

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 9, 2023

Senate called to order by President Pro Tem Matthea E. Daughtry of Cumberland County.

Prayer by Pastor Rick Stoops of First United Pentecostal Church in Augusta.

PASTOR STOOPS: Heavenly Father, we come before You today. We ask that Your blessings would be upon this group of leaders. We ask for Your direction, Your guidance. We humble ourselves before You today asking You to help us in these very challenging times. That You would make your presence known, that You would allow us to feel Your heavenly presence today, You would guide the deliberations and our thoughts. Lead us, O' Holy God, we pray, let Your name be praised in this house and we thank You for it all. In the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Stacey K. Guerin of Penobscot County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Doctor of the day, Lisa Letourneau, MD, MPH.

Off Record Remarks

The Following Communication: S.C. 171

**STATE OF MAINE
131st LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

March 7, 2023

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to my authority under Senate Rule 201.3, please be advised that I appoint the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Matthea Daughtry, to serve as President Pro Tem to convene the Senate on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Joint Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 632

**JOINT RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF
UKRAINE ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE**

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Russia illegally, without provocation and with brutal aggression invaded Ukraine, continuing the aggression it started with the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014; and

WHEREAS, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine have bravely resolved to stand firm and fight back against this attack on their country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; and

WHEREAS, Russia is waging a barbarous war that includes systematic violations of international law, inhumane attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure, torture, sexual violence and forced deportation, kidnappings and illegal adoption of children; and

WHEREAS, nearly 14 million people, over a third of Ukraine's prewar population, have been displaced since the invasion began, with an estimated 6 million people being internally displaced and more than 8 million people fleeing Ukraine to neighboring countries, triggering Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II; and

WHEREAS, there are at least 8,000 confirmed civilian deaths, including over 400 children, and over 13,000 civilians have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, Russia continues to attack and place its armed forces around Ukrainian nuclear sites, including the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, Russia's unjustified war is having a global impact, with the world's most vulnerable suffering from increased food and economic insecurity, along with rising costs for energy and commodities; and

WHEREAS, President Putin has put Russia's nuclear deterrence forces on high alert, endangering not only Ukraine but also the global community by increasing the threat of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, President Putin's attack on Ukraine represents a direct threat against democratic ideals and promotes autocracy; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly, in its February 23, 2023 resolution, reiterated its clear demand for Russia to withdraw immediately from Ukraine's internationally recognized borders; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine recognize that they share democratic values with the people of Ukraine and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they fight for their sovereignty, territorial integrity and democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to condemn the egregious, unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and voice our support for peace, diplomacy and an immediate end to the invasion; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we support the United States Government's continued security, economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and imposition of consequences on Russia for its war of aggression; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we encourage the citizens of the State to support Ukrainian Americans and the people of Ukraine in their urgent time of need.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to this Resolution in the strongest terms possible, as a piece of war propaganda that I will not have my name or my vote attached to.

This Resolution on the war in Ukraine is riddled with half-

truths, historical omissions, and dangerous conclusions that urge our nation down the path towards a potential global nuclear war, the likes of which no one alive or dead on this earth has ever seen and one that humanity will never experience twice. Rather than urging peace talks to bring an end to this dangerous border dispute halfway across the world, this Resolution presents a simplistic narrative with no grounding in the realities of foreign policy or the history of Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War in order to justify a continued blank check, now over \$100 billion, much of it totally unaccounted for, from the pockets of U.S. taxpayers to the Ukrainian government in an undeclared proxy war with no exit strategy and in which continued escalation endangers the entire world.

Passing this Resolution, adding the voice of the Maine Senate to this fool's errand, would be grossly irresponsible. I will readily admit that when I was a young man I was fooled once by war propaganda. But to quote the president who fooled me; fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice - you aren't going to fool me twice.

After learning the lessons of the disastrous Middle East wars, I resolved to follow the advice of another President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II. In his farewell address to Congress, he told America to beware the military industrial complex. It is also worth remembering the words of Major General Smedley Butler, a very decorated Marine and veteran of World War I, who simply put it; war is a racket.

So, whenever the bipartisan war machine, the uni-party in Washington, urges our country into foreign wars, it is the responsibility of all citizens, especially lawmakers and bodies like these, to maintain cool heads and ask basic questions. So, let's begin with a basic question about one of the claims in this Resolution, seemingly parroting a repeated line in the corporate press which is funded with advertising dollars from weapons manufacturers, that the Russian invasion in Ukraine was unprovoked. Madam President, there are many justifiable adjectives to describe this war: bloody, vicious, murderous, tyrannical, evil, illegal. I would accept any of these. But I will not sign my name to a lie. The claim this invasion was unprovoked can only be uttered sincerely if history began the day Russian troops crossed the border. In truth, there's been a long line of provocations, many made by Washington officials, supposedly accountable to the American people, bringing us to this crisis point. To be clear, provocation does not justify an action. A man may violently stab another who shoved him first. That stabbing would be wrong just as this invasion is wrong. But it would also be false to say it was unprovoked. This word is used to absolve Washington war hawks of the numerous acts of incompetence and malevolence in the decades of buildup to this conflict since the fall of the Berlin Wall and if we do not acknowledge the actions of our own foreign policy elites in our own federal government that have contributed to this war, then we have no hope in prescribing a proper course of action to bring about a peaceful resolution.

Throughout the Cold War, the number one American foreign policy goal with regards to the Soviet Union was to keep nuclear weapons at bay. When the Cold War ended and the Soviet government dissolved, the nuclear arsenals remained and so did the American interest in avoiding conflict that could bring about the end of the world as we know it. That's why there were agreements in those early days of the new era that Russia would not contest the reunification of Germany and its admittance into

NATO. In exchange, American officials committed in writing that NATO would not extend, 'One inch east beyond the German border.' That agreement was promptly violated in the 1990s under President Clinton against the explicit warnings of American foreign policy experts who cautioned Russia would fear and react to these violations as nakedly hostile attempts to surround them militarily and every American president since, Republicans and Democrats both, this is a bipartisan problem, has continued this manifest destiny policy of eastward NATO expansion towards the Russian border, disregarding the consistent warnings from both U.S. foreign policy realists and repeated red lines from the Russians that this is viewed as an existential threat to their national security.

Some say NATO is a defensive alliance so what does Russia have to worry about? I would ask them to tell that to Muammar Gaddafi, the former leader of Libya. His government invaded no other nation and yet he - his life ended as he was sodomized to death in the streets after a NATO-led regime change war in his country. Is that what a defensive military alliance does? And for what purpose? Certainly, no humanitarian outcome. The people of Libya now find themselves subject to open-air slave markets today in the 21st century.

There is no excuse for invading a sovereign country. This is the principle readily proclaimed in this present foreign crisis and one with which I heartily agree. But it's odd to hear this principle now often repeated in Washington, by the very war hawks who I've watched since I was 12 years old, lying the American people into wars with inventive pretexts to justify the invasion and occupation of sovereign Middle East countries for decades on end, paid for with the blood our soldiers and the treasurer of our taxpayers and I wonder, Madam President, how we would feel, as Americans, if our roles were reversed. For a moment, I would ask this Chamber to imagine a mirror reality, one in which the Russians won the Cold War, and the Warsaw Pact was inducting Canada into its membership, putting their military on our border just north of Aroostook County. Would we shrug our shoulders and rest assured that the Warsaw Pact is only a defensive military alliance? Would we tell ourselves there was nothing to worry about after watching the Soviet Union, as the world's last empire and superpower left standing, spend the last two decades on regime change wars across the Middle East with death tolls nearing one million. As their military alliance snaked its way through Central America toward our southern border, with the KGB running intelligence operations to manipulate election outcomes and overthrow uncooperative leaders. Would we not demand our leaders do something to protect our country from the threat encircling us? And if our economy and our military were a shadow of their former glory and all we had left was a nuclear arsenal to tell Russia not to mess with us, how far would America be pushed before twitchy fingers were on the button? In truth, we don't have to imagine too hard how our country would respond to a Russian military threat on our border because we know how America did respond during the Cuban Missile Crisis. President Kennedy considered Russian missiles off our coast a provocation and he took action to secure our country, just as any national leader responsible to their people would when an antagonistic military force is approaching their border. Only fools would put a country with a nuclear arsenal in that position - cornered, fearful, and desperate - and then reject all offers to negotiate. Thankfully, Kennedy used diplomacy to diffuse the danger of that situation; a skill our leaders in Washington today seem unwilling or unable to exercise. Both Presidents Kennedy and Reagan, adamant Cold

Warriors both, none would be accused of being friends to the Russians, always maintained open communication with the leaders of Russia to avoid escalation into nuclear conflict. Instead, our present-day leaders refuse diplomacy and push the war forward to the last Ukrainian standing, not for the benefit of the people of Ukraine but to bleed the Russians dry as in Afghanistan throughout the 1980s. This posture isn't for the Ukrainian people. This isn't for the American people. This is for the empire that now stands in the place of our once proud republic on a mountain of corpses to maintain global hegemony. That's why in 2014 then Vice President Joe Biden oversaw the overthrow of the democratically elected president of Ukraine, Victor Yanukovich. His crime was not signing a trade deal with the European Union. In actuality, he wanted to sign two trade deals with both Russia and the West but when the EU agreement suddenly prohibited any economic agreement with Russia, Yanukovich says he felt like a bride who showed up for a wedding only to discover a never-before discussed prenuptial agreement and he just wasn't in the mood anymore. For that, he was regime changed and if you doubt Washington DC had anything to do with it, I have a bridge to sell you in Libya. Thanks to leaked phone calls, we know for a fact that the current Undersecretary of State, Victoria Nuland, personally handpicked the leaders of the new government to replace Yanukovich. You can hear the phone call in her voice as she speaks with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine about who is in and who is out in the new Ukrainian regime to make the whole thing stick. Is this what democracy looks like? I don't think so. And after the coup, the new government, urged on by local neo-Nazi groups like the Azov Battalion - and when I say neo-Nazi groups, I don't mean in the parlance that that's often thrown around today; I mean actual Adolf Hitler loving neo-Nazis who welcomed the Hitler - the German invasion during World War II. They urged the government and succeeded in banning the speaking of Russian and launching an ethnic cleansing campaign in the eastern regions of Ukraine. Russia responded yes by annexing the Crimean Peninsula to maintain control of Sevastopol naval base, Russia's only warm-water port with access to the Black Sea, which is a sort of Russian Alamo after many died defending it against German invasion in World War II. Whatever we think of that, it is of such strategic and nationalistic importance to the Russians, we better be prepared for nuclear war if we want them to give that up because they're not going to give that up. But at the same time, he rejected petitions from ethnically Russian people in the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine, now at the center of the war, who wanted to secede and join Russia. But over the next eight years, a civil war raged in these separatist regions. Our own government funneled weapons into the conflict. In 2016, I represented Maine on the National Platform Committee of my political party, along with our colleague, Senator Guerin of Penobscot County. At the time, I was shocked to read calls for sending these weapons into this civil war halfway across the world. That's why I opposed that language and fought to strike it from the document, warning that these policies could escalate into a nuclear conflict and seven years later, here we are, living under the shadow of it all.

These are only some of the most significant provocations. NATO expansion, deposing a democratically elected government, funneling weapons into a civil war on Russia's border. I haven't even mentioned the torn-up nuclear treaties and the years of domestic anti-Russian propaganda pushed onto the American people through an unholy alliance between U.S. intelligence

agencies and the corporate press. Do you all remember that report that Vladimir Putin was putting bounties on U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan? That story was as false as the reports of Iraqi soldiers ripping Kuwaiti babies from incubators in the lead-up to Desert Storm. Pure war propaganda. It was completely debunked. This disinformation was planted in the media by; 'anonymous intelligence officials in the lead up to a major U.S. election.' But if you ever read a retraction, you were lucky to find it on page 36 after months of front-page coverage. That's how war propaganda works with the war machine; lie, rinse, repeat, and never apologize. And let me preempt the accusations that I know will be coming likely outside this Chamber, because I would never suggest that anyone in this Chamber would make such accusations, but let me preempt it by stating clearly that Vladimir Putin, like so many governmental leaders across the world, is a tyrant. As a lover of liberty, he could be strung up like Saddam Hussein and I wouldn't shed a tear. There's plenty of blood on his hands and I'm sure that the day he meets his maker there will be a lot to account for. So, it is not for the sake of any despot that I oppose this Resolution but for love of our country and the wisdom of early leaders like George Washington and John Quincy Adams, who warned our country against entangling alliances, being drawn into European power struggles, and going abroad in search of monsters to destroy. And for the love of all the people caught up in this war, for the conscripted and enslaved men of Ukraine and Russia, pitted against each other to the death for the benefit of oligarchs. For the many dead and displaced civilians, for those starving across the world from the consequences of a war in the Ukrainian breadbasket. For those in Europe, America, and here in Maine, freezing this winter due to natural gas shortages, and for everyone alive today and generations yet unborn who face the very real threat of nuclear annihilation, we must demand immediate diplomacy to end this war. Yet we see no diplomacy from Washington. In their rattling of their sabers for war with Russia, the uni-party claims it is love of democracy and hatred of tyrants that drives them. So, where are these affections as they partner with Saudi princes to genocide the people of Yemen? What makes the Yemeni people less worthy of our concern? Is their skin the wrong color? Are their lives of less value because they live in the wrong part of the world? Or is Washington simply so addicted to Saudi oil and the petrodollar that props up our paper currency that the deaths of a quarter-million people is worth the cost?

Madam President, it seems George Orwell predicted the state we find ourselves in. If you listen to the talking heads on the television screens, it would seem we've always been at war with Eurasia. But if you go searching down the memory hole for scraps of what was and possibilities of what could've been, you will find stories about the days when George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin toured Texas high schools together after the Russian president's call of support following the 9/11 Twin Tower attacks. You will find stories about Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hitting a reset button on U.S.-Russian relations for a new era of peace.

So, when did all this change? It is certainly not just that Vladimir Putin is a tyrant. As I've established, our leaders in Washington are fond of many tyrants around the world. The public pivot seems to have taken place when Russia stood opposed to the invasions of Iraq, Libya, and Syria - all grossly unconstitutional wars by our own American standards, and waged for no clear American purpose beyond the profits of that institution Eisenhower warned us of. When Russia blocked the dreams of

regime change in Syria, this appears to have been the last straw and we've seen nothing but provocation and heard only drumbeats for war ever since.

Madam President, the stakes on this matter are higher than any war in my admittedly short life of 34 years. Unlike Iraq, the nuclear weapons are not the imagined fantasies of war profiteers. The arsenals are real. Continued escalation is toying with nuclear fire which could set the world ablaze. Today, we are fortunate to be alive to be able to look back at Iraq and admit mistakes were made. But 20 years from now will we be so able under the clouds of nuclear winter? Even should the nukes stay put - and God help us, I hope so - nothing else good can be had from this war. The Ukrainian people die while peace talks should be taking place. America's strategic position in the world is weakened as China and Russia have formed an alliance against us. Our fair-weather friends in Saudi Arabia entertain breaking the petrodollar, threatening the U.S. dollar's status as the global reserve currency and unleashing hyperinflation on our country. Rising economic powers, including India, refuse to fall in line with U.S. sanctions. As it turns out that after decades of invading foreign countries in the Middle East, few nations outside Europe recognize America's moral authority anymore on the question of invading foreign countries. And, Madam President, if this Resolution was truly in the interest of peace, I would tell you what it would say. It would not call for continued condition-less spending and racking up trillions of dollars more in debt on the American people in order to draw out a war that endangers the whole world. This Resolution would demand that Secretary of State Antony Blinken go to Geneva and sit down for peace talks with both Russian and Ukrainian leaders to resolve this border dispute, broker a peace, end the war, end the famine, end the energy crisis, and take the very real threat of nuclear annihilation off the table. That is what this Body should be calling for - peace, not war.

I invite every Member of this Body to join me in voting for peace by rejecting this Resolution. Thank you very much for your time and your consideration.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson.

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, President Daughtry. Madam President and Esteemed Colleagues of the Senate, in February of 2022, the Russian Federation violated Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations when they invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine. For over a year, the Ukrainian people have rallied to fight for their lives, their culture, their freedom, for the very existence of their nation. On February 23rd of that same year, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Resolution to reaffirm the sovereign rights of the nation of Ukraine and to demand that the Russian Federation completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces.

Today, I stand in support of this Joint Resolution to echo the demands of the United Nations. As the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in his letter from a Birmingham jail; 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.'

The emerging human rights consequences of the current conflict in the Ukraine are a deep injustice that affects us all. We are not immune to the conflict. We do not exist in a world on an impenetrable island. The broken relationship between Russia

and Ukraine is a story of a century of state-sponsored efforts to colonize and erase Ukrainian culture, history, and traditions. I speak today because, being made aware of the tragic consequence wrought by the current conflict, I believe we have responsibility not to sit still, not to look away. I rise to stand up against injustice. I rise to speak in support of the Ukrainian people and their fight to preserve their democracy. I rise in community with families here in Maine who have roots and loved ones half a world away in the Ukraine. I rise to speak in favor of the Joint Resolution before us and to urge your support. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Nangle.

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Madam President, and distinguished colleagues of the Senate. I rise today in support of the Joint Resolution and urge this Body to pass it. As Americans, we believe in democracy, sovereignty, and self-determination, and it's our duty to defend these values whenever and wherever they are threatened. The conflict in Ukraine is not just a regional issue, it is a global issue. The annexation of Crimea by Russia and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine represent a threat to the post-World War II international order that we have helped to rebuild and uphold. When one country violates the sovereignty of another it sets a dangerous precedent that can be exploited by other nations seeking to exert their influence and control. I could go on about the foreign policy perspectives that make it incumbent on us to support Ukraine against invasion. However, since this Body has no control over those outcomes, I will talk about what this Body can do to support Ukraine. We can show the world and the rest of the country that American values are Ukrainian values. I'm a patriot. I believe in this country. I believe in American exceptionalism. And if we truly believe in the unique values that America presents to the world, we must stand with our allies against enemies who would see these values destroyed. Communist Russia does not want democracy in Ukraine. Communist Russia does not want peace in Ukraine. Communist Russia does not want Ukrainians in Ukraine. What's happening to the people of Ukraine is tantamount to genocide. Day after day, the evidence is mounting of Russian war crimes, atrocities, and civilians being slaughtered, children taken from their families, and mass graves being dug and, worse yet, filled. Ukraine is our ally and we have an obligation to support and defend our allies against those who would see them exterminated. Just because this ally is far away does not alter the United States or our obligations. If America is truly the beacon on the hill, an exceptional country I believe it is, then we must promote and protect American values of democracy, self-governance, self-determination, and freedom.

This Resolution does not provide any material benefit for Ukraine. We have no billions to send, no tanks to give, but what we can do is show the Ukrainian people that the rest of America and the world that Mainers stand up against injustice no matter where it occurs. As a state and a nation, we just stand with Ukraine in defense of these principles. It is not just a matter of geopolitics, but of human dignity and fundamental rights of all people to determine their own futures. Supporting Ukraine is an expression of American exceptionalism and a reaffirmation of our commitment to the democratic values that have made this nation great. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Madam President. Men and women of the Senate, I rise in support of the Ukrainian people and of this Resolution. Democracy, the rule of law, the right of a people to direct their own destinies, the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness are precious and worthy of defending. In the late 1990s, I had the privilege of working over several summers in Slovakia, a neighbor of Ukraine, helping women emerging from under the rule of their former communist overlords, teaching them the skills of free enterprise and free expression. In tiny villages and small towns throughout the country, the women I met showed true courage, determination, and grit as they led efforts to reinvent their communities, their economy, their government. These are the same qualities that I see today in Ukraine, and they are doing it under the harshest of conditions. I am proud to stand with the men and women of Ukraine.

I'm also old enough to remember the Cold War when it was, well, hot, including the Cuban Missile Crisis. I remember as a schoolkid undergoing the raid - the air raid drills when we were told to duck and cover. And so I know, given what's happening today, that it would be naïve for any of us to think that the world is completely free of the threats that loomed over much of my childhood. But that's also why I believe it is important for us to stand with our NATO allies strongly in defending the Ukraine's democracy, however fragile it is. I urge you to join me in supporting this Resolution. Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Ingwersen.

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today with others in supporting this Joint Resolution expressing support for the people of Ukraine on the one-year anniversary. The first thing I'd like to say about my reason for supporting this is that currently Ukraine, in its efforts, is keeping this war from spreading. The Russian army rolling westward under Vladimir Putin is a clear and present danger to the U.S. and its NATO allies. The restoration of peace depends on Ukraine pushing the Russians back into their territory which was invaded. Because our support would allow Ukraine to finish the job, and I believe it will, we would prevent a larger European conflict that would drag the U.S. into a greater world war.

The second large reason, big reason, that I support this Resolution is because it is a Resolution supporting the people of Ukraine, the people of Ukraine, the children of Ukraine, the innocent civilians who have suffered horribly under this war in this last year. We must support putting an end to this worst and most dangerous invasion of a sovereign nation since World War II. We must support putting an end to the immense human and civilian suffering. Russia's war in Ukraine has wrought a devastating toll on civilians and shattered civilian lives in much of the country. And I'm going to quote a little bit from Human Rights Watch in a January report, World Report 2023; 'Throughout the war, Russian forces have carried out horrific abuses in Ukraine with unconscionable disregard for human and civilian life,' said Yulia Gorbunova, the senior Ukraine researcher at Human Rights Watch. 'Accountability is crucial both to bring justice to victims and survivors and to ensure that there is no impunity for these grave crimes.' In the 712-page World Report, 33rd Edition, Human Rights Watch reviews human rights practices in close to

100 countries. In her introductory essay, Acting Executive Director Tirana Hassan said that in a world in which power has shifted, it is no longer possible to rely on a small group of mostly global north governments to defend human rights. The world's mobilization around Russia's war in Ukraine reminds us of the extraordinary potential when governments, including ours, realize their human rights obligations on a global scale. The responsibility is on individual countries, big and small, to apply a human rights framework to their policies and then work together to protect and to promote human rights.

Russian forces have killed, arbitrarily detained, tortured, and forcibly disappeared civilians. Detainees report beatings, electric shocks, mock executions, and waterboarding, among other torture and mistreatment. Russian forces have also tortured Ukrainian prisoners of war. Russian soldiers have held people in degrading conditions; in basements, pits, boiler rooms, and factories. In December '22, the UN reported that between February 24th and October 12th - 21st of last year, it had documented 86 cases, mostly by Russian forces, including rape, gang rape, forced nudity, and forced public stripping in various regions of Ukraine and in one penitentiary facility in Russia. Women, including older women, and girls constituted the majority of reported victims and survivors. Hostilities, occupation, displacement, and destruction of medical services, as well as stigma and fear of retaliation, have hindered survivors' access to essential services and support. Human Rights Watch and UN monitors have documented killings and tortures of prisoners of war held by Russian forces, including torture leading to death. Since February, Russian forces have repeatedly carried out a disproportionate and indiscriminate bombings and shellings of civilian areas. These attacks destroyed and severely damaged homes, businesses, schools, healthcare institutions, and other facilities. Over 2,700 educational institutions have been damaged and more than 300 are beyond repair. These attacks have struck hospitals, including one children's hospital in Chernihiv, a maternity hospital in Kharkiv, and a maternity ward in Vilniansk. As of October, the World Health Organization have confirmed more than 700 attacks on healthcare facilities, personnel, and vehicles. Many of these attacks on civilian areas have been with explosive weapons with wide area effects, including cluster munitions, unguided aerial bombs, and guided missiles.

This Resolution is a Resolve that we, the Members of the 131st Legislature now assembled here today, pause as we are in our deliberations to condemn this egregious, unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and voice our support for peace and, yes, for diplomacy, and an immediate end to the invasion, and that we support the U.S. Government's continued security, economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and imposition of consequences on Russia for its war of aggression. And, finally, be it further that we encourage the citizens of this state to support Ukrainian-Americans and the people of Ukraine in their urgent time of need. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The pending question before the Senate is Adoption of the Joint Resolution. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **JACKSON**, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **BRENNER**, the Senator from Oxford, Senator **BENNETT**, and the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#37)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, GUERIN, LYFORD, POULIOT

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, BRENNER, JACKSON, LAWRENCE

27 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 4 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Thornton Academy Girls Swim Team, of Saco, which won the Southwestern Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 208

Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, GATTINE of Westbrook, O'NEIL of Saco.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Bailey.

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, men and women of the Senate, today I am pleased to welcome the Thornton Academy girls swim team to the State House.

Last month, these swimmers won the Southwestern Championship which was held at Cape Elizabeth High School. With March being Women's History Month, I'm especially glad to note that this was the first time in program history that the Golden Trojans won the conference crown, after previously placing second in 2004 and 2010. I would also note that this team went on to place in third place at the State Championship. In addition to the team's victory, there were a few individual standouts. Kenzie Lowry set a new school record in the 50 freestyle, and the relay team of Isabelle Rocheleau, Allie Lefebvre, Nora Freeman and Kenzie Lowry set a new school record in the 200 freestyle. I'm so proud of each and every one of you. Congratulations to Jordan Anderson, Nabella Erskine, Nora Freeman, Kimber Goulet, Sophia Guindon, Lena Jakob, Allison Lefebvre, Anna Lefebvre, Kenzie Lowry, Willoughby Manser, Casey Moore, Paulina Rempel, Guinevere Robbins, Isabelle Rocheleau, Jacqueline Scully, Rilyn Tibbetts, and Julianna Vallee. I also wish to congratulate their coaches, Kathy Leahy, Lynn Steward, and Tommy Cote. I hope to see you again next year, after you defend your crown and maybe you'll also take state next year. Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the balcony the Thornton Academy Girls Swim Team; Head Coach Cathy Leahy; Assistant Coaches Lynn Steward and Tommy Cote of Saco. They are the guests today of the Senator from York, Senator Bailey. Would these guests please rise and accept the warm greetings of the Maine State Senate.

Jeff Tarling, of South Portland, on his retirement as the Arborist of the City of Portland after 34 years of service. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Tarling oversaw the planting of 5,775 street trees, roughly 1/4 of Portland's total, and tens of thousands of plug seedlings in the city's open spaces. He planted The Pinedom in Payson Park, created the Payson Terrain Park and helped originate the Portland Tree Trust. He also secured funds to plan 5 forest management sites, Riverton Trolley Park, Riverside Golf Course, Pine Grove Park and Evergreen Cemetery. He was the first city official to make major improvements to Baxter Woods, and he started the meadow program and all the Community Orchards, including those at Mount Joy, Boyd Street, Reiche, Riverton Trolley Park and Brentwood Garden. His efforts helped protect the Presumpscot River Preserve through the Land for Maine's Future Program. His 2014 Project Canopy resulted in his receiving the Frank Knight Excellence in Community Forestry Award, and he was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Portland Rotary Club in 2022. He also has served as Director of the Maine Arborist Association for many years. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 210

Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, KESSLER of South Portland, RECKITT of South Portland.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson.

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President and Esteemed Colleagues of the Senate. I rise today to recognize a good friend, mentor, and invaluable resource to the City of Portland and our region. I rise to recognize the invaluable years of service that Jeff Tarling has dedicated to the City of Portland. Since 1989, he has been advocating for grants and heading projects that have transformed our city into the beautiful city that it is today. Jeff is known as a deeply knowledgeable parks historian. He has put in countless hours of research and spoken with thousands of people over the years. He knows quite a bit about everything. Back in the late 1900s to early 2000s, he helped string lights in trees in Tommy's Park with Pandora LaCasse, which has evolved into a downtown Portland tradition that brightens the city every winter. He also started the community garden program that has grown to 11 garden sites, creating space for the people of Portland to build stronger communities and promote a healthier environment. As a Portland resident, I am truly grateful for Jeff's dedication to our city. Part of what makes the state of Maine such an extraordinary place is its beautiful landscape. When I walk around Portland, I enjoy seeing this beauty reflected in such an urban area, which is due to Jeff's many years of service. We are blessed that his work will continue to enrich Portland for years to come. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Jeff Tarling and Johanna Stinson of South Portland. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson. Will they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Change Responsibility for Animal Control Officer Training to the Department of Public Safety"
S.P. 455 L.D. 1121

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households"
S.P. 443 L.D. 1074

Presented by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons"
S.P. 453 L.D. 1119

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais.

Bill "An Act Regarding Certification Credentials for the Office of Sheriff"
S.P. 458 L.D. 1124

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 465 L.D. 1128

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth and Senators: INGWERSEN of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: OSHER of Orono, WHITE of Waterville, ZAGER of Portland.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Impose a Fee on Commercial Water Withdrawn from Lakes and Ponds to Fund Conservation Efforts and Prohibit a Fee on the Sale of Water Withdrawn from a Lake or Pond"
S.P. 450 L.D. 1081

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo and Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland.

Resolve, to Increase Community Action Grants
S.P. 463 L.D. 1126

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay and Representative: SARGENT of York.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Number of Recovery Beds in the State"
S.P. 447 L.D. 1078

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator: MOORE of Washington.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents"
S.P. 446 L.D. 1077

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland and Senators: BAILEY of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representative: PERRY of Calais.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Termination of Private Mortgage Insurance"
S.P. 449 L.D. 1080

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative COLLINGS of Portland and Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program"
(EMERGENCY)

S.P. 451 L.D. 1082

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative TERRY of Gorham and
Senators: BAILEY of York, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland,
STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: CLUCHEY of
Bowdoinham.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, **REFERRED** to the
Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife to Create a Process for Real-time Confirmation of Live
Bait Retailer's Licenses by Electronic Means

S.P. 464 L.D. 1127

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, **REFERRED**
to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and
ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Visitation Rights of Grandparents"

S.P. 448 L.D. 1079

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook,
Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls and Representative:
MORRIS of Turner.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to
the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create a Presumption That a Cardiovascular Injury
or Disease or Pulmonary Disease Suffered by Certain Law
Enforcement Officers Is in the Course of Employment"

S.P. 457 L.D. 1123

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Senator:
HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: MALON of Biddeford,
MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the
Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Requiring a Referendum to Restore the Former Maine
Flag"

S.P. 438 L.D. 1069

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative PAULHUS of Bath and
Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot,
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, HYMES of Waldo, MORRIS
of Turner, RISEMAN of Harrison.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to
the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and
ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film
Incentives"

S.P. 444 L.D. 1075

Presented by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport,
Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senator: INGWERSEN
of York.

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Sales Tax on Automobiles"
S.P. 452 L.D. 1118

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative PERRY of Bangor and Senator:
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: FAULKINGHAM
of Winter Harbor.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to
the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles"
S.P. 441 L.D. 1072

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor and
Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: ALBERT of
Madawaska, ANKELES of Brunswick, CRAFTS of Newcastle,
MASON of Lisbon, O'CONNELL of Brewer, THERIAULT of Fort
Kent, WHITE of Waterville.
Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Traffic Cameras for School and
Work Zones"

S.P. 445 L.D. 1076

Presented by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

Resolve, to Install a Suicide Barrier on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 454 L.D. 1120

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo. Cosponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick and Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, LYFORD of Penobscot, Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, PAUL of Winterport, RUSSELL of Verona Island, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

Resolve, to Rename Bridges in the Town of Cornish S.P. 456 L.D. 1122

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.

On motion by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland, REFERRED to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Ballot Transparency with Blockchain Technology"

S.P. 439 L.D. 1070

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Representative: BOYER of Poland.

Bill "An Act to Allow Political Candidates to Be Nominated by Multiple Parties for the Same Office"

S.P. 440 L.D. 1071

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Streamline Label Registrations for Malt Liquor, Wine, Hard Cider and Low-alcohol Spirits"

S.P. 442 L.D. 1073

Presented by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, KEIM of Oxford, Representative: MONTELL of Gardiner.

Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to Study Paying Bonuses to Agents for Selling Certain Powerball Tickets

S.P. 459 L.D. 1125

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls and Representative: MORRIS of Turner.

On motion by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, REFERRED to the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 167

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

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson President of the Senate of Maine 131st Maine State Legislature State House Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Dr. John M. Jemison, Jr., Ph.D. of Orono, for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Table with 4 columns: YEAS, SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, and NAMES. Shows 3 yeas from senators and 9 yeas from representatives. Lists names of senators and representatives who voted.

Twelve members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Dr. John M. Jemison, Jr., Ph.D. of Orono, for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control be confirmed.

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

Signed,

March 2, 2023

S/Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President Pro Tem laid before the Senate the following:
"Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing has had under consideration the nomination of Glenn W. Burroughs of Winthrop, for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Franklin, Senator **BLACK**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

YEAS	Senators	1	Tipping, M. of Penobscot
	Representatives	7	Roeder, A. of Bangor, Drinkwater, G. of Milford, Geiger, V. of Rockland, Malon, M. of Biddeford, Russell, R. of Verona Island, Skold, C. of Portland, Soboleski, M. of Phillips

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#38)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS 0

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAUGHTRY

ABSENT 5
Sen. Daughtry, M. of Cumberland, Sen. Pouliot, M. of Kennebec, Rep. Bradstreet, D. of Vassalboro, Rep. Galletta, J. of Durham, Rep. Gere, T. of Kennebunkport

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, JACKSON, LAWRENCE

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Glenn W. Burroughs of Winthrop, for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board be confirmed.

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 30 Senators having voted in the negative, with 5 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of Dr. **John M. Jemison, Jr.**, Ph.D. of Orono for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control was **CONFIRMED**.

Signed,

S/Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President Pro Tem laid before the Senate the following:
"Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** be overridden?"

The Following Communication: S.C. 174

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#39)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, JACKSON, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 30 Senators having voted in the negative, with 5 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Glenn W. Burroughs** of Winthrop for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication: S.C. 175

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

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing has had under consideration the nomination of Penny Picard of Palmyra, for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

YEAS	Senators	2	Tipping, M. of Penobscot, Pouliot, M. of Kennebec
	Representatives	9	Roeder, A. of Bangor, Bradstreet, D. of Vassalboro, Drinkwater, G. of Milford, Geiger, V. of Rockland, Gere, T. of Kennebunkport, Malon, M. of Biddeford, Russell, R. of Verona Island, Skold, C. of Portland, Soboleski, M. of Phillips
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		2	Sen. Daughtry, M. of Cumberland, Rep. Galletta, J. of Durham

Eleven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Penny Picard of Palmyra, for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President Pro Tem laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#40)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER,
JACKSON, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 30 Senators having voted in the negative, with 5 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Penny Picard** of Palmyra for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication: S.C. 169

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

March 3, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Pres. Jackson of Aroostook, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 723 An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting
Discrimination by Insurers Based on Certain
Information

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey S/Rep. Anne C. Perry
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 170

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

March 02, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 215 Resolve, to Require the Commissioner of
Public Safety to Conduct a Study Regarding
Cadet Law Enforcement Officers Who Are
Injured and Law Enforcement Officers Who
Leave the Sponsoring Agency

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Beebe-Center S/Rep. Suzanne M. Salisbury
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 172

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

March 03, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 357 An Act to Require the Nonwires Alternative
Coordinator to Review and Analyze Plans to
Build, Upgrade or Replace a Substation

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Mark W. Lawrence S/Rep. S. Paige Zeigler
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 168

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

March 03, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 261 An Act to Reinstate a Minimum Age for Hunting

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. David P. LaFountain S/Rep. Scott Landry
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 173

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

March 06, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 334 An Act to Ensure the Full Value of the Balance of Registration Fees Is Retained by the Seller of Used Motor Vehicles

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Ben Chipman S/Rep. Lynne A. Williams
Senate Chair House Chair

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

Off Record Remarks

ORDERS

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc (Cosponsored by Representative **TERRY** of Gorham and Senators: **BRENNER** of Cumberland, **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **DUSON** of Cumberland, **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, Representatives: **CLOUTIER** of Lewiston, Speaker **TALBOT ROSS** of Portland), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 461

**JOINT RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce or as unpaid labor within homes and community settings, and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and the peace and justice movement, among others, all of which work to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and **WHEREAS**, Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification more than 50 years ago, and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality be enshrined in the federal and state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, despite progress, women and girls, especially women and girls of color, still experience higher rates of poverty, violence and discrimination and face systemic barriers to full participation in the workforce and society and wider gaps in opportunity and equality, disparities that were exposed and exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which multiplied the burden on paid and unpaid caregivers and increased the rates of gender-based violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March 2023 as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Maine women and girls, and to recognize March 8, 2023 as International Women's Day.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Men and women of the Senate, I rise in full support and excitement about this Resolution. Many of you know that I've devoted my career to advancing women's economic security, helping them to identify and realize their dreams and the dreams of their families. When I started my work, women were earning 59¢ to every dollar that men were earning. That was in 1978. Today, women are earning 82¢ for every dollar that a male worker earns. So, progress, but we're not at a hundred percent yet. Another little history, from my own experiences, in 1995, I had the opportunity to attend the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing along with tens of thousands of women from all over the globe and, if I didn't know before I went to that event, it certainly was made clear to me then that women were committed to making their lives, the lives of their families, the lives of the communities and their countries better and better through their work, through their commitment, and through their creative ideas. What also became clear to me then, and has gotten proven itself over many years since then, is that when women's lives improve society as a whole does better and that means that when women are given the opportunity for education, for participating in commerce through business, development, and activities, are provided the kinds of support they need for their families - childcare, healthcare, adequate food and shelter - they do well, their families do well, and their culture does well. So, I want to just urge all of us to recognize the women in our lives and in our communities who are contributing day to day to making the world a better place for us all. Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in strong support of the pending motion to adopt this Resolution.

The following reprint is from the 1943 30th anniversary issue of the Delta Journal and was written by my great-grandmother, Madree Penn White, the driving force and inspiration behind the founding of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She wrote its first constitution and bylaws. 'Delta Faces the Future. Before me there sweeps an array of days, dark days filled with bitterness, bright days too short for gladness, gray days glommed with melancholy. Another year of life draws to its close. What's been written is written. Neither regret nor tears can wipe away the pride of shame or foolishness of it, yet the future lures, hope ever beacons on. From out of the ashes of dead, dead days does faith arise to give her strength to failing fingers that they may write on the new page life offers. Purer concepts, kinder thoughts, better deeds. Spring 1943 finds a world of tumult and strife, of bloodshed and horror. Men and nations are at each other's throats. Mixed motives, mixed ideas, mixed purposes everywhere the emphasis seemingly is on destruction. In the midst of these chaotic conditions, one finds himself in dire need of something stable to cling to, something permanent, lasting, and real upon which to build a new epoch in history. It is a personal source of inspiration for me to turn to another spring in 1913 when a group of women at Howard University rejoiced over the decision of the Board of Trustees which had granted them the right to form an incorporated body of college women, women who would extend their chain over the nation, women of high ideals for personal living and community service, women who raised a torch and dedicated themselves to following the gleam, thus were the founders of Delta Sigma Theta. Thirty years ago, thirty years of growth, thirty years in which thousands of Delta women have been influenced by these ideals and in turn have influenced the lives of countless thousands that they have touched constructively. To Delta in these trying times comes the challenge of making others see that ideals inspired by loftiness and interpreted by daily living gives something tangible, worthwhile, and stable to which one may claim, by which one may steer, of course. In thirty years of existence, there has never been a larger opportunity for Delta to fulfill her destiny than now. To Delta, and to each and every Delta woman everywhere, all my love and best wishes. Delta has come far, yet there are greater heights ahead for her to climb. Madree Penn White.'

And this, Madam President, from her obituary in 1967, it says she won the distinction of being the first woman elected Associate Editor of the Howard University Alumni Journal. In conjunction with 21 other young coeds, she founded the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, January 1913. At the same time, she gave first evidence of her militancy in the field of women's suffrage and human rights. She enjoyed the honor of being the only negro woman who, with Carrie Nation in 1913 was granted an audience with President Wilson and later Warren G. Harding and John F. Kennedy. A national figure in journalism, she was recognized as an author of papers, short stories, poems, an editor and publisher. She engaged in business and financial endeavors as vice-president of an insurance company, oil company president, investment administrator, public relations and advertising. My great-grandmother died of a heart attack, arguing with a man over the phone about civil rights. Madam President, in honor of this Resolution, I am proud to say I am descended from this remarkable woman.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator STEWART of Aroostook, the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 462

JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
AS SUDDENLY SLEEPY SATURDAY,
A DAY FOR NARCOLEPSY AWARENESS

WHEREAS, narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder caused by the brain's inability to regulate sleep-wake cycles; and
WHEREAS, narcolepsy affects an estimated 1 in every 2,000 Americans; and
WHEREAS, narcolepsy is an often unrecognized and undiagnosed condition; and
WHEREAS, the symptoms of narcolepsy, especially when undiagnosed, can lead to accidents, injuries and problems with learning and working; and
WHEREAS, narcolepsy affects people neurologically, socially and emotionally; and
WHEREAS, narcolepsy affects people of all ages, with onset typically occurring between 15 and 25 years of age; and
WHEREAS, on average, it takes a patient over 6 years to be diagnosed with narcolepsy after first experiencing symptoms; and
WHEREAS, research shows that narcolepsy patients have an increased prevalence of high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and diabetes; and
WHEREAS, narcolepsy patients need trained providers to address the patient's disorder and treat additional underlying health concerns; and
WHEREAS, Narcolepsy Network is a national organization created to promote awareness of the disease and provide support for those who suffer from narcolepsy; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize Saturday, March 11, 2023 as Suddenly Sleepy Saturday, a day to raise public awareness of narcolepsy.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Change of Committee

The Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES on Bill "An Act to Ensure Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Restrooms"

H.P. 61 L.D. 93

Reported that the same be REFERRED to the Committee on INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS.

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill REFERRED to the Committee on INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS.

Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill REFERRED to the Committee on INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS, in concurrence.

Ought to Pass

The Committee on LABOR AND HOUSING on Bill "An Act to Simplify an Assessment Notice Requirement Under Department of Labor Laws"

H.P. 18 L.D. 14

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Report READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

Bill READ ONCE.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT on Bill "An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects"

H.P. 107 L.D. 166

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay
ABDI of Lewiston
COPELAND of Saco
DHALAC of South Portland
PAULHUS of Bath

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same Ought Not To Pass.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon

GREENWOOD of Wales

POMERLEAU of Standish

RISEMAN of Harrison

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Madam President. Just a brief overview of this bill, what it does, and why I and several members of the committee believe this bill to be unnecessary. The bill would open it up so that municipalities that gather parking meter revenue - so when you put your little quarter in the parking meter or I guess these days you can now do it with a credit card - parking meter revenue would be opened up so that a municipality could use those revenues for anything. Currently, those funds are restricted to things related to, you know, the actual purpose of being able to park places, including roads, as one of the big expenses those funds can be used for. I have two concerns about opening this up. One, I really wonder how necessary it is considering that funds are fungible and if people want to use parking meter funds to pay for sewers or to pay for schools. You know, if those funds are already going to road budgets, it's hard for me to imagine that any municipality is bringing in so much revenue from parking meters that they've covered their entire road budget. So, you can simply apply that to the roads and shift property tax dollars over to the other things you'd like to, you know, have funded. So, in that regard, it seems unnecessary to me. But there is another principle, you know, I'm concerned of. I think there is a time and a place for parking meters. I think that certainly, you know, in certain areas where parking spots are highly, you know, there's a lot of demand for them, you don't want people, you know, holding these parking spots for a long time and so parking meters create incentive for people to do their business and move on so that others can use that parking spot. There's a proper place for it. But I'm concerned if we open this up and just say that this is a source of revenue for municipalities, that we're going to see a lot more parking meters popping up all over the place and I would, you know, call the Senate to a principle that I think has been a longstanding principle in other areas that the Legislature has decided, for example, in regards to traffic tickets. The Legislature made a decision several decades ago, I don't

know when, exactly, that traffic ticket funds would be - go to the General Fund rather than being used for just municipal revenue generation because the fear was that if you establish this as something that can be used to fund municipal budgets, you're going to see a lot more - you're going to see a lot more of that not for the purpose of safety but for the purpose of revenue generation. And I'm concerned that by opening this up, we're going to see a lot more parking meters popping up, not for the purpose of making sure we have adequate parking available to people but for the purpose of revenue generation and I don't think that's the proper reason to have parking meters. So, I will be voting no on the Ought to Pass Report. If you agree, I ask you to join me. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Nangle.

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Madam President. I just wish to speak briefly on this bill. This bill is about local control. A city or town installs the parking meters, it maintains the parking meters and maintains the parking lots. This bill does not allow them to spend these funds on anything. They can only spend it on capital improvements such as sewer systems to help manage the additional visitors or users of a sewer system. These are funds that the city or town generates on their own. The State has no impact on that and we should not be telling a community what they can or cannot do with money that they generate from their infrastructure. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot.

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Madam President Pro Tem. I'm wondering - the bill, actually, I was reading it, it says that they can use it to acquire or maintain capital infrastructure but also that it would be to provide property tax relief, but I'm wondering, having been previously on the Tax Committee, how this bill actually would direct property tax relief. If someone could answer that, it's be great.

THE PRESIDENT: The member has posed a question through the Chair to the Body, to any member who may wish to respond. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you to the Senator from Kennebec. The details, I think, were a little fuzzy in the public hearing how exactly it was going to result in property tax relief other than I think the fact that funds are fungible, and I guess if you had more flexibility that you could offset property taxes in some places and lower property taxes. But there's no direct requirement that these funds be used to lower property taxes, we're just broadening what these revenues could be used for. And I will say one thing about the question of sewer systems. I know there was - this was a specific thing that was brought up in committee but there were also questions raised about aren't a lot of the sewer systems run on water - associated with water districts and is that really an appropriate use for these funds. Anyway, there's no real clear direct property tax relief in this bill other than providing additional flexibility to use - to spend on other capital projects that are not directly related to individuals parking in the municipality.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Madam President. I would just speak in support of this bill. It is about local control. It's also - the bill specifically says the money can be used for either property tax relief or capital infrastructure projects. This is about letting communities make those decisions, giving them a little more flexibility. Larger cities have larger obligations. This will be helpful to cities like Bangor in terms of parking revenue because we almost have the parking garage paid off in full, but if we can apply it to other things to lower the property tax, we should all be supportive of that. Maine has one of the highest property tax rates in the country, so I think any bill that allows communities flexibility to control property taxes should be supported and I think we should all have confidence in our local municipalities to make these decisions. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Madam President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, as much as I'd love to believe the idea that these funds once generated, and I'm sure that they will be generated, will actually go towards lowering taxes, I just simply don't buy it. In fact, the last time I heard similar arguments to that, we were talking about whether to fund education at 55% and the big thing there was that we'll see a tax decrease at the local level. Well, that's weird because the year after we did that, my property tax went up \$1,000 in Presque Isle. So, clearly, we need to put guardrails in place if we're going to be creating opportunities for local revenue generation if we actually want it to flow to something like property tax relief, otherwise, it's not going to happen.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI:** I would just recommend to you the last two years the City of Bangor has significantly cut its property tax rate because of the money from revenue sharing and aid to education that we got in the last four years, a lot of it that we had been robbed of in the prior eight years. So, the City of Bangor has reduced its tax rate in the last two years, and this will help continue controlling the tax rate.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY:** I apologize. This will be the last time that I rise, I just want to pose a question. Does anyone know of any municipality, whether it be Bangor or any other municipality in this state, where they generate enough in parking meter revenue to cover the entire road budget for the municipality? If someone can point to me a city where that is the case, I'll vote for this motion. If someone - if you cannot point to me a municipality where that is the case, there is no point to this bill. Because funds are fungible, you can use it for the roads and you can shift money away to property tax relief or capital projects or whatever else you want to spend those funds on.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Senator from Somerset, Senator Mills, has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Madam President. Thank you. Thank you very much. The answer to that question is the Town of Bar Harbor. They have been very diligent in keeping up with their road maintenance and they have a budget that they manage well but they have other infrastructural needs which are caused by the tourists who pay the majority of these parking fees and so they are asking for flexibility to cover the costs associated with all those visitors because the road budget is well balanced.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake.

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** The Good Senator from Penobscot made me stand up, so you can blame him. I would ask that his district send some money down to my district because when the 279s came out this year, School Administrative District No. 52 is looking at a 20% increase in property taxes within our community at the supposable 55% funding. So, it can be played games with in many ways. So, I just wanted to clarify that that's not happening everywhere.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass Report. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#41)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, JACKSON, LAWRENCE

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 5 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate

Change of Committee

Senator LaFOUNTAIN for the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Bag Limit for Smelts for Personal Use from 2 Quarts to 4 Quarts" S.P. 261 L.D. 593

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Coverage for Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Under the State Employer Group Health Plan" S.P. 169 L.D. 362

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator CHIPMAN for the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Commissioner of Transportation to Reduce Speed Limits at Construction Sites with Input from Municipalities and Utilities" S.P. 23 L.D. 31

S.P. 23 L.D. 31

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator CHIPMAN for the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Name a Bridge in the Town of Canaan After Staff Sergeant Richard Gerald Salsbury S.P. 152 L.D. 331

S.P. 152 L.D. 331

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator NANGLE for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Authorize the Deorganization of Drew Plantation" (EMERGENCY) S.P. 41 L.D. 49

S.P. 41 L.D. 49

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-8)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-8) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

SECOND READERS

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the following:

House

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission" H.P. 19 L.D. 15

H.P. 19 L.D. 15

Bill "An Act to Establish Maine Needham Day" H.P. 190 L.D. 292

H.P. 190 L.D. 292

Bill "An Act to Establish Maine Alewife Day" H.P. 218 L.D. 344

H.P. 218 L.D. 344

READ A SECOND TIME and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Senate

Resolve, Designating Maine Turnpike Approach Road in South Portland as Samantha Smith Way

S.P. 13 L.D. 21

Resolve, to Rename the Bridge Between Bingham and Concord Township on Route 16 the Jason Dore Memorial Bridge

S.P. 36 L.D. 44

Bill "An Act Regarding the Committee Structure of the State Workforce Board"

S.P. 59 L.D. 120

Bill "An Act to Designate Granitic Pegmatite as the Maine State Rock"

S.P. 128 L.D. 269

Resolve, to Designate the Route 170 Bridge Located in Webster Plantation the Gary 'Swampy' Worster Memorial Bridge

S.P. 139 L.D. 318

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Underground Oil Storage Tank Laws"

S.P. 140 L.D. 319

Resolve, Designating the Desert of Maine Overpass the Matthew MacMillan Overpass

S.P. 219 L.D. 502

READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Emergency Measure

An Act to Clarify State Policy Regarding Cannabis Paraphernalia in the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Legalization Act

S.P. 50 L.D. 83
(C "A" S-7)

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator **POULIOT**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 26 Members of the Senate, with 3 Senators having voted in the negative, and 26 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President Pro Tem, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Act

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Plants
H.P. 14 L.D. 10

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and, having been signed by the President Pro Tem, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by
President Pro Tem **MATTHEA E. L. DAUGHTRY**
of Cumberland County.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act Regarding Calibration Requirements for Certain Testing and Measurement Equipment"

H.P. 706 L.D. 1110

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Define the Term 'Solitary Confinement' for the Laws Governing a Jail or Correctional Facility"

H.P. 681 L.D. 1086

Bill "An Act to Remove Restrictions in the Provisions of Law Relating to No-knock Warrants"

H.P. 682 L.D. 1087

Bill "An Act to Allow Persons Who Lawfully Use or Possess Cannabis to Own or Possess Firearms or Ammunition"

H.P. 698 L.D. 1103

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Sporting Heritage by Making the Elements of a Hunter Safety Course a Part of Public School Curriculum"
H.P. 679 L.D. 1084

Bill "An Act Regarding the Authorization of Public Charter Schools"
H.P. 684 L.D. 1089

Bill "An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions Regarding Immunization Requirements"
H.P. 693 L.D. 1098

Bill "An Act to Require Transparency Regarding School Construction Spending"
H.P. 709 L.D. 1113

Bill "An Act to Enact the Curriculum Transparency Act"
H.P. 714 L.D. 1129

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System"
H.P. 696 L.D. 1101

Bill "An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction"
H.P. 707 L.D. 1111

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

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Its Rules Regarding Campgrounds in Order to Ensure Campground Health and Safety
H.P. 686 L.D. 1091

Bill "An Act to Expand Services for Women Who Experience Gender-based Trauma and Violence"
H.P. 687 L.D. 1092

Bill "An Act Regarding the Allocation of Funds Awarded to Maine Due to the Opioid Settlement"
H.P. 689 L.D. 1094

Bill "An Act to Protect Vulnerable Populations in Residential Facilities from Extended Power Outages"
H.P. 694 L.D. 1099

Resolve, to Amend the MaineCare Hospital Readmission Protocol (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 700 L.D. 1104

Bill "An Act to Improve the Transition to Adult Services for Children with Intellectual Disabilities"
H.P. 702 L.D. 1106

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Annual Medical Eligibility Determinations of Need for Families of Children with Disabilities"
H.P. 710 L.D. 1114

Bill "An Act to Support Continuity in Perinatal and Emergency Care by Requiring Notice of a Voluntary Hospital or Facility Closure or Reduction in Services"
H.P. 716 L.D. 1131

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Transparency of and Lower Health Care Costs"
H.P. 680 L.D. 1085

Bill "An Act to Ensure Lower Costs and Consumer Protections for Patients by Prohibiting Certain Billing Practices"
H.P. 701 L.D. 1105

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Economic Development Funds for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes"
H.P. 711 L.D. 1115

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Public Sector Bargaining in Public Schools by Providing an Exemption to the Time Limit on Negotiations"

H.P. 690 L.D. 1095

Bill "An Act to Help Retired Teachers and State Employees Keep Pace with Inflation by Matching the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Social Security Benefits"

H.P. 691 L.D. 1096

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Individuals

H.P. 703 L.D. 1107

Bill "An Act to Provide Workers' Compensation for Temporary Employees"

H.P. 708 L.D. 1112

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers"

H.P. 712 L.D. 1116

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds in Municipal Referenda with Lower Approval Thresholds"

H.P. 692 L.D. 1097

Resolve, to Modify Security Screenings in the State House and Implement Security Screenings in the Burton M. Cross Building

H.P. 695 L.D. 1100

Bill "An Act to Authorize a Recall Election for a School Board Member"

H.P. 697 L.D. 1102

Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators"

H.P. 713 L.D. 1117

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Driver Education Programs to Include Education Regarding the Risks of Impaired Driving Due to the Use of Alcohol, Cannabis or Other Substances"

H.P. 685 L.D. 1090

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update the Gambling Laws to Allow Once-annual Casino Nights for Charitable Purposes or Registered Political Committees"

H.P. 683 L.D. 1088

Bill "An Act to Require All Candidates for Any State or County Office to Follow the Same Rules for Submission of Signatures Regarding Deadlines and the Number of Signatures"

H.P. 704 L.D. 1108

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Create Consistent Election Dates for Citizen-initiated Referenda in Even-numbered Election Years

H.P. 705 L.D. 1109

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

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.