

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

In Senate Chamber
Wednesday
June 7, 2023

Senate called to order by President Troy D. Jackson of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Senator Bradlee T. Farrin of Somerset County.

SENATOR FARRIN: Thank you, Mr. President. May we pray today. Dear Heavenly Father, as we gather here under the dome to do the work of the people of Maine, I ask that You let us hear Your word, not our interpretation of Your scripture, but Your word. Dear Lord, as the pressure mounts, and debates heat up, remind us that You are the only one who is perfect and has any authority to judge us mortal beings. Dear Lord, please give us the strength, courage to do Your will, and humility in dealing with each other. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Benjamin M. Chipman of Cumberland County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

Off Record Remarks

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 605

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

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Darek Grant
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the working groups and subcommittees of the Maine Climate Council:

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee:
Senator Nicole Grohoski
Senator Matt Harrington

Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing working group:
Senator Mike Tipping
Senator Matt Pouliot

Coastal and Marine working group:
Senator Cameron Reny
Senator Marianne Moore

Community Resilience Planning, Public Health, and Emergency Management working group:
Senator Craig Hickman
Senator Marianne Moore

Energy working group:
Senator Mark Lawrence
Senator Matt Harrington

Natural and Working Lands working group:
Senator Henry Ingwersen
Senator Rick Bennett

Transportation working group:
Senator Ben Chipman
Senator Bradlee Farrin

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these appointments.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 598

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

June 1, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under M.R.S.A. Title 28-B, Chapter 1, Subchapter 9, §902, 1, B, I am pleased to appoint the following Representatives to the *Cannabis Advisory Commission*, effective immediately:

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

Representative Laura Supica of Bangor as House Chair
Representative David Boyer of Poland

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 606

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

June 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 Energy, Utilities and Technology has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- L.D. 1611 An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility
- L.D. 1791 An Act to Make the ConnectMaine Authority Responsible for Attachments to and Joint Use of Utility Poles and to Establish Procedures for Broadband Service Infrastructure Crossing Railroad Tracks

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. 607

June 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 Environment and Natural Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- L.D. 972 Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Evaluate Strategies for Improving the Returnable Beverage Container Laws
- L.D. 1910 An Act to Amend the Returnable Beverage Container Program

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Stacy Fielding Brenner S/Rep. Lori K. Gramlich
Senate Chair House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 608

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

June 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 Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- L.D. 1399 An Act to Improve State Oversight of Proposed Health Care Entity Transactions
- L.D. 1708 An Act to Address Anticompetitive Terms in Health Insurance Carrier and Health Care Provider Contracts
- L.D. 1766 An Act to Require Insurance Carriers to Compensate Providers for Costs of Providing Medical Records for Utilization Review
- L.D. 1816 An Act Requiring Reference-based Pricing to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Anne C. Perry
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 609

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

June 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 Labor and Housing has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- L.D. 891 An Act to Protect Due Process for Certain Public Sector Employees

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-defense to Safely Retreat or Abstain from Performing Certain Acts upon Demand"
H.P. 1005 L.D. 1560

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass.**

Signed:

Senator:
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:
SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MADIGAN of Waterville
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-261).**

Signed:

Senator:
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:
ARDELL of Monticello
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED.**

Reports **READ.**

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of 'State Agency Client' and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services"

H.P. 49 L.D. 79

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-327)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- RAFFERTY of York
- PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

- BRENNAN of Portland
- DODGE of Belfast
- MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
- MURPHY of Scarborough
- SARGENT of York
- WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

- LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

- BAGSHAW of Windham
- LYMAN of Livermore Falls
- POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
- SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-327)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-327)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Point of order. The fiscal note on this bill, along with two other bills I've been concerned about recently, really doesn't correctly identify the local cost. And so, I really feel like some of these bills, this one included, are a mandate and would require two-thirds. Is that your understanding?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Senator Libby. The Revisor's Office and the OFPR does the fiscal notes - well, the OFPR does, and they're nonpartisan. I struggle with their notes often. But, I mean, you're certainly able to take it up with them and see if it should be revised, but - that's all I got on that. So, absolutely.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Yeah, I mean, each one of them a little bit different, and one of - in one case, the fiscal note says that if there is a local cost then, of course, the law says that the locals don't have to do it, don't have to carry it out. So, if that's the case, that's telling me it's a mandate. You know what I mean? So, in other words, if some school system decides well, these new 22-year-olds that we're going to have to provide a free and appropriate education for are going to cost us more money, then they can actually not do that, according to the law. So, in this particular case, it's really important, I think, that we at least consider it, and I would move to table this item.

On motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Update the Special Education Laws" H.P. 66 L.D. 98

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-328)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- RAFFERTY of York
- LIBBY of Cumberland
- PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

- BRENNAN of Portland
- DODGE of Belfast
- MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
- MURPHY of Scarborough
- SARGENT of York
- WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representatives:

- BAGSHAW of Windham
- LYMAN of Livermore Falls
- POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
- SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-328)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-328)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Senator **LIBBY** of Cumberland moved the Bill and accompanying papers be **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: Just for discussion, Senator Libby has some questions on some of those financial notes, like he said, but because we won't be in the position of enacting them, we're going to pick them up today and decide what to do as far as pass them or not, and the good Senator is going to go down and have his questions answered. So, if they are coming back for enactment, they'll have the right language.

Senator **LIBBY** of Cumberland requested and received leave of the Senate to withdraw his motion to **TABLE** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-328) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of 'State Agency Client' and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services"

H.P. 49 L.D. 79

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-327)** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought Not To Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - June 7, 2023, by Senator **LIBBY** of Cumberland

Pending - motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, June 6, 2023, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-327)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-327)**.)

(In Senate, June 7, 2023, Reports **READ**.)

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-327) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to the Malaga 1912 Scholarship Fund"

H.P. 171 L.D. 273

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-329)**.

Signed:

Senators:
RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-329)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-329)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-329) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Support for Students in Public Schools"

H.P. 518 L.D. 829

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-287)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-287)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-287)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-287) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Authorization of Public Charter Schools"

H.P. 684 L.D. 1089

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-271)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
BAGSHAW of Windham
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SAMPSON of Alfred
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representative:

POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-272)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-272)**.

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-271)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-271)**.

Reports **READ**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-271) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I'm just wondering if we could get a rundown of exactly what this bill intends to do and how these funds would be - it's my understanding that this bill would send some funding from the State out into the school district, but I'm not - it's not entirely clear to me exactly what we're buying here, so if we could get an explanation on that, that would be helpful. Thank you.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, has posed a series questions through the Chair to anyone who could answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Rafferty.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Establish the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund"

H.P. 755 L.D. 1183

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-272)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for the question, Senator Stewart. So, essentially, what it does is, right now there is really little to no money for schools that need equipment and this equipment typically runs between - it's expensive. We heard in testimony a lot was \$20-50,000 for the different pieces of equipment, and this is quite costly, particularly in some of the kitchens that continue to serve meals, you know, scratch to the table and, you know, right from scratch. But in any case, what it does is this allows a transfer of funds that comes out of - this is existing funds that they're going to take out of what's

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast

called the Alternative Breakfast Delivery Service Program and it will be transferred to the General Fund, and then from the General Fund, it will be allocated to allow some of these purchases in terms of equipment. I hope that helps.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I want to share some thoughts I have about this bill. I think that the work we did in the 130th, and continue to do to fund meals for school children, was pretty profound and important in terms of ending hunger in the state of Maine. This bill is in many ways a companion bill. I had the unique opportunity, which all of you have and I hope you'll exercise it, to visit your district's school cafeterias and speak with the nutrition director in your district. But one of the things that was made apparent in both of my two districts' schools is that the equipment really lacks for them to be able to participate fully in feeding the number of children that are now engaging in the meal service at the schools. In addition, if we want to really marry agricultural development and food from Maine's farms in school systems, we need to be able to have proper equipment for the nutrition team at the school to be able to cook. So, we're basically talking about industrial scale food equipment and preparation equipment for these nutrition services to be able to manage food. So, I hope you will all join me in supporting ending childhood hunger and increasing our capacity to engage in agricultural development here in the state by funding school kitchen equipment. Thank you.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. So, I just want to confirm here, just - so, this would be a transfer of some lapsed funding, it sounds like, to then go and just be repurposed for the sake of trying to make some improvements here that run parallel with the other initiative that we had in the previous legislature around -

THE PRESIDENT: Universal school meals.

Senator **STEWART:** That, yes, thank you, Mr. President. Which I think it was your bill, actually, but - anyways, I just want to make sure, we didn't - as I mentioned at the beginning of this, we tried to hammer through divided reports this morning, and so this was one where we didn't spend a heck of a lot of time on it, thinking it was just going to go under the hammer, so I just want to confirm here that it's using lapsed funds that are being repurposed to then go help school districts across the state meet this other goal that we've already put in statute around free meals. Is that - is that correct? Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, has posed a series questions through the Chair to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Rafferty.

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Mr. President and Senator Stewart, feel free to run this under the hammer, if you'd like, and I'd appreciate it. But in any case, what the funds currently that exist are in the neighborhood of about \$360,000 that have been unused. So, that

will transfer. Then there's a directive to have the Department of Education apply for federal grants and, essentially, there is a short amount, and I can't lay my fingers on it at this second, in terms of some up-front money towards filling in the gap between the - it's about 360 to somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 thousand, but I think that gap, there's a combination here of monies, and - which will require \$64,000 in fiscal year 23/24 to go into the General Fund.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. To the good Senator from Aroostook, to answer your question, I think Senator Rafferty pretty much covered it, but in addition, it sets up a federal expenditures fund at the tune of \$500 to be able to receive money from the federal government, which we are anticipating another - the federal government will be contemplating school meal lunches and funding for that, and equipment, under the farm bill which is being contemplated currently and soon to be voted on. And so, we want to make sure we have a bucket to hold the federal money in when it arrives at the Department of Education so we can fund equipment.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence. (Roll Call Ordered)

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Provide Transparency in Public School Curricula"

H.P. 759 L.D. 1199

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass.**

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-286).**

Signed:

Senator:
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:
BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

Senator **MOORE** of Washington requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Legislative Day.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I ask you to join me in opposing this motion. This provides transparency in school curriculum and a good group of Senators feel like it should pass. It requires school libraries to publish a list of texts and syllabi. We believe it does represent an unfunded mandate, so if you do vote against this and then we have an Ought to Pass forwarded, there's that problem that has kind of reared its ugly head once again. But again, please join me in opposing the motion.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Rafferty - geez, the Senator from York, Senator Rafferty.

Senator **RAFFERTY:** I'm constantly on the move, sir, so. I do drive through Cumberland County occasionally on my way here. But in any case, just for clarification, so when we ask for transparency in terms of teachers' planning and so forth, this bill is requesting that all those materials be shared and published October 1st. And I can tell you that that is simply an insurmountable task request for a teacher that I have - and I'm a Phys. Ed guy. So, to think that I could tell you in October what I was going to be doing March 31st is pretty difficult, because much of what I do is weather dependent, just as an example, facility dependent, and equipment dependent. And there's a lot of different pieces to this. But to expect that a teacher - my wife's a science teacher - and expect her to lay out her entire year every year, students and classes move at different paces, and that's, again, it's a huge request, a huge task, and I think it's impossible. Plus, to include things like tests and quizzes and all those types

of things that we heard about, now you're asking them to expose the evaluation materials in advance. I just think that we've, you know, teachers do share, especially in today's world, everyone has Google Classrooms, and all of this week's, next week's, and maybe the week after material is up, and it's there for the viewing. But to ask that we do it in advance, October 1st for the upcoming year, is pretty difficult and I ask that we move the Ought Not to Pass request. Thank you.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#224)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senator: TIMBERLAKE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Increase School Security Through Design and Protocol"

H.P. 839 L.D. 1326

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-307)**.

Signed:

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services to Study Placing Child Care Facilities in Secondary Schools

H.P. 975 L.D. 1520

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-330)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-330)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-330)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-330) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Promote the Community School Program"

H.P. 982 L.D. 1527

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-268)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-268)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-268)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-268) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Concerning Students Who Experience Educational Disruption Due to Temporary or Permanent Changes Where They Live"

H.P. 1133 L.D. 1769

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-332)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-332)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-332)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-332) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Chronic Student Absenteeism"

H.P. 1191 L.D. 1861

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-331)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-331)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-331)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-331) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Consider the Impact on Low-income Residential Ratepayers When Setting Rates"
H.P. 923 L.D. 1427

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-276)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- LAWRENCE of York
- GROHOSKI of Hancock
- HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

- ZEIGLER of Montville
- BABIN of Fort Fairfield
- BOYLE of Gorham
- FOSTER of Dexter
- GEIGER of Rockland
- KESSLER of South Portland
- RUNTE of York
- WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Representatives:

- DUNPHY of Embden
- PAUL of Winterport

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-276)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-276)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, in caucus this morning, we had some questions around this bill and kind of the necessity behind it, and I just want to confirm for folks, recognizing that it is a pretty bipartisan majority report here, that if somebody could answer the question whether this bill is doing really anything but just providing a statutory mechanism for the PUC to deal with LIAP applications in some more significant way. It wasn't entirely clear what that way is, and so if that could be outlined here for us, I think that would be helpful, particularly for our benefit in the minority. Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, has posed a series of questions through the Chair for anyone that may answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would need some time to research that series of questions. So, I would move that this matter be tabled until later in today's session.

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act Regarding Environmental Justice"

H.P. 1046 L.D. 1621

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-318)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- BRENNER of Cumberland
- CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
DOUDERA of Camden
HOBBS of Wells
O'NEIL of Saco
WOODSOME of Waterboro

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-319)**.

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-318)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-318)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-318)** Report, in concurrence.

Senator **KEIM** of Oxford moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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 Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#225)

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

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

12 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 23 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers, in **NON-CONCURRENCE, FAILED**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. Maine's decision-making agencies must ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, regulations, and policies. The bill before you today will provide the beginnings of a framework for a more meaningful engagement of environmental justice populations in the procedural aspects of permitting and decision-making before the DEP. L.D. 1621 has three critical components. It adds definitions for key terms, including environmental justice, frontline communities, and the criteria to define meaningful involvement. The bill then requires a more affirmative and proactive approach, requiring the DEP to actively seek out and facilitate the involvement of communities that may be potentially affected by a decision. Finally, it provides much-needed financial capacity to the department to carry out the provisions of this bill. It puts Maine on a similar path as other states, including our neighbors in Vermont and Massachusetts, as well as the federal government, who have all recognized the importance of procedural and substantive reforms to address longstanding inequities faced by environmental justice populations. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" H-318)** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-318) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Allow Health Care Workers to Return to Work by Reinstating Exemptions from Immunization Requirements"

H.P. 113 L.D. 172

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
 CRAVEN of Lewiston
 GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
 MADIGAN of Waterville
 SHAGOURY of Hallowell
 ZAGER of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-303)**.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford
 GRIFFIN of Levant
 JAVNER of Chester
 LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in opposition to the motion that is currently on the floor. I would like to share a letter that all the Republicans in the House and the Senate wrote to Governor Mills on May the 25th. 'We are writing to request you follow President Biden's recent action by directing all state agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Safety, to amend their rules to remove COVID-19 vaccine requirements. Maine's immunization rules for healthcare workers and EMS personnel were amended in 2021 to align with the now-repealed federal mandate, and they no longer reflect current science around COVID-19. On February 19, 2023, Secretary Xavier Becerra of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sent a letter to state governors announcing the end of the pandemic health emergency after a final 90-day renewal. On May 1, 2023, the White House announced an end to the federal COVID-19 vaccine requirements for healthcare workers, which took effect on May 11. In the same press release, the Biden/Harris Administration announced they are also beginning to end the COVID-19 vaccine requirements across other sectors of the workforce, including Head Start workers and in healthcare facilities. Importantly, Secretary Becerra's letter to you highlighted a shift in these policies to focus on improving patient care. As you are aware, Maine is facing a critical shortage of eligible workers in multiple

areas of the state's economy and the shortage is especially dire in the healthcare sector. COVID-19 vaccine requirements drove skilled workers away from Maine hospitals, healthcare offices, ambulance services, and fire departments. As these employees continue to struggle with staffing issues, the people of Maine are suffering the effects of these shortages. We implore you to protect Maine's people by directing the removal of all COVID-19 vaccination requirements. Amending our rules to align with the federal administration will allow Maine's nurses, paramedics, medical support staff, and other needed employees to return to work they love and where they are desperately needed.' To this date, we have not had a response back from the Governor. I do vote that - I would urge everyone to vote against the motion that's on the floor. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I hear my good friend, the Senator from Washington. I hear those arguments, I understand those arguments. That discussion can go on regardless of this bill. I would note to this Chamber that the bill is not - is not that. The bill says that healthcare workers can have the religious or philosophical exemptions that voters in the state of Maine rejected three or four years ago, overwhelmingly. Over 75% of the people in Bangor, 62% of the people in Herman rejected - reduced those exceptions in 2020. So, to - the bill is just to reinstate that exemption for just this certain type of worker, and we voted it down because carving out these exceptions is not - is not the way to do this. But the conversation that the Senator from Washington is looking to have, I think, can still clearly happen regardless of whether this bill goes up or down.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I do just want to say I - we can look at the underlying bill and pretend that that's the only kind of thing here, but there's obviously a committee amendment that is specific to the COVID-19 vaccination, which is the choice that we really have in front of us right now. And I just want to say a few things. Ever since this mandate was imposed on healthcare workers in our state I've heard a lot of justifications for it. The first justification I heard from it, we heard this from President Joe Biden himself, was that this was necessary because these vaccinations were going to stop the spread of COVID-19. Fast-forward years later, we know that's not true, it does not have any direct effect on transmission or infection, and so it's not actually stopping the spread, it never was. Well, that - that justification has fallen away. It's fallen away so much that even the - even the - as my good colleague from Washington County has noted, the federal administration has dropped the mandate on healthcare workers from the federal - on the federal level. Now, it was for a time when it became clear that this was not actually scientifically supported, people told me; 'well, we can't unilaterally drop this mandate on healthcare workers because the federal government is threatening to withhold Medicare and Medicaid funds from states that do not comply.' But that federal mandate has been dropped now. That threat is no longer hanging over our heads. This has been dropped. So, we don't have that excuse anymore, it's - we're clinging to this, and I don't quite understand why, in the healthcare shortage that

we have. But I want to bring it home a little bit because I want to share the story of a good friend of mine. His name is Adam, he actually lives in Caribou, Maine. He has been a - he's worked in a small nursing home in Caribou, Maine for decades. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was a frontline healthcare worker, a physical therapist. He worked and when others were afraid to go in and treat and render service to those who were positive with COVID, he said 'you know what, I have an obligation to my patients,' and he went in, and he worked with them. And what happened? Of course, he got infected with COVID. He did the responsible thing. He went home for two weeks, until he was testing in the clear, and he went back to work and he continued serving his patients. When these mandates came down, he said 'well, all this evidence and science is showing us that natural immunity from a natural infection is actually stronger at preventing infection and transmission than the COVID vaccine itself,' so he saw no reason why he - any real reason why, other than sheer political bullying, as to why he should get this vaccination. So, after working for over a decade, working with patients, being celebrated as a frontline hero like so many of our healthcare workers were in the first year of the pandemic, he was fired from his job because of this mandate, like so many of our healthcare workers. We've lost 5-10%, and we have an ongoing workforce shortage in healthcare, which this mandate has seriously exacerbated.

I've heard a lot of different proposals in the Legislature this year on ways to address the healthcare worker shortage. I'm open to all of those ideas. But it seems like if we're not dealing with the elephant in the middle of the room, which is this COVID-19 vaccine mandate which is completely not supported by science, then what are we doing here? We're pretending to try to fix the problem when there's something within our power right now. There are no more threats from the federal government against us, mandating that we do this. There's no scientific basis for this. It just seems mean-spirited at this point. It seems like we just can't admit that mistakes were made. But mistakes were made. Let's let our healthcare workers go back to work. We need them. We absolutely need them. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to stand back up. I just wanted to correct a previous statement that was made about the bill. The original bill did, in fact, allow to reinstate the exemptions. However, the committee was presented an amendment that we actually reviewed on and actually voted on, and what this was, was to actually direct the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to remove the requirement for healthcare workers to be immunized against COVID-19. So, it was a totally different bill that the committee actually voted on, and that's the results that we're looking at. So, I just wanted to correct the statement. Thank you.

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

Senator **BALDACC:** Yes, I would - I appreciate the comments of my good friend from Washington and my good friend from Androscoggin. I just - we voted down the original bill, the minority adopted Committee Amendment "A" which we - which was - we did not adopt. So, when I talk about moving Ought Not to Pass,

that is on the original bill. But to - just to go back, I don't want to rehash a lot of arguments, but, you know, we've had a journey here with this pandemic, okay. And in Health and Human Services, we have dealt with dozens of bills regarding the vaccine. And I understand that there are very deeply held religious and/or philosophical grounds. But when we have a crisis like that, or an emergency, my head tells me that I need to listen to the public health experts, the people - the doctors and the medical professions. I understand there are people, individuals, in these professions that do - that resist these rules and don't like these rules, but I listen to the public health groups tell us what we need to do in order to help people and save peoples' lives. This is probably - if I was in a court, practicing law, this is when I would turn on the videotape of Donald Trump telling everyone that the vaccine saved hundreds of millions of lives, and then shut it off. But in addition to saving millions and millions of lives, it also reduced hospitalizations and reduced medical problems for a number of people with compromised conditions. So, I understand the concerns, and I'm sympathetic with them. I understand that this conversation can go on, but I am not going to have - I don't - I don't support having the Legislature mandate public health decisions that aren't entirely based on what the experts in terms of public healthcare telling us to do. So, that's why we came out the way we did. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. I heard the good Senator from Penobscot mention that we shouldn't be rehashing this, but we are, in fact, rehashing this every day. This is not a dead issue. This issue very much lives among us right now in our lack of healthcare workers, and the workers that we have already pushed out of this state that won't come back while we ignore what's happening in other states. Other states have lifted these bans, they do not have higher death rates. There is nothing that would keep us from changing the COVID vaccine mandate at this minute, and at this minute is impacting lives. People cannot work in our state, people have had to leave our state because of these mandates. So, we should rehash it every single time a bill comes through, because there are peoples' lives who are - who have been seriously and severely impacted by a mandate that is meaningless at this point, and yet we continue.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** This morning, I was in the hospital getting my infusions, and I was talking to three nurses. And all of them were vaccinated and all doing their thing, but all three of the nurses working in the unit that I was in said we need to eliminate the COVID-19 vaccine, it's costing us between 15 and 20% of our nursing staff here, and we're all working shorthanded, having to change departments to departments. I understand that we don't want to eliminate all the vaccines. I'm not even promoting that. I think we should put everything back. But if we voted this motion down, we could address the next motion, which would address just this, where the federal government has even come out and said it's okay to go back to work. I think we really need to think if we really do care about what the nurses and the staff are saying. I think we do need to do what's being asked by the good Senator from Washington County and them that serve on this committee.

I think it is the government's part to overstep because the only one stopping this right now is the Chief Executive. She could issue an executive order tomorrow that reversed this, and this could go the other way. So, although my good friend from Penobscot and I can agree on a lot of things, this is one that we don't agree on. Because this is political, this has turned political for probably all of the wrong reasons, but it - it really does need to be addressed. And as someone who gets to spend more time than they want visiting hospitals in the last year or two, this is important, and I'm listening to the nurses and what they're telling me, and they're all good with it going away. The people that are working with it are good with it going away. I think it's time that we listen to more of that and vote this motion down and move on to the next one. Thank you.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. And out of all due respect to the Senators in the Chamber, I'd like to kind of focus us back on what the good Senator from Penobscot is asking us to vote on. What we're voting on is the Majority Report Ought Not to Pass, and that bill is simply this - it doesn't mention COVID-19, not a word. What it says is this bill reinstates the religious and philosophical exemptions from immunization requirements for healthcare workers. Under current statute, a medical exemption is available to healthcare workers and employees who provide a written statement from a licensed physician, a nurse practitioner, or a physician's assistant that, in the physician's, nurse practitioner's or physician's assistant's professional judgment, immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable. So, this current amendment that we're - it's not an amendment, it's actually the original Ought Not to Pass bill that we are going to vote on, changes that to allow for religious or philosophical exemptions. So, I just wanted to focus everybody and remind folks that this is exactly what we're voting on today. I think everybody's feelings about COVID-19, whether - what the Governor should or shouldn't do, we can save that for another day. I know people feel it's urgent, but that's what this bill is about, get back to the Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say I know the bill's sponsor of this bill very well, he's a constituent of mine. Personally, I helped recruit him to run for the state House, I think he's doing a fine job, and I commend him for bringing this bill forward. And certainly, the underlying bill that I think opponents of this legislation would like to focus on was written in a way that was not exactly what he intended. And I think that's very common in the committee process. Bills come before my committee all the time where a sponsor says, 'eh, this wasn't drafted by the Revisor's Office exactly to my intent, here's exactly what I want,' and the alternate report is in alignment with what the bill's sponsor wanted. I don't understand the unwillingness to deal with the intent of the bill which we have available to us. I mean, this is pretty common in the committee process. And this is the bill to deal with it. I don't know of any other bills coming forward that are directly addressing the vaccination mandate on healthcare workers in the legislature. If we don't deal with this

with this bill, then we're just saying we're not going to deal with it, we're going to let it go on until the Governor decides to stop it. But we're the Legislative Branch of government. We're elected by our constituents to deal with these issues. We are the release valve for the people to have a say in these policies that affect their lives. And this policy has had an incredibly detrimental effect on the lives of so many Maine people, not just the healthcare workers who are - who have lost their jobs and, by the way, shouldn't just be entitled to their jobs back but probably are owed some compensation for being run through this - we can deal with that another day, many states are grappling with that now. But also, the people who aren't getting adequate medical care because of the healthcare workforce shortage that we have, which is this is exacerbating clearly. And I know as I went door to door and I talked to healthcare professionals in my district, including those who got vaccinated, got the vaccine, whether they wanted to or not, many of them felt bullied into it and regret it after the fact, but I hear from every single one of them that this has not been helpful, this has been detrimental. And I know - I was talking with one of the lobbyists from the Maine Hospital Association who told me he's on the second floor every single day asking the Governor to lift this mandate. I haven't heard a justification for continuing it. And as far as healthcare professionals and epidemiologists and what they have to say - certainly, I respect that the good Senator from Penobscot recognizing that people in this field can have different views. I know epidemiologists at Oxford University, Stanford University, Harvard University, people with - very well-respected in these fields who were early on and have been confirmed to have been right at this point in arguing against these mandates from the outset because they did not contribute to herd immunity, which is always the justification used for traditional vaccine mandates. When we've had these debates in the past, this was always the argument on vaccine mandates, well, we have to mandate this because we need to boost herd immunity rates. But this does not contribute to herd immunity. There is no justification I have ever heard in all of this that justifies this mandate. So, we do have the power today. We can vote this motion down, we can adopt the Committee Amendment "A" report, and not ignore that that report exists. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** I guess I shouldn't go down to the hospital in the morning, because it gets me fired up. I think that I can't disagree with the good Senator from Penobscot and the Senator from York who spoke that if you voted on the current motion it would kill the bill as presented, but that's not what we're asking. We're asking to move on to Committee Amendment "A", which only deals with COVID-19, and that we could move forward and put these people back to work and life would be good again. I ask that you vote down the pending motion and we move on to the next committee amendment, because it's still part of the same bill. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#226)

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

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

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matter in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (6/6/23) matter:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing BCOPE Alternative High School, in Belfast, which received a 2023 Best of the Best of Waldo County Award in the Education Category from the Republican Journal. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 708

Tabled - June 6, 2023 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **PASSAGE**

(In Senate, June 6, 2023, **READ**.)

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Senator CURRY: Thank you, Mr. President. It is an honor to have - recognize the students and the staff and faculty from the BCOPE in the Chamber with us today. Belfast Community Outreach Program and Education was founded in 1990 as an alternative school within the public school system. It is -- present today is the principal, Helen Scipione, teachers Larry Hess, Randy Nichols, Lindsey Schortz, and their students. And why it's so much of an honor for me today to bring them up here is because they're instrumental in helping us do our

work this session. They brought an issue to me, an issue of the challenge of - you might remember, we passed it - the challenge of minors being able to access banking when they did not necessarily have a trusted adult in their life. And they have - not only did they go beyond bringing an issue to a legislator, but they also researched it and did intensive research, lots of interviews with the banking sector in our area to find out what was behind it and help - and then came up to help support the bill and give testimony and they're here today to participate in the Governor's signing ceremony. And I just want to recognize them for their outstanding work and thank them. And part of this sentiment is that they're also recognized in Waldo County for their outstanding work and thank them for engaging.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber the students and chaperones from BCOPE Alternative High School. They're all from the city of Belfast. They're the guests today of the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry, and the entire Maine Senate. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons" H.P. 376 L.D. 599

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-301)**.

Signed:

Senators:
BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:
MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford
 GRIFFIN of Levant
 JAVNER of Chester
 LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-301)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-301)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to speak briefly on this motion and just rise to oppose the motion on the floor. This bill itself, the title sounds great, that it provides support services for transitional housing programs for homeless persons, which we all - that is a priority we're all very concerned about. However, this bill is providing for 1.2 million per year ongoing totally for the facility Elena's Way, a wellness shelter that's in Portland. I would rather see this money spent throughout the state to help some of the other homeless shelters throughout the state instead of just the one location. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you. And I would just like to say that this is to serve as a model for homeless shelters all across the state, and it is to help people who are chronically homeless get into transitional housing, which transitional housing is an issue that we need to look at statewide. This program is going to be a model for other places to adopt if it's successful. The initial program has been successful in terms of helping people in terms of their dependency issues as well as some of their mental health issues. This is to help them have a permanent place to live or a transitional housing arrangement, something so they're off the streets. But it would serve as a model for the rest of the state. And in addition, the Preble Street program has an excellent track record in terms of helping people and they really do the work on the streets, and that's something we need to replicate statewide.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question, which is how this is different than what we passed with Housing First already that has come through this Chamber - a very hands on, intensive approach to helping individuals who are chronically homeless or struggling with substance use disorders. That was

the Speaker's bill, L.D. 2. So, this, to me, seems to be duplicative. I'm wondering if anyone can speak to that.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, and to those of us on Health and Human Services, we did not see this as duplicative because this is augmenting an existing program and it's very specific. We saw the Housing First thing to be a - to spirit statewide initiative. This is to focus on people that are already in a significant program to help them get housing. But it's a good question, and there may be some overlap, but we didn't see it at all as duplicative.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#227)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-301) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Allow Maine Families to Increase Their Savings by Removing Asset Limits for Eligibility for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program"
 H.P. 592 L.D. 945

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-299)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-300)**.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-299)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-299)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-299)** Report, in concurrence.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to explain that the difference between the two amendments that we're looking at and the one that we're voting on. We support totally the need for savings accounts for our TANF folks and for repairs to vehicles and so forth. The amendment that we're voting on right now is a \$10,000 limit, and the Minority Report was for a \$5,000. We were just simply reducing it to a little bit less amount. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, and thank you to my good friend from Washington. I would just note that the rules have not

been amended in terms of the asset limit for 26 years, it's going on three decades, so we felt that the slightly higher limit that we went with would make more sense. And also, I would note the fiscal note on this was there was no fiscal note because they felt it could be absorbed through existing resources, so we didn't see any additional cost and it - we feel - I think the feeling of the majority of the committee is that this will help people move from a crisis without having to be totally wiped out, and I think that's something we should all support in terms of helping people get permanent - get their feet under them. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-299) Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#228)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-299)** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-299) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-299)**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Practicing Chiropractic Without a License"

H.P. 101 L.D. 160

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
REN Y of Lincoln

Representatives:
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
PRINGLE of Windham
SWALLOW of Houlton

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-326)**.

Signed:

Senators:
BAILEY of York
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:
PERRY of Calais
CYRWAY of Albion
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Maintain the Integrity of the Individual and Small Group Health Insurance Markets"

H.P. 801 L.D. 1253

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
BAILEY of York
REN Y of Lincoln

Representatives:
PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
PRINGLE of Windham

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:
CYRWAY of Albion
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
SWALLOW of Houlton

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#229)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, REN Y, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

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

EXCUSED: Senator: CURRY

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Remove the Limits on Bass Fishing in Washington County Rivers"

H.P. 342 L.D. 537

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

- LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
- BLACK of Franklin
- CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

- LANDRY of Farmington
- CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
- GOLEK of Harpswell
- HEPLER of Woolwich
- MASON of Lisbon
- THORNE of Carmel
- WOODSOME of Waterboro

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-263)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

- DILL of Old Town
- DRINKWATER of Milford
- WOOD of Greene

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Establish Youth Deer Hunting Weekend"

H.P. 441 L.D. 672

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

- LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
- BLACK of Franklin
- CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

- LANDRY of Farmington
- CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
- DILL of Old Town
- DRINKWATER of Milford
- GOLEK of Harpswell
- HEPLER of Woolwich
- WOODSOME of Waterboro

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-335)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

- MASON of Lisbon
- THORNE of Carmel
- WOOD of Greene

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water"

H.P. 462 L.D. 693

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

- LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
- BLACK of Franklin
- CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

- LANDRY of Farmington
- DILL of Old Town
- DRINKWATER of Milford
- HEPLER of Woolwich
- MASON of Lisbon
- WOOD of Greene

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-336)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
GOLEK of Harpswell
THORNE of Carmel
WOODSOME of Waterboro

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#230)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, FARRIN, HICKMAN, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senator: CURRY

30 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 4 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator LAWRENCE for the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 793 L.D. 1950

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

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

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator PIERCE for the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Facilitate Property Redevelopment and Encourage Affordable Housing by Allowing the Conveyance of Unfinished Commercial Condominium Units"

S.P. 526 L.D. 1289

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

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

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Streamline Label Registrations for Malt Liquor, Wine, Hard Cider and Low-alcohol Spirits"

S.P. 442 L.D. 1073

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

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

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program"

S.P. 732 L.D. 1817

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-192)**.

Report **READ**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT**.

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

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

RECESSED until 2:30 in the afternoon.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (6/1/23) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation"
H.P. 931 L.D. 1435

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-194)** (10 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (3 members)

Tabled - June 1, 2023 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence

(In House, May 30, 2023, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-194).**)

(In Senate, June 1, 2023, Reports **READ**.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Senate President. I rise in support of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report on this legislation. I thank my colleagues for their attention. This legislation reflects the life's work of a colleague from the other chamber, who has in various roles spent her life assisting and advocating for women whose lives have been damaged or destroyed by violence. Through this work, she heard the voices of women all over the country who were forced by their life circumstances to live as what has been called a prostitute. This bill asks us to join our colleague in the profound act of creating the first step in transforming the lives of those who have been trapped in the depths of despair. This bill acknowledges that the last thing trafficked and prostituted women need is a criminal

record as they work to restart their lives and, for many of them, to refrain that life and protect their children. People should not be criminalized for crimes that are happening to them. This bill acknowledges the basic fact that prostitution is driven by the demand of those who choose to buy another human being's body. It maintains the existing crime in Maine of buying sex. It would, though, discontinue the practice of arresting and prosecuting those who sell their bodies for sex, the vast majority of time because life has given them very few choices and even less support for themselves and their children. Here is what this legislation does. The crime a person who is being sex trafficked or coerced into selling her or his body would be charged with is repealed. Others involved in prostitution, those who purchase and those who traffic, remain subject to prosecution for those crimes. Soliciting a child or disabled adult for commercial sexual exploitation is elevated from a Class D to a Class C crime. More than 30 years ago, feminist writer Kathleen Barry wrote in her groundbreaking book, *Female Sexual Slavery*; we must end the system of inherent exploitation because, in addition to the - in addition to the physical harm and degradation of individual women, the continued buying of sex leads inadvertently or deliberately to the devaluing of all women in our society, not just prostituted persons. Most fundamentally, this bill is a demand reduction strategy, sometimes referred to as partial decriminalization. Within the first two years of adopting this strategy, Sweden had a 50% decrease in street prostitution and a significant decline in the number of men purchasing sex. Other countries - Norway, Iceland, France, Canada, Ireland, and others - have followed suit with similar results. Recent results from France have been equally dramatic. Nearly a thousand persons successfully exited prostitution and 87.5% of them found stable employment. Criminal investigations of sex trafficking increased by more than 50%, and society there has also become more aware of the extent of child prostitution.

I ask you today to help reduce commercial sexual exploitation in Maine. Supporting the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report will keep the existing penalty now in our laws for buying sex and it will - importantly, it will end the stigma and criminal conviction for those who are being sexually exploited. These make it hard, if not impossible, for victims of sexual exploitation to find other work to support themselves and their families and enjoy the benefits of a stable work, housing, and family life. I want to leave you this afternoon with a segment of testimony that was presented by a constituent of mine at the public hearing on this legislation. In her - this is in her voice; 'I believe law enforcement has a very important job and a very crucial job of handling situations that involve women of sexual exploitation and women who have been trafficked. If a woman is degraded, if a woman is disrespected, if a woman feels that she is not heard or believed, the state of Maine will lose vital witnesses vital to sentencing traffickers to prison. I ask you to support the repeal of the crime of engaging in prostitution. I recognize the South Portland Police Department for the way they handled my situation. People have asked me what was the worst part of being trafficked, physical or emotional. I tell them the healing. I can control panic attacks, there is medicine for my PTSD, there is therapy for my flashbacks, but I cannot control the charge on my record, a charge that affects housing, higher education, jobs and careers, and even my child's field trips. I cannot control language used to describe that exact opposite of the human that I am. But yet language does affect my life every day. I ask you, whether Democrat, Republican, father, mother, to see me as human. To

see that I have been through enough abuse. I ask you today to support this bill. This will be the type of change our children will read about like Rosa Parks or women's rights. Please be the first in the state of Maine, please make history, please have conviction instead of supporting the conviction.' That's the statement of my constituent. Thank you all for your attention this afternoon, and I urge you to support the pending motion.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, at a certain point here, I'm going to be offering a Floor Amendment to this bill. I completely understand this is a highly emotional topic for some, and don't want to disparage any of that in these remarks. And I think certainly this bill has garnered a lot of attention out in the public in the last week or so, since it was first heard in the other Body. I can't be any more clear that I and my colleagues certainly support the individuals, not just women, but men who are - and boys and children - who are subjected to - to being trafficked. And I don't even want to necessarily call it prostitution because it is, quite literally, trafficking of people, for sexual exploitation. There's no other way to put it. And I think to the extent that we can, we support the measures in this bill that hold accountable the folks who are purchasing these people, and certainly those that are trafficking these people. That said, throwing the baby out with the bathwater, which is what some portion of this bill does, is not, in our opinion, in my opinion, the right way to go about addressing this issue. I do think that increased penalties for those that sex traffic those with either intellectual disabilities or those that are minors is warranted. In fact, I tried to do the same thing back when I was in the House, and it was killed by some of the very people that are sitting here now pushing forward with this measure.

So, I think it's all over the place, I think it's complex, I don't think it's necessarily a partisan issue, but I do think it's one that we need to be cognizant of as a society the message that we're sending. And I'm worried that with the current version of this bill, we're sending the wrong message, that all forms of prostitution are fine, even if it's voluntary, even if there aren't these other things happening, and I just think that's a little bit too far and I think the people of Maine are speaking about that and are getting feedback and we're getting feedback from them since this bill was sent on track to pass in the House, and I think we ought to listen. And I think that there is a middle ground here that we can find, a compromise that we can find here in the form of a Floor Amendment. And I can't speak to that amendment just yet, but I do want to set the table with that in mind.

I'm going to ask for a roll call, I do ask for a roll call, Mr. President, and I hope that we can make sure that what message that this body is sending later tonight is one that is measured, is one that understands that that balance and why it's important, and still accomplishes and protects those people who we are trying to protect and we all want to protect because I believe firmly that we all want to protect those who are being trafficked and who are being sold and who are being abused, and I think we're going to get to a point here, hopefully, later tonight that does just that. So, thank you, Mr. President.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Guerin.

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I certainly think this is an area where we can find some commonality. I don't think there's a person in this room that wants to see anyone trafficked, and I hope that we can come to a place where perhaps the pending motion will fail, but a following amendment would be palatable to all of us. I stand in opposition to the pending motion, and in support of those who are in danger of being lured into the ugly world of sex trafficking.

Let me start with a widely accepted international study published in the World Development Journal. This study looked at a cross section of 150 countries and is referenced in other papers published by several U.S. ivy league studies. The results showed that, quote, countries where prostitution is legal experience larger reported human trafficking inflows, end-quote. How many vulnerable young girls, young boys, men, women, will be lured into the human trafficking industry with a promise of you can't get in trouble, there is no law to punish you if you get caught. Now, think about that. You know that the pimps will say that. You know they will tell girls and boys that are vulnerable and searching for somebody to care for them that there's no trouble to be had here for you, you're protected by the law. We must protect as many - put as many roadblocks in place as possible to stop human trafficking. The international study proves that legislation - legalization increases trafficking, and common sense should, too.

This is kind of a lighthearted story to tell, but looked at through today's lens, a very serious one. I recall an evening legislative reception up at the Senator where the owner of one of Maine's well-known convenience store chains recounted how she ended up in Maine. As a girl, her family lived in Las Vegas. She and her sister saw many sights of Las Vegas, including the scantily clad young women dancing in what looked like birdcages. One evening around the family dinner table, the question was asked of the girls, 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' The girls had already talked about this question and cheerfully told their parents what they wanted to be; they wanted to be birdcage dancers. Their parent's response at the dinner table that night was swift and definite, 'that does it, we are moving to Maine.' These girls were protected from the sex trafficking industry by committed parents. We must keep barriers in place that protect vulnerable men and women from the trap of selling their bodies with the promise of there's no law against it, you won't be punished. Please join me in voting against the pending motion.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. Trafficking children is a heinous act, and I absolutely support the portion of this bill that would increase the penalties for that. However, prostitution reduces a person to an article of commerce and a mere possession to be bought, used, and discarded without regard for their physical and psychological trauma to that person. We absolutely cannot create a more open pathway to a demoralizing

and dehumanizing yet legal and lucrative enterprise. That is not standing with the people that are weak and need us to support them in finding pathways of wholesomeness. You cannot say that one person is legally allowed to do something that then entraps another one that has increased penalties for taking advantage of what's legal for one and illegal for the other. So, why is the John illegal, but the person selling is legal? That is - that is a completely unequal way to run the laws of our country. If we do this, we're putting a red star in Maine that says come here, traffic people in Maine, because it's easier. We're easing trafficking in Maine with this law. People - people, children, will be more - will increase in trafficking because of this. It is - it's so astounding that we would even consider doing this. I mean, the first thing yesterday when I told my daughter what we would be voting on today, she said don't they know that it will increase trafficking? It was the first thing out of her mouth in a second. Because it's obvious. And sometimes the obvious is what we forget when we think about a story maybe that we twist in a certain way so it seems like this is the path forward, but this is not the path forward. This is not the path to save people. We need to think of them as humans, as - as the - as the quote from the - our colleague from Cumberland shared from her constituent. She wants to be seen as a person. People are not to be bought and sold, ever. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#231)

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

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

23 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-194) **READ**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, Senate Amendment "A" (S-207) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-194) **READ**.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, as I alluded to earlier this evening, this is the previously mentioned Floor Amendment that I think will more closely tailor this bill to what the desired outcome is, which is to protect those who are being trafficked - if that is, in fact, your desired outcome - rather than opening the doors carte blanche to sort of all forms of prostitution, but making it - retaining the provisions of the bill that increase the penalty that we discussed and I think there's sort of broad agreement around, but not throwing the baby out with the proverbial bathwater and zeroing in on those individuals who we are most interested in protecting, which is those that are being trafficked and providing still that defense to any sort of criminal liability there if you are being coerced into this work by someone, and certainly still retaining those provisions that hold the so-called john and so-called pimps liable as well. So, I hope that this amendment receives broad bipartisan support. I do think, again, it is a balanced amendment and approach here to something that we all seek to accomplish with the work that we do here, and hope that we will adopt it unanimously. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Senate President. I just want to speak very briefly in opposition to the pending motion. This legislation does not open the doors to prosecution - to prostitution. It's a very limited change in the law, as I described, it simply makes the person who is being trafficked not subject to criminal prosecution. And I just want to reflect for a moment on the concept about coercion. I feel that everybody who is forced into one of these positions where they're engaging in prostitution as the person whose body is being sold, even the people who testified at the public hearing described being financially coerced into prostitution, being assaulted when they were engaging in prostitution. And national statistics show that people who are engaged in prostitution as the person being prostituted have a high probability of being murdered. And so, I would just ask you to access that compassion that I know lies within all of us, and vote against the pending motion.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just think it would be important for us to know that there are already some affirmative defenses for engaging in prostitution because my colleague just mentioned economic hardship as one of the things that we should consider. And last session, we did pass a law that said - that says it is an affirmative defense to prosecution that the person engaged in prostitution to prevent bodily harm, serious economic hardship, serious injury, or another threat to the person or another person. So, in fact, this bill is completely unnecessary, but I just needed to correct that as it was stated. Thank you.

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

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. Permission to ask a question through the Chair?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. Can someone explain to me how a defense works? Is it automatic? Are you convicted or charged with the crime and then you have to defend yourself with a rebuttable defense, or am I missing something? Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman, has posed a series of questions through the Chair to anyone who may answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney.

Senator **CARNEY**: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to my colleague for asking the question. So, the opportunity to assert a defense such as coercion or financial hardship, those defenses only can be brought if somebody has been charged with a crime and is facing a criminal conviction. And again, the purpose of this legislation is to basically transform the lives of these people. For example, one example is that if you take away the threat of criminal prosecution, then somebody who is being trafficked or coerced can actually reach out to law enforcement for help. And that is, you know, 180 degrees different from the current situation, which is that now somebody who is being trafficked, even if they're being coerced, there is a deterrent to them for reaching out to law enforcement because there is always that threat of prosecution.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM**: Thank you. Just as an addendum to that answer, as law enforcement was mentioned, one of the strongest arguments we had heard about this from law enforcement was in fact that one of the best ways for them to rescue a person being trafficked is that they can take them into custody and then remove them from dangerous situations. As was mentioned, they're, you know, obviously more likely to bodily harmed or even murdered, so law enforcement said this is a much easier way for them to protect those people, and we're removing that protection for these people with this law. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Adoption of Senate Amendment "A" (S-207) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-194). A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#232)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

11 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 24 Senators having voted in the negative the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-207) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-194) **FAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-194) **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Ought to Pass as Amended

Senator RAFFERTY for the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Minimum Teacher Salary"

S.P. 433 L.D. 1064

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-176)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-176) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator LAWRENCE for the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Resolve, to Ensure that Eligible Customers Receive Payments from the Energy Rate Relief Fund (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 805 L.D. 1971

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-196)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-196) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BRENNER for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources"

S.P. 592 L.D. 1473

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-182)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-182) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Implement Secure Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Services

S.P. 85 L.D. 181

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-190)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-190) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator PIERCE for the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** on Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Accessory Dwelling Units

S.P. 271 L.D. 654

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-177)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-177) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator PIERCE for the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Expand Workforce Housing in Rural Maine by Funding the Maine State Housing Authority's Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program"

S.P. 282 L.D. 724

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-178)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-178) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TIPPING for the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Improve the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992"

S.P. 728 L.D. 1803

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-181)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-181) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections"

S.P. 113 L.D. 247

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-188)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-188) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Political Action Committees Relating to Union, Business and Nonprofit Organizations"

S.P. 284 L.D. 726

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)**.

Report **READ**.

On motion by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT**.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Criteria for State Approval of Alcoholic Beverage Container Labels"

S.P. 298 L.D. 740

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-187)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-187) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Fair and Timely Payment in the Harvesting of Forest Products"
S.P. 750 L.D. 1849

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-191)**.

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
HICKMAN of Kennebec

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren
COSTAIN of Plymouth
GUERRETTE of Caribou
HEPLER of Woolwich
JAUCH of Topsham
OSHER of Orono
SHAW of Auburn

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

Signed:

Senator:

BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:

CRAY of Palmyra
HALL of Wilton
JACKSON of Oxford

Reports **READ**.

Senator **INGWERSEN** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#233)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-191) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Modify the Visual Impact Standards for Offshore Wind Port Development" S.P. 748 L.D. 1847

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-183)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- BRENNER of Cumberland
- CARNEY of Cumberland
- LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

- GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
- BELL of Yarmouth
- BRIDGEO of Augusta
- CAMPBELL of Orrington
- DOUDERA of Camden
- HOBBS of Wells
- O'NEIL of Saco
- WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Representatives:

- SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
- SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#234)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LYFORD, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

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

25 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-183) **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, Senate Amendment "A" (S-211) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-183) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment for - this amendment creates a comprehensive ports bill, offshore wind ports bill, for the Legislature. It includes, with L.D. 1818 which has the visual sight impact issues, it also includes the high labor standards that were reviewed by the Committee on Labor. And I want to highlight for the Body why we are doing this. We are creating a comprehensive offshore wind port bill because we know that the offshore wind leases will go to auction in the very near future and Maine needs to be a leader. Maine needs to be at the table, we need to be developing this, and we can only be developing this if we have a port where - an offshore wind terminal where we are fabricating, creating these - the offshore wind and towing them out to sea, to the offshore wind grounds. This is the reasons why, why do we need to do this? We need to do this to meet our environmental climate change goals. We need to do this to create our energy independence for the state of Maine. We need to do this, rather than other states doing this, because here our fisheries have a seat at the table and we can make sure that any impact is mitigated and they're a part of the process, rather than other states. Our fisheries are not so well represented in New Hampshire, in Massachusetts, or further down the coast.

There's no guarantee that we are leading this, and so we need to prepare in order to lead this. And we do that by having a port, and we do that by having strong labor standards and making sure that we can site a port. By having - by those two things together, we can have a strong community, yes, for building a port and moving forward. And the other two reasons we need to do this, if those aren't strong enough for you, that protecting our fishermen and achieving our energy independence, you don't need to - you don't need to care about those, you can also care about the economic development for our state. These are long-term, very good jobs that will benefit the entire State of Maine.

And lastly - wait a minute, that might've been it. One second. I think I covered them all. Let's see, yes, I covered them all. Thank you very much.

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

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. So, this happens a lot around here, and I just figured now would be a good time to talk about it. You have a bill that is maybe seemingly makes sense, could go either way on it, something that could be supported, maybe not supported. But then there's this enormous amendment proposed on the floor of the Senate with no public hearing. The bottom line, Mr. President, is that there are substantial changes being made here and the public doesn't have a chance to weigh in. You know, I don't understand if this was all delved into in committee or not, but the bottom line is there's a lot of times where changes are made to bills in a substantial way through these kind of amendment processes, which happens on both sides of the aisle, but doesn't allow itself for full public comment. So, Mr. President, I'm not sure why we have to amend this bill in this fashion now, we can't just move forward with the bill as it was in its original posture. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Mr. President, and I appreciate the comments from the good Senator from Kennebec. I want to assure everybody that this bill had a robust public comment. It was - so, the amendment is L.D. - comes entirely as L.D. - this is 1847, it is L.D. 1818 that was seen in Labor and Housing, I think their public hearing swas over five hours long. And what the amendment proposes is to put them together as a comprehensive package, because we need both in order to move forward with our ports. And so, it did receive a robust - a robust committee public hearing, and I wanted to correct the record on that - or answer the question.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** It's kind of interesting that we're talking about other pieces of legislation not currently before the Body. So, is it my understanding, Mr. President, that what this amendment seeks to do is take a completely different legislative document, L.D. 1818, and essentially utilize L.D. 1847 as a legislative vehicle to add a substantial amendment, including private labor agreements, to this bill that otherwise might have been something that more could have supported?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot, has asked a series of questions. I will say that it isn't talking to another bill. It's actually the amendment which is the same as 1818, so that is before the Body. It's not talking about another bill. It's the amendment that's before us. But the other questions I'll leave to anyone that can answer.

Seeing none, the pending question before the Senate is Adoption of the Senate Amendment "A" (S-211) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-183). A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#235)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-211) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-183) **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-183) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-211) thereto, **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#236)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-183) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-211)** thereto.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of the Electronic Benefits Transfer System Outside of Maine, Massachusetts or New Hampshire to Obtain Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Benefits"

S.P. 216 L.D. 498

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-189)**.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues of the Senate, I rise in opposition to the pending motion, as the sponsor of the bill. This legislation revisits a welfare reform idea which passed in this Body during the 128th Legislature but died in

nonconcurrence between the Bodies, which responded to a report from the Maine Wire which cited DHHS records, obtained pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request, indicating millions of TANF dollars being spent outside the state of Maine. Some of those transactions could be easily understood. Most commonly, out-of-state transactions took place in neighboring states like New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Some transactions, however, were much harder to understand. After two neighboring - after our two neighboring states in New England, Florida saw the highest out-of-state usage of Maine TANF dollars. Maine welfare cash was being spent in every other state in the Union, as well as the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. ATM withdrawals with Maine TANF dollars were identified at popular vacation destinations including Disneyworld, North Miami Beach, Miami Beach, Vero Beach, Ormand Beach, Daytona Beach - a lot of beaches. The report raised several important questions that to this date have never really been answered. And I have actually some information here, actually provided to me by my seatmate on the Health and Human Services Committee, Senator Moore, showing that these out-of-state transactions continue going on to this day and Florida still is the number three state outside of our two neighbors. So, to quote the report, first, 'Although using welfare cash outside of Maine is currently legal, only residents can apply for and receive benefits. In cases where welfare recipients use their benefits outside the state of Maine for an extended period of time, it may be the case that the individual no longer resides in the state and may be improperly receiving benefits. The state does not currently have any formal mechanism in place to identify such recipients and terminate their benefits.' Second, 'Although no one can know for sure how much of this cash has been spent or obtained illegally, the volume of cash flowing to popular vacation destinations suggests an abuse of the program. At the minimum, out-of-state spending in places like Florida, Hawaii, California, and Las Vegas suggests some cash welfare recipients are not using their taxpayer funded benefits to help return to work, which is the purpose of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.'

This legislation responds to these concerns simply by establishing geographic limits, creating an exception for New Hampshire and Massachusetts, our neighboring states, as many do live near the border, to ensure that benefits are being used to help Maine residents and not being used to subsidize vacation budgets, which is not the purpose of the program. Exceptions would be made for both our neighboring states, as I mentioned. That's the bill. Thank you, Mr. President. And I - so, I oppose the pending motion and will be supporting the underlying bill.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to share with the Senate some of the observations made by the majority of the Health and Human Services Committee. First is that this is not - this would conflict with federal regulations. Federal law requires that each state allow access to cash, that they can use some of this for cash. That would violate - potentially violate this bill. Second, that would cost us \$77 million in fines and withholding of federal grant money. And even if - and this is just from the fiscal note that we received, that even if there were any savings they would stay with the program. But I think the other point that we also discussed and observed at the

committee is that a lot of these purchases are online. There's a huge amount from Arkansas, and presumably it's Walmart purchases. There's no accounting and there's no way to determine if these were made in person or online purchases of a product, such as Walmart, which would all be transferred through Arkansas, because Arkansas is one of the larger ones after Florida. So, I think that because it conflicts with federal regulation, that it could cost us million of dollars if we violate federal law, and because we really don't have a system at this point to know whether they're actually traveling to Florida or they're buying a product online that they're allowed to buy. For those reasons, I would ask the Senate to join the Majority Report.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#237)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets" S.P. 489 L.D. 1193

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford
GALLETTA of Durham
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford

RUSSELL of Verona Island
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
SKOLD of Portland

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Index Unemployment Benefits to the Unemployment Rate" S.P. 509 L.D. 1272

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-179)**.

Signed:

Representatives:
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, this is a bill that would be, I think, incredibly beneficial for our workforce. Right now, in Maine, you can get effectively six months of unemployment benefits. Right now, given the current state of our actual labor force, labor participation, as well as the need for more workers, we - the good news is we have that in Maine, they're just not engaging. And a part of that problem is that the span of which they can receive unemployment benefits is, frankly, too long, particularly given the current economic conditions that we're experiencing in Maine right now, there's no real need for it. So, this bill would say that the span of benefits is truncated based on economic conditions and then, of course, if the economy takes a turn, it would go back to the current standard.

You might hear arguments of things like well, this is needed for things like mud season and others. Well, mud season doesn't last six months, and you know that better than anybody, Mr. President. I do think that there is a role for unemployment. I'm not saying we do away with that, I'm not saying that we should not even have, you know, three months, right. If it takes you three months to find a job in this market, I don't really think that you're looking, but that's the reality of the world that we're in right now. If you have 12 weeks of benefits, it's going to take 11 weeks before folks are really engaging in work search. If you have 26 weeks of benefits, which is what we currently have, it's going to take folks 25 weeks. And that's the reality of the world that we're living in. And so, with that, I would request a Roll Call and hope that you follow my light so that we can get more folks engaging in the workforce. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING**: Thank you, Mr. President. This bill, as has been started to be explained there, it reduces unemployment insurance from 26 weeks to just 12 weeks if unemployment is 5% or less. It would set a new maximum of 20 weeks total if unemployment is 9%. So, that's a pretty drastic cut for a lot of people that are facing a difficult time. People that are receiving unemployment insurance already have to have lost their job through no fault of their own and be actively seeking work and submitting reports weekly on that. The average use of unemployment is less than half of the total amount allowed. This bill is a very blunt instrument. It does not allow for regional or personal differences or job conditions, and there are large regional differences in this state. The poverty rate and the rate of people without a college degree, which often affect the unemployment rate, is twice as high in Aroostook County as it is in Cumberland County. This would not allow for those differences. It also wouldn't allow for the loss of a large regional employer or sudden downsizing. In my district, we have the ND Mill in Old Town which is looking at closing or temporary work stoppage and laying off 200 people. This wouldn't allow for a sudden influx of people looking for jobs in a certain area. This would harm thousands of people in Maine and their families, and it wouldn't do anything to help people find good jobs. So, I thank you, Mr. President, and I appreciate the time.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#238)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senator: LAWRENCE

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Require Auditing for Work Search Requirements of Claimants of Unemployment Compensation"

S.P. 534 L.D. 1316

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

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

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-180)**.

Signed:

Senator:
POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I heard a moment ago the good Senator from Penobscot mentioned the fact that folks are already supposed to be looking for work when they're on unemployment and yet the fact remains that if you talk to many employers, some of whom are even in this room, they will tell you that there is no mechanism whereby that is actually being verified. And the Department, if you call them, they're not going to look into any of these situations. In fact, I've heard from many constituents - many constituents that that is exactly what happens, that folks will throw an application in just to keep their benefits, but not actually show up to an interview. This is going back to this issue of ghosting, which this Chamber has already shot down one time before this session, and I expect fully that they will shoot it down another time here in just a few minutes. But I thought it was really ironic that just a moment ago, we had a debate about whether or not these benefits were being provided to people who were actually searching for work. Well, if that's the case, then pass this bill, because nobody will lose benefits if that's actually happening. But the reality is that it's not, that folks are, in fact, engaging in the practice that's been termed ghosting, and what this bill does is seek to address it and verify that they're actually searching for work, which is a precondition of unemployment, and I totally agree on that, but the reality is, and if you talk to employers out there, it's not happening. So, with that, Mr. President, I'd request a Roll Call, and hope that you follow my light.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#239)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Align the Minimum Rate of Pay for Manufacturers of Maine License Plates at the Maine State Prison with Maine's Minimum Wage Laws"

S.P. 336 L.D. 777

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
FARRIN of Somerset
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor
ALBERT of Madawaska
MASON of Lisbon
O'CONNELL of Brewer
PARRY of Arundel
THERIAULT of Fort Kent
WHITE of Waterville
WHITE of Guilford

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)**.

Signed:

Senator:
CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Representatives:
ANKELES of Brunswick
CRAFTS of Newcastle

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

Eleven members of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Increase Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

S.P. 576 L.D. 1458

Reported in Report "**A**" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-193)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- RAFFERTY of York
- LIBBY of Cumberland
- PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

- BRENNAN of Portland
- DODGE of Belfast
- LYMAN of Livermore Falls
- MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
- MURPHY of Scarborough
- SAMPSON of Alfred
- SARGENT of York
- WORTH of Ellsworth

One member of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "**B**" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-194)**.

Signed:

Representative:

- POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

One member of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "**C**" that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Representative:

- BAGSHAW of Windham

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, Report "**A**", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-193)**, **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-193) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-193)**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine
H.P. 1242 L.D. 1934

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

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

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Permit the Expenditure of Accumulated Tax Increment Revenues"
H.P. 1054 L.D. 1644

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.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Require the State to Purchase Farms Contaminated with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"

H.P. 187 L.D. 289

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-324)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-324)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-324) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Create the Maine Experiential Education Program"

H.P. 1081 L.D. 1682

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-314)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-314)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-314) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of Interest in Certain Lands Owned by the State in Piscataquis County

H.P. 1238 L.D. 1930

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-315)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-315)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-315) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing Grants for Safety Equipment"

H.P. 321 L.D. 516

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-317)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-317)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-317) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Eligibility of County Jail Inmates for a Community Confinement Monitoring Program"

H.P. 461 L.D. 692

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-316)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-316)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-316) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Payments to Recipients of Restitution" H.P. 650 L.D. 1014

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-311)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-311)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-311) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Provide That the Legal Use or Possession of Cannabis Is Not a Violation of Probation, Parole or Pretrial Release"

H.P. 836 L.D. 1311

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-310)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-310)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-310) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, to Amend the Rules Regarding Athletic Director Qualifications

H.P. 302 L.D. 485

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-290)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-290)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-290) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing"

H.P. 654 L.D. 1018

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-289)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-289)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-289) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, To Direct the University of Maine System to Establish a Dental Therapy Degree Program

H.P. 662 L.D. 1026

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-273)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-273)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-273) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Higher Education Tuition Waiver for Persons Who Have Resided in Foster Care"

H.P. 664 L.D. 1028

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-269)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-269)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-269) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Protect Children by Modernizing Internet and Digital Media Filtering Requirements for Education"

H.P. 847 L.D. 1333

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-325)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-325)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-325) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education"

H.P. 881 L.D. 1367

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-270)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-270)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-270) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Address Solar Energy Development Decommissioning"

H.P. 313 L.D. 496

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-288)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-288)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-288) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Develop and Enforce Mandatory Recycling of All Solar and Wind Projects"

H.P. 283 L.D. 466

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-274)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-274)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-274) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Disposal of Certain Solar Panels in the State and to Require Bonds to Cover Disposal Costs"

H.P. 515 L.D. 826

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-275)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-275)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-275) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects"

H.P. 289 L.D. 472

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-302)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-302)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-302) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1241 L.D. 1933

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.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bonding Restrictions for School Administrative Units"

H.P. 153 L.D. 232

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-365)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-365)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-365) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Study on the Equity of the State Education Subsidy Formula

H.P. 732 L.D. 1160

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-353)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-353)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-353) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Role of Critical Minerals as a Resource in the State

H.P. 950 L.D. 1495

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-359)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-359)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-359) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Support Individuals with Personality Disorder or Emotional Dysregulation by Requiring Reimbursement Under the MaineCare Program"

H.P. 529 L.D. 840

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-344)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-344)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-344) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedicine Programs from Home Health Care Provider Licensing Requirements"

H.P. 549 L.D. 883

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-304)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-304)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-304) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Supporting the Rural Health Care Workforce in Maine"

H.P. 560 L.D. 904

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-343)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-343)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-343) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Resolve, to Reduce Workforce Barriers for Mental Health Professionals in Maine

H.P. 633 L.D. 997

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-342)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-342)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-342) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Regarding State Review of Compliance with Licensing Rules of Certain Facilities and Programs Having National Accreditation"

H.P. 913 L.D. 1417

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-357)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-357)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-357) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act Regarding Airboat Noise"

H.P. 142 L.D. 221

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-334)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-334)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-334) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Municipalities Receive a Higher Percentage of All-terrain Vehicle Registration Fees to Cover Increased Expenses"

H.P. 194 L.D. 296

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-333)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-333)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-333) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Extend the Time for Youth Deer Hunting"

H.P. 299 L.D. 482

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-262)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-262)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-262) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Provide for Administrative Suspension of Licenses and Certificates Issued Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws"

H.P. 980 L.D. 1525

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-368)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-368)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-368) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Implement Changes to the Laws Relating to Judicial Separation and Divorce Regarding Preliminary Injunctions as Recommended by the Family Law Advisory Commission"

H.P. 1109 L.D. 1730

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-281)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-281)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-281) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Address Employee Retention at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and the Computer Crimes Unit in the Department of Public Safety"

H.P. 121 L.D. 197

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-312)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-312)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-312) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on 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

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-313)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-313)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-313) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws"
H.P. 20 L.D. 16

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-284)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-284) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-354)** thereto.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-284) **READ**.

House Amendment "A" (H-354) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-284) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-284) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-354) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-284) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-354)** thereto, in concurrence.

The Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility Restrictions for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 940 L.D. 1444

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-367)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-367)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-367) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Governor's Salary"
H.P. 106 L.D. 165

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-292)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-292)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-292) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Resolve, to Study the Creation of a State Employee and Legislative Child Care Center

H.P. 550 L.D. 884

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-291)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-291)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-291) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Address Legislative Salaries"

H.P. 727 L.D. 1155

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-267)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-267)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-267) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2024"

H.P. 47 L.D. 72

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-366)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-366)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-366) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Allow Sponsorship Signs at Outdoor Athletic Facilities"

H.P. 248 L.D. 397

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-298)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-298)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-298) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Require Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations"

H.P. 284 L.D. 467

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-264)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-264)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-264) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or Livestock"

H.P. 375 L.D. 598

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-265)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-265)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-265) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Safety for Unregistered Farm Tractors and Animal-drawn Vehicles on Highways"

H.P. 455 L.D. 686

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-266)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-266)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-266) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act Regarding Water Testing Related to Salt and Sand Storage Facilities"

H.P. 655 L.D. 1019

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-297)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-297)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-297) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Modernize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Mobile Services"

H.P. 855 L.D. 1341

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-295)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-295)**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-295) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 669 L.D. 1664

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-209)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-209) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TIPPING for the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on 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

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-205)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-205) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TIPPING for the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Allow Bargaining Agents for Public Sector Unions to Merge" S.P. 784 L.D. 1922

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-197)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-197) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program for Apprenticeships for Inmates

H.P. 1200 L.D. 1875

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:
SALISBURY of Westbrook
ARDELL of Monticello
LOOKNER of Portland
MADIGAN of Waterville
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-339)**.

Signed:

Senator:
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representative:
HASENFUS of Readfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Support Rural Education" H.P. 946 L.D. 1491

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-351)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-351)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-351)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, this bill establishes a Teacher Shortage Coordinator in the Department of Education to assist with teacher prep programs for people who are willing to teach in the areas of the teacher shortage. This is work for material that is done at the local level already. The position is not necessary. The coordinator would then need to submit an annual support to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and that's another reason why that we don't need the position. There's a lot of make work here. There is a teacher shortage, for sure. Part of it, we took care of, a unanimous support of an increase in the salary for teachers that - the increase in the minimum wage. And that, I think, will do - we should wait and see how that should work. We also worked on other school personnel minimum wage. So, to me, it's an issue that is not ready for

primetime. In other words, again, if a business person was looking at this, what they would say is okay, well, we have a number of unfilled positions, we take a look at the job description, adjust the job description if something is necessary here - and part of it probably is - rather than create a new position. And so, you know, in the past, of course, I've heard from members of the - of various state agencies that they use some of the money for the unfilled positions to pay for overtime. And so, you know, in my estimation, again, that's not something that you'd see in business, typically. I think what the Legislature should be doing is pressing the Executive Branch on behaviors like that. But instead, we're creating new positions. I'd ask you to not support the pending motion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#240)

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

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

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-351) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve the Educational Experience of People Who Are Resettling in Maine

H.P. 1091 L.D. 1702

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-352)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-352)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-352)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-352) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Require Net Energy Billing Credits to be Nonlapsing"
S.P. 226 L.D. 509

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-202)**.

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BOYLE of Gorham
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

Reports **READ**.

Senator **LAWRENCE** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Arostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen of the Senate - geez, it's been a long day. I'm not going to right this second, but at some point, I'm going to ask for a tabling motion.

We've got a number of questions here on this bill, including what the impact of the rollover of the credits. So, to set the table a little bit here, so, this bill would allow for any excess that's generated beyond the kilowatt limit in the net energy billing program to go towards the - I believe it's the LIAP program, which is a laudable cause and I think what we're trying to do here is understand what the actual effect of that is going to be. And by that, what I mean is what is the impact to the other ratepayers if there's an overgeneration or - yeah, I think that's the right phrasing, overgeneration for some of these rooftop solar projects, smaller-scale solar projects? What effect does that have on the rest of the folks that are in the grid and do those credits get paid for by everybody else? In other words, are we socializing that benefit towards LIAP through - across the other ratepayers or is something else happening there? And I don't know the answer to that. As well as what is the impact to the individual behind the meter in terms of are those credits that are then given to LIAP, are those - could those be used as tax deductions or something

else in terms of a benefit towards the owner of that property? And there was one more question that we had, and maybe somebody else from the caucus could help me out with remembering what that was, but those are the big ones, is what's the effect of this change here, because it was sort of understood that the reason - there's a reason for the cap, and if we're going to go beyond it, regardless of the circumstances, what's the effect of that. So, I'll leave it there for now. Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, has posed a series of questions through the Chair that he definitely could not answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. And I think I understand and remember all the questions, but the effects of this bill is very good. These lapsed credits, which currently just lapse and go to the benefit of the utilities will go to the LIAP program, and that will save ratepayers and taxpayers money because we don't have to put more money in the LIAP program to get it to work effectively. So, rather than just letting these credits lapse, we allow them to go into LIAP program, which will help to better fund the LIAP program, and save those - save the other ratepayers from having to put more money into the LIAP program.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just recalled what my other question was. I appreciate the help there. So, if - is there any sort of planned reduction in General Fund dollars that we'd otherwise set aside for LIAP? Would this offset some of that? What's the dollar-for-dollar effect of that in terms of if we are sliding credits over there, what does that actually look like in terms of funds to that program, as part one of that question. And then part two is, is there any - and I suppose this would probably be taking place down in appropriations more than anywhere else - but is there any plan to offset there in terms of how we budget for that program as a state if this change was to go forward and what would that new dynamic look like? Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, has posed a series of questions through the Chair to anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. There is no money that comes from or to the General Fund to compensate for this. We don't reduce the amount of the General Fund going into the LIAP program because these credits are being put into the LIAP program. Just to let the good member know, and I know he used to be a member of the committee, the Office of the Public Advocate has come in and said they are \$15 million short each year in the amount of funds they need to put into low income - low-income programs, and they are going around and searching for that money, and I'm sure they're going to be going to appropriations. So, the more of these types of little pockets of money we can find and put in the LIAP program, the less pressure there is on the General Fund to pay for the LIAP program.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. I appreciate all the answers there and the back and forth. With that, Mr. President, I move to table this item until later in today's session.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure
S.P. 395 L.D. 924

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-203).**

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
BOYLE of Gorham
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

Reports **READ.**

Senator **LAWRENCE** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, our caucus had a robust discussion on this bill earlier this evening, and there's a number of remaining questions, I think, around here that I know many of my caucus would like to get an answer to. I'm positive of the benefit of Aroostook County in this, but I want to make sure that our folks in here understand the benefit to the rest of the state with the same project. Namely, the two components here that are tough, and I have been waiting on for a while, most importantly to me is what's the impact on cost to ratepayers? What are we really talking about here in terms of numbers? I know that that's an ask that I've had for a while, I haven't gotten a hard and fast answer yet, and so it makes it very difficult for folks to make a determination whether this is a good thing or a bad thing. And then second that got brought up in caucus today, and I think is a really good point, is that if we're trying to honor the intent of what the referendum was, I know it was around the CMP corridor a couple years ago, but this is another transmission line, and I think what the goal of that whole process there was to better understand the impact of some of these bills, and without knowing what the actual path of the corridor is here, it makes it really hard to do that. And so, I know folks in my caucus were really curious what the actual route is going to be. I understand there's some dynamics at play here, but I think we're at the point here with, you know, two weeks left of session, we really need the answers to those questions at that point, before we're going to be able to make an informed decision here one way or the other, and I don't want this effort to fail on party lines just for a lack of information. And so, I pose that, I guess, as a question to the Chair. If anybody has that information, that would be great, incredibly helpful, and something I look forward to seeing personally, and I know my colleagues do as well, what's the impact on the rest of the state in terms of rates and then, of course, the minimis impact in Aroostook County because we're not actually attached to it, but - and is there a plan yet for what the route is going to look like definitively. Is it going to cross public lands? I know that was an issue of concern. I'm mostly raising that for my good friend from Oxford, who's not presently here because he's negotiating the budget right now, so we're trying to figure out some answers to those questions I'd like to get, if at all possible, Mr. President. So, thank you.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE**: Thank you, Mr. President. And to briefly give some answers to those questions - and first of all, this is not along party lines, this is a bipartisan majority report. And to answer the question on the costs. First of all, the costs, in the bill, as it was originally brought in two years ago, requires the PUC to only go into this if there is a benefit to the ratepayers. So, there has to be a benefit to the ratepayers, meaning it's going to cost ratepayers less to do this than buy power from other sources. So, I can't give the good Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, an

answer on how much that savings will be because we don't know, but the preliminary projections I've kind of seen look very favorable for this project, coming in well under what current rates are, so that's very, very encouraging. The answer on the route, we won't know the route until we know the route, that's just the reality. And I don't think the - but I can tell him that if it were to cross any public lands, and my understanding from the developers is it will not cross public lands, but if it were to cross public lands, they would have to come back and ask the Legislature for permission to do that. So, we will get it again if it has to cross public lands, but the route process is going to be set by the process we have in place going through the DEP, going through all the permitting process, and that will set the route. I don't think the referendum that happened last year on the corridor was any indication that the public wanted the Legislature to be able to veto the route once the route is known. That was never my impression about that referendum. And just to answer the questions, this is not a transmission line, it's a connector. This is not bringing it from out of state, out of country into the state, through the state, to another state, it's connecting within the state a wind project to the state transmission system. And that's very different than what happened on the corridor that was voted on two years ago. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Plastic Packaging Waste"

H.P. 1055 L.D. 1645

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-360)**.

Signed:

Senator:
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
DOUDERA of Camden
HOBBS of Wells
O'NEIL of Saco
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-360)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-360)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#241)

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCI, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, RENY, TIPPING

EXCUSED: Senator: LAWRENCE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in **NON-CONCURRENCE, PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Make Electric Breast Pumps More Accessible by Providing for MaineCare Reimbursement" H.P. 380 L.D. 603

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-356)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-356)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-356)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-356) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-358) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing"

H.P. 642 L.D. 1006

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-358)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-358)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-358)**.

Reports **READ**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Resolve, to Amend the MaineCare Hospital Readmission Protocol (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 700 L.D. 1104

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-341)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
MADIGAN of Waterville
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Representative:

LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-341)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-341)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-341) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code as It Relates to Pet Insurance" H.P. 188 L.D. 290

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MATHIESON of Kittery
PRINGLE of Windham

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-201)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
SWALLOW of Houlton

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 60 L.D. 92

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-363)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BLACK of Franklin
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

LANDRY of Farmington
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
DILL of Old Town
GOLEK of Harpswell
HEPLER of Woolwich
MASON of Lisbon
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Greene

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-363)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-363)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-363) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes"

H.P. 503 L.D. 814

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
BLACK of Franklin
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

LANDRY of Farmington
DILL of Old Town
DRINKWATER of Milford
HEPLER of Woolwich
MASON of Lisbon
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Greene
WOODSOME of Waterboro

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-147)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
GOLEK of Harpswell

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Allow Sunday Hunting by Landowners on Their Land"

H.P. 738 L.D. 1166

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
BLACK of Franklin
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

LANDRY of Farmington
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
DILL of Old Town
DRINKWATER of Milford
GOLEK of Harpswell
HEPLER of Woolwich
WOODSOME of Waterboro

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-320)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

MASON of Lisbon
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Greene

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Allow Sunday Hunting with a Bow and Arrow or Crossbow"

H.P. 789 L.D. 1241

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec
BLACK of Franklin
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

LANDRY of Farmington
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
DILL of Old Town
DRINKWATER of Milford
GOLEK of Harpswell
HEPLER of Woolwich
WOODSOME of Waterboro

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-364)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

- MASON of Lisbon
- THORNE of Carmel
- WOOD of Greene

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Ensure an Incarcerated Individual's Right to Make Free Telephone Calls Protected by Attorney-Client Privilege" H.P. 386 L.D. 609

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-192)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- CARNEY of Cumberland
- BAILEY of York
- BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

- ANDREWS of Paris
- HAGGAN of Hampden
- HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought To Pass as Amended** Report.)

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-192)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-192)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT**, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Limits on Awards for Compensatory and Punitive Damages Under the Maine Human Rights Act" H.P. 919 L.D. 1423

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

Signed:

Senators:

- CARNEY of Cumberland
- BAILEY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

- BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

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

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought To Pass** Report.)

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

Reports **READ**.

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

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#242)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, LAWRENCE

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Provide for Civil Recovery Based on Nonconsensual Removal of or Tampering with a Condom and Considering Sexual Assault in Evaluating Parental Rights"

H.P. 1082 L.D. 1683

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-283)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
BAILEY of York
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

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

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought To Pass as Amended** Report.)

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-283)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-283)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is a civil - seeks a civil remedy and not a criminal remedy, and it gives the victim six years to bring forward litigation against someone if they allege that they were stealthing. And I think this is a really unfair position to place people in. It's very difficult, obviously, to prove either way, but six years is a really long time to decide that this - that something happened to you that was nonconsensual, I guess, and it could be a way, obviously, of taking advantage of someone with just a relationship that has gone away. So, I think this increases litigation, a very difficult thing to prove, and isn't really going to be addressing an issue, but creating more problems. So, I would request a Roll Call. Thank you.

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

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to address the issue of six years. Six years is kind of the norm and the default statute of limitations for civil liabilities. It's not across the board, but that is the norm and the most common statute of limitations.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#243)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, LYFORD, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, LAWRENCE

27 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-283) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefit Reductions for Certain Employees Currently Included in the 1998 Special Plan"

H.P. 300 L.D. 483

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-293)**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Senator:
POULIOT of Kennebec

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-293)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-293)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-293) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Provide Energy Efficiency Program Outreach and Assistance to Manufactured Housing Residents"

H.P. 504 L.D. 815

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-323)**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-323)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-323)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-323) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Provide That the Minimum Wage Increases by the Rolling Average of the Cost of Living of the Previous 3 Years" H.P. 545 L.D. 855

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
TIPPING of Penobscot
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

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

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-165)**.

Signed:

Representatives:
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Create a Rebuttable Presumption Under the Workers' Compensation Law for Line Workers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder"

H.P. 827 L.D. 1302

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-321)**.

Signed:

Senators:
TIPPING of Penobscot
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
GALLETTA of Durham
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-321)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-321)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-321) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Equal Pay Law by Prohibiting Pay Discrimination Based on Race"

H.P. 1092 L.D. 1703

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

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Allow Workers to Work Without Having to Pay Labor Organization Service Fees"

H.P. 1096 L.D. 1707

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-294)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
GALLETTA of Durham
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#244)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, LAWRENCE

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Reduce the Benefit Penalty Imposed on Career Educators Who Retire After 35 Years of Service" S.P. 89 L.D. 185

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-201)**.

Signed:

Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot

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

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

Signed:

Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro DRINKWATER of Milford SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-201) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Training Repayment Agreements by Employers"

S.P. 299 L.D. 741

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-200)**.

Signed:

Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot

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

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

Signed:

Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro DRINKWATER of Milford SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. This is an important bill that would ban training repayment agreement provisions by employers, or TRAPs. And that is not an acronym that opponents came up with, it was created by industry lawyers, and the idea is that it can trap people in jobs by requiring them to pay back sometimes tens of thousands of dollars in fines for a supposed training if they leave their employment within a certain period of time. So, one federal judge called this indentured servitude. It has been highlighted in several high-profile cases across the country, including PetSmart, where they charged their groomers a \$5,500 training fee if they left within two years of starting employment because of the training they said they provided to them as dog groomers. This bill has been amended and it exempts any transferable credentials - so, like a CDL or if you're getting a college degree paid for or something like that, it wouldn't prohibit it, but it would close an important loophole here, especially as we're considering noncompetes and other provisions like that, and the federal government is as well, and it's especially important right now in our economy where we want people to be mobile, to go to the jobs they're best suited for, and where they can get the wages and benefits they deserve. Thank you, Mr. President, and I appreciate all your time.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#245)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, LAWRENCE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-200) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Include Certain Crisis Outreach and Crisis Services Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement" S.P. 707 L.D. 1760

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-199)**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Senator:
POULIOT of Kennebec

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-199) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Include Certain Mental Health Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement"

S.P. 708 L.D. 1761

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-198)**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Senator:
POULIOT of Kennebec

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-198) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects"

S.P. 733 L.D. 1818

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-206)**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
GEIGER of Rockland
MALON of Biddeford
RUSSELL of Verona Island
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:
Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Restore the Former State of Maine Flag"

H.P. 54 L.D. 86

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-232)**.

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
POMERLEAU of Standish
RISEMAN of Harrison

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

Signed:

Senator:
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:
ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-232)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-232)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of L.D. 86. This bill, if passed, will restore the original 1901 Maine flag. Before 1901, Maine didn't have a flag and the proposed flag is the original Maine flag. In 1909, for some reason, the Legislature changed the flag to the current flag and, according to the State Archivist, there is no notes or indication of why the flag was changed. Some have been concerned that we are changing the state seal, and that's not the case. The State seal will remain the State seal and will continue to be used on official documents like our business cards. In the committee, this bill had broad support among the Democrats, Republicans, and Independent on the committee. Many Maine residents have already approved this new design by flying this flag at their homes, used as decorations in homes, businesses, and even some bars. People have placed stickers on their cars, computers, and some wear the flag proudly. As far as a fiscal note goes, it's minimal. It can be absorbed within existing resources. There's nothing new about this Legislature changing the flag. They've done it before, once in 1901 and again in 1909. And Representative Paulhus was nice enough to give me a quote from the - that was published in the Kennebec Journal back in 1901 about the newly selected flag: 'The design as adopted is preferable in many respects to the State coat of arms, which there was some thought of placing on the flag. Maine is everywhere known as the pine tree state, and what could be more appropriate than that representation of a tree should be one of the salient features of our flag. While the State coat of arms might not be easily recognized, the pine tree would be known in any state in the union as the emblem of Maine. Where a flag bearing the pine tree carried through the city, the people would say, there is Maine.' Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** I don't want to speak too long on this matter.

Thank you, Mr. President. Or get too involved in matters of dendrology, but just wanted to note that the language does specify a pine tree proper in this bill, and I think that's important, and it not be whatever has been borrowed from the naval ensign. So, I hope as the Secretary of State, if this passes, develops the model flag, that will be taken into account. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Well, well, well. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. They say this is bipartisan. I really think the new proposal for a flag is about the ugliest darn thing that I ever did see. It don't even look like a pine tree. It don't represent a pine tree. It looks like something that a young kid drew. I think the people in 1909 got it right when they got rid of the flag and they put a farmer and a fisherman on the flag. I think the traditional Maine flag is well represented around the country and around the world because I - there was a time that Maine was known for being farmers and fishermen and lumberjacks, and I think all three were represented on that flag with the tree. And probably we should change it so that the kids of our future never understand that back in the early 1800s and 1900s Maine was one of the top farming states in New England, and we should probably take that heritage away like we've done with everything else throughout the country. But I'm going to stand and fight today. I know nobody's going to listen. At the end of the day, you're going to vote the way you want to, because that's what I've learned here this year. I've learned over the years that, when I first got here 13 years ago, that I think we listened to each other a little better. I'm not convinced we do that anymore. But that's all right, I'm still going to appreciate every single one of you when I walk out the door. I'm going to respect you and the positions you have. But I think that there was a reason the flag was changed in 1909. It's because it represented Maine. It represented who we are. I think we're doing a disservice to the people by changing the flag, I really do. This is a heartfelt feeling. So, I won't belittle this on because I could literally go on for an hour on all the reasons why we shouldn't do this, but I really hope you think, that this is taking another statue down of what Maine represents. Yeah, the seal will be out there, but it's not flown on everybody's lawn. And, you know, I'm a pretty stubborn guy, if nobody didn't notice that somewhere along the way. I'll make sure that I buy enough Maine flags in the next - in the next 60 days or 90 days, if this passes, that will last me my lifetime, because I feel wicked confident that I'm never going to fly the new flag, if it's passed, because I don't think it represents who I am and what my state is and where we all came from, and for that reason, I'll be opposing the pending motion.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I have some concerns about the legislation as drafted. That said, I am going to support adoption of the committee report in this moment, with the hope that when I bring forward a Floor Amendment we might address that concern. I just want to say briefly that I love both of our flags. I love the State seal and what it showcases of Maine. But I also do love the original 1901 Maine flag. I won't go into all the history like I did on the Floor who knows how long ago now. The time all bleeds together in this place, but I do remember

when I do look at that - that 1901 Maine flag with the star and the pine tree, I do think of our history. I think of that time when native and colonial Maine people stood together on the shores of Machias in defense of Maine pine trees from the British Navy. I think of those moments when we all stood together in defense of - well, in defense of our state and our fight for independence. I will say my - my concern, which again, I'm going to vote for this adoption of the committee report at this moment, my concern is the lack of including all of Maine people in this decision. Because this is not the flag of the Maine Legislature, this is the flag of the State of Maine and all the Maine people. And this isn't picking the State dog or choosing the State snack or even the State rock. This is the Maine flag that's going to fly in every classroom, every government building across the state. It's already flying in front of many Maine houses. People can choose, I guess, which flag they want to put there at their own place of residence, but this is something I think that is very significant, the changing of the flag and restoring the original Maine flag. Again, I'll say I think the original flag is beautiful. I think it's beautiful in its simplicity. I know I've handed out more of these flag pins to members of the House and the Senate than I can count. You know, I had these - these flag pins created during my congressional campaign a few years back because I thought the flag was beautiful in what it stood for and what it represents. I was wearing it in the Legislature and I've had everyone ranging from Senator Hickman to the Speaker of the House to colleagues of both Republicans and Democrats saying 'where did you get that? How do I get one of those? That's a beautiful flag.' And I said 'well, I got some in my desk right here' - and I'm down to only three remaining, by the way, so if anyone wants one, you've got to ask quickly. I'd like to restore the original flag. I just would like to make sure that it's a conversation that all Maine people are involved in, and I think that we would really be missing an opportunity if we did not include the people of our state. And I will say, yesterday, because the Judiciary Committee was working late and we were waiting on our House members to return to committee, just as they're waiting on us now up in the Judiciary Committee, I had the opportunity to watch some of, you know, in the House of Representatives on this matter. And I was disappointed to see this is becoming a partisan matter.

And I will say the disagreement seemed to really spark from some people just don't want to restore the original Maine flag, and I understand that, and I respect that, and I certainly respect Senator Timberlake and his comments and where he's coming from. But one thing I heard over and over again, and frankly I'm hearing from people back home, is why are we cutting the Maine people out of this choice? Why are we not including everyone? And I just want to share very briefly, I was just, you know, we all go to social media sometimes to see what people are saying. Here's a few thoughts from some Maine people that I just managed to see. WGME posted a story about the vote yesterday, and here's what some folks said. Mike Adams of Maine says, 'how about the people decide?' Janet says, 'that's not fair, any change to the State flag should be supported by a large majority. Let the people vote.' David says, 'while I do like the flag, I would prefer it added to a ballot so the public could also weigh in.' Reading the article, though, I really think it's not a bad idea in the long run. Diane responded and said, 'I agree, put it on the ballot and the people of this state decide.' Virginia says, 'I'd like to see something like this go out to citizen vote.' Justin responds, 'exactly.' That's just a few Maine people, I'm sure it's not a representative sample, this isn't a public poll or anything,

but we are hearing from Maine people that - including many Maine people who would love to see the former flag restored, we're hearing from people that it would mean so much more if this was something that the people decided, and not just the 186 members of this Legislature. So, I'll vote for the motion, and I'll bring forward a Floor Amendment in just a moment. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, wow, it's late. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to respond to two remarks from our good colleagues from Androscoggin County. I am excited to be able to speak in agreement with the good Senator who just spoke over our shared love of the original flag, and I do want to state in response to the other Senator from Androscoggin County on my left, that I understand some of the concerns about some of the models of the State flag that are out there. The amazing thing if we were to embrace this and get it set as a standard, there would be a standard. We would have to make sure that they looked all cohesive. And actually, the language in the bill states that it has to be a pine tree, and if you look at the historical record of the flag that we had at the turn of the century, it is a beautiful, beautiful pine tree. I just want to add one last anecdote. A very scientific survey - many of you know I work behind a bar, and we have this flag hanging behind the bar, and it has been a topic of strong debate in conversation for the five years that our doors have been open. And we've actually started a running joke for those of us behind there, and we actually started to keep a tally of what people think, and over five to one prefer the original Maine flag. So, just adding that in there.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I think it's a shame, really, that we would erase a Latin phrase like *Dirigo* from the flag. And I don't know that people have really thought about this, *Dirigo*. Where did that come from? First of all, it means 'I lead,' and we do. But where did it come from? Do you realize that the State of Maine used to be - used to have elections in September? And 'as Maine goes, so goes the nation' came from that. A lot of students take a great deal of pride, and I remember the first time I did it, Mr. President, I was taking Latin back in my freshman year of high school, and that was our assignment; what does *Dirigo* mean, why is it on the flag, what does it mean? The flag that we're considering today has nothing written. There's so much symbolism in the current flag. I'm more concerned about, I think, the Latin and *Dirigo* and the fact that we do lead but, I mean, if you look at the flag, you've got the North Star, you know, you have a moose, you've got the seal, it's just - it's an excellent flag. But little by little, I hate to see that Latin kind of eroding and taken from our tradition here in Maine. So, I will be voting against the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **NANGLE**: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. Very unscientific poll, but right now on the Portland Press Herald webpage they have a story about the House last night debating it, and they've also done a survey, and it's currently running at 22% want to keep the Dirigo flag and 78% want to go to the pine tree flag, and that's 75 for the Dirigo, 260 for the pine tree. So, I think that - while, again, that's not a very scientific study, it does provide a representation of how the residents feel. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY**: Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I just rise to correct one thing about the phrase Dirigo, which I also value as one of the most amazing things about our state seal, and frankly, I sort of see it as not only our guiding star, but as a sort of lens for us to conduct our work. And I want to be clear that the potential new flag has Dirigo. The star is meant to be the physical representation of the Latin phrase of Dirigo. And I love that it's so prominent and present on the flag. I just wanted to add that it's not being deleted.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM**: Thank you. I thought I should join the debate on the flag. I feel that when we take this step, it is - it is a big step, and there's continuity in having our State seal our State flag, and it's a branding, it's - the continuity there lets you know that it's Maine. I was also in discussion with other colleagues on this, and they brought up the fact that removing the people dehumanizes our flag, and that we all have come here and are here because of people and not because of pine trees. The whole entire point of being a people that leads is people. And so that's what we're removing from the flag. I think, given the discussion of last night, the robust debate of last night from our colleagues in the House, and the many opinions here today, that it isn't best for us to be deciding this as such a small representative of the people of Maine. This is not something that we have accurately polled on. And yet, it's a really wholesale change to what represents our state. And so, I just feel that we are being overly ambitious in changing such an important statement of who are state is, to just create a new flag without the buy-in of the majority of the Maine people.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#246)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, CHIPMAN, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senator: CARNEY

18 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 16 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-232) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin, Senate Amendment "A" (S-146) **READ**.

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

Senator **BRAKEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. As I mentioned in my earlier remarks, I'm bringing forward this floor amendment to this bill, which would do just one really simple thing, it would take the question of the flag in this legislation, and it would put it out to the voters on the November ballot. First, I want to say I think just how close the vote was, I think really reveals something about perhaps how uncomfortable some are with us being the ones to make this decision. And further, if we were to go forward and do this, unilaterally as the Legislature, without giving the Maine people the opportunity to choose for - for all of us as a state what that - what our flag is that represents us as a people, I think it will cheapen that flag if we miss this opportunity and we go it alone. I heard, you know, about various unscientific polls, which doesn't surprise me. I know a lot of people who love the original flag, and I wouldn't be surprised if it passes with large majorities at the ballot box, but the most scientific poll is who shows up to vote and letting the people have a say in this. I also just want to note that if we do not adopt this amendment, for whatever it's worth, I would not be comfortable voting for the underlying bill when it comes to final enactment, and I know the vote was very close, so, I hope people will take that into consideration who support this change. So, let's send it out to the people this November, let's include all Maine people in this decision on the flag that represents us as a Maine people, and if the Maine people choose to make this change, that flag will mean so much more to our state, because it was something we all chose together. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE**: Well, there it is again, but anyway, I lost, and I admit defeat when I lose defeat, and that's okay. But I would ask for a few of you to really consider the pending motion before us and support the pending motion because maybe it will be something they can write up nice about in the paper is, you know, that we found a way to work together and let the people decide.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Lyford.

Senator **LYFORD:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **LYFORD:** I'd like an explanation on the star, if I could. Does that represent the North Star, the Star of David, or the communist Chinese star?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Penobscot, Senator Lyford, has posed a series of questions through the Chair that I'm not going to answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to answer the question that was posed through the Chair. It is very firmly described throughout not only history but through the examples that we currently have in the archives that it is the North Star, and it is supposed to represent Maine's North Star and, like I said, about Dirigo. As someone who often does wear a Star of David, I can tell you it's very different. And on the other one, it's definitely not that.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Adoption of Senate Amendment "A" (S-146). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I got so passionate about the stars that I forgot to ask for a roll call.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#247)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BRENNER, CHIPMAN, DUSON, GROHOSKI, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senator: CARNEY

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-146) **PREVAILED**.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-232) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-146), in NON-CONCURRENCE.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Validate Certain Proceedings Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes by the City of Rockland" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 573 L.D. 917

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
GREENWOOD of Wales
PAULHUS of Bath
POMERLEAU of Standish
RISEMAN of Harrison

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

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
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**.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Notify School Boards and Select Boards That Lobbying Associations Are Not Governmental Agencies"

H.P. 822 L.D. 1297

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

- NANGLE of Cumberland
- BALDACCI of Penobscot
- LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

- STOVER of Boothbay
- ABDI of Lewiston
- COPELAND of Saco
- DHALAC of South Portland
- RISEMAN of Harrison

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-260)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

- ADAMS of Lebanon
- GREENWOOD of Wales
- POMERLEAU of Standish
- UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application" S.P. 29 L.D. 37

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

- GROHOSKI of Hancock
- CHIPMAN of Cumberland
- LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

- PERRY of Bangor
- CARMICHAEL of Greenbush
- CROCKETT of Portland
- HASENFUS of Readfield
- LAVIGNE of Berwick
- MATLACK of St. George
- QUINT of Hodgdon
- RANA of Bangor
- RUDNICKI of Fairfield

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-204)**.

Signed:

Representative:

- LIBBY of Auburn

Reports **READ**.

Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is really pretty straightforward. The idea for this legislation actually came from a gentleman over in Capitol Park. I was there for an event for the Iron Man competition that was happening here in this community. It was a great event, and there was a guy there working at the booth with me, volunteering, and he's like, 'hey, you guys passed this law for us to have this stabilization of property taxes,' which was a great bill that was done by the last legislative session, I hope my colleagues will not attempt to dismantle it this session. However, he's like, 'this is really helping me, but it's kind of frustrating that I have to apply for this every year. I think we should just have to apply once,' and I'm like oh, that's a good idea. So, I sent myself an email and asked my aide to put this bill in, which is why it's L.D. 37. It seems to be pretty straightforward. That people that are receiving this benefit, just like with the homestead exemption, shouldn't have to go every single year to apply to get this credit. So, if everybody in this Chamber is still on board with helping our constituents with reducing property taxes - that's what we all run and campaign and, you know, claim to support - then that's what this bill does. And I hope that my colleagues are not not supporting this legislation because there's an attempt to do away with the property tax stabilization credit. I think the people of Maine would

be really opposed to that. And so, as such, since we'll be keeping the program in place, we should seek to make it easier for our constituents to participate. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Mr. President, and colleagues of the Senate. Good evening, I think is now the time. I just wanted to stand up quickly and say that the Taxation Committee has done a lot of work to review the Property Tax Stabilization program and, in fact, earlier this year, we sent a memo to the Appropriations Committee which outlined a number of the concerns that the committee had with the program. They include things like you can transfer the stabilized tax amounts between different towns, homesteads could be multi-dwelling rental income producing properties and the real estate for that whole is now frozen. We had nine items and only one of those items was that there's a challenge in processing yearly applications. So, while I think that this bill, you know, could make a difference in terms of people having to file too much paperwork, I think there's a much more challenging problem to be solved and I look forward to further conversations about that based on the work of the Taxation Committee, because I think my number one goal here is to make sure that our older senior neighbors and friends and family are able to stay in their homes and able to afford their housing, whether they rent or they own, and so I think we can do more for more people and in a really targeted way than the larger program here that's been debated by the good Senator from Kennebec.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#248)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, CARNEY

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Certain Motor Vehicle Inspections" H.P. 790 L.D. 1242

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
CHIPMAN of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
MASON of Lisbon
O'CONNELL of Brewer
PARRY of Arundel
THERIAULT of Fort Kent
WHITE of Waterville

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-296)**.

Signed:

Representative:
WHITE of Guilford

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Allow Delivery of Maine Craft Beer" H.P. 842 L.D. 1329

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:
HICKMAN of Kennebec
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:
SUPICA of Bangor
COLLINGS of Portland
MALON of Biddeford
MONTELL of Gardiner
RIELLY of Westbrook
RISEMAN of Harrison

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:
ANDREWS of Paris
BOYER of Poland
HYMES of Waldo
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Qualifying Condition Review Board to Provide Benefits to Certain Service Members" H.P. 978 L.D. 1523

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-306)**.

Signed:

Senators:
HICKMAN of Kennebec
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:
SUPICA of Bangor
BOYER of Poland
COLLINGS of Portland
MALON of Biddeford
MONTELL of Gardiner
RIELLY of Westbrook
RISEMAN of Harrison

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

Signed:

Senator:
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:
ANDREWS of Paris
HYMES of Waldo
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-306)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-306)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-306) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, 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** until Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 10:00 in the morning.