. 551

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hepler, Hobbs, 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, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Costain, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, 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, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Boyle, Campbell, Crockett, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Roberts, Underwood, White B. Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Order was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Clarify Licensing Criteria and Criminal History Record Check and Notification Requirements for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments

(H.P. 1379) (L.D. 2155)
(C. "A" H-878)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED in the House on April 2, 2024. Came from the Senate with the Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Eight Members of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-707)** on Bill "An Act to Support Veterans' Organizations and Other Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Updating Electronic Gambling Laws"

(S.P. 947) (L.D. 2213)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
COLLINGS of Portland
MALON of Biddeford
MONTELL of Gardiner
RIELLY of Westbrook
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

Two Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-708)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
HYMES of Waldo

Two Members of the same Committee report in Report "C" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representative:

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Came from the Senate with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-714) AND "B" (S-727)** thereto.

READ.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to update folks and let them know what the Senate Amendments that have been attached to this bill do. It raises the tax rate by 2%, so that it could knock off any fiscal note and then, it also sends the bill to referendum to let the people decide if they want this type of expansion for the Tribes.

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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 Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support of the pending motion. This is about electronic pull-tabs. I don't really see why, if you can sit there and rip paper all day, that you can't do the same thing electronically. But for those of you that aren't completely sold on it, the Senate Amendment put this out to a referendum, so, let the people decide. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 552

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Ardell, Arford, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Faulkingham, Fay, Fredericks, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Hepler, Hobbs, Hymes, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pringle, Rana, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Simmons, Sinclair, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Theriault, Thorne, Warren, Wood, Woodsome, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Babin, Bagshaw, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Dunphy, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Ness, Newman, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Walker, White J.

ABSENT - Adams, Andrews, Boyle, Campbell, Costain, Crockett, Galletta, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Jauch, Lavigne, Mastraccio, Roberts, Skold, Underwood, White B.

Yes, 93; No, 40; Absent, 17; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

93 having voted in the affirmative and 40 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 17 being absent, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-707)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-714) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-707)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-727) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-707)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-707) as Amended by Senate Amendments "A" (S-714) and "B" (S-727) 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" (S-707) as Amended by Senate Amendments "A" (S-714) and "B" (S-727)** thereto in concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Act

An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue

(H.P. 1103) (L.D. 1714)
(S. "A" S-731 to C. "A" H-620)

Was 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.

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

Act

An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven or Similar Sealed Ticket Devices and Updating the High-stakes Beano Law

(S.P. 947) (L.D. 2213)
(S. "A" S-714 and S. "B" S-727 to C. "A" S-707)

Was 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.

The SPEAKER: That does conclude our work, I would say for the day, but for the past two days. I want to offer my sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for your dedicated service and for what is obviously a great, deep love for the people of the State of Maine. I will take more time to acknowledge all of our accomplishments, the staff that make this place work, when we come back for Veto Day; unless you'd like me to talk for about 10 more minutes?

In all seriousness, please accept my gratitude. And to the staff in the Chamber and to those who make sure that we can do our work, on behalf of the House of Representatives, you have our deepest gratitude.

Are there any announcements from the floor?

I do wish you all a safe journey home.

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

On motion of Representative NESS of Fryeburg, the House adjourned at 5:57 p.m., until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 1007), in honor and lasting tribute to Michele Ann MacLean of Freeport.