

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3rd Legislative Day
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Patty Fox, First Congregational Church, Camden.

National Anthem by Sharon Hood, Pittsfield.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Robert Rousseau, PA-C, EM-CAQ, Sidney.

The Journal of Wednesday, January 8, 2025 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 10)

**JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING SEPARATE APPLICATIONS
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
CALLING ARTICLE V CONVENTIONS TO PROPOSE
AMENDMENTS ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND TERM LIMITS FOR
JUSTICES OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT**

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, Article V places substantial authority and responsibility upon the legislatures of the several states to ensure that the Federal Government and each of its branches remain within their enumerated powers and remain protective of the rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, a variety of important movements have arisen within the legislatures of the several states to address a wide variety of concerns that may be appropriately addressed within the context of Article V of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Maine wishes to address these various approaches in a bipartisan manner; and

WHEREAS, an agreement to call for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution does not commit the Legislature of Maine to approve any proposal that may arise from any subsequent convention; rather, this Legislature is simply exercising its will to engage in a formal process with other states to give full and authoritative consideration to various proposals consistent with the topics expressed by this joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, under the United States Constitution, Article V, the Congress of the United States, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the United States Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments that, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the United States Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Legislature of Maine hereby applies to the Congress of the United States, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the United States House of Representatives and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the United States Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application is intended to address the same subject matter as applications from other states under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution to call a convention to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; and this application must be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but may not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature of Maine hereby applies to the Congress of the United States, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish staggered term limits of 18 years for Justices of the United States Supreme Court; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application is intended to address the same subject matter as applications from other states under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution to call a convention to establish staggered term limits of 18 years for Justices of the United States Supreme Court; and this application must be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but may not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That these applications constitute continuing applications in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subjects; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate and presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each of the several states in the nation, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

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

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 2)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 302 to read:

Rule 302. Membership.

Each Except for the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, each of the joint standing committees consists of 13 members, 3 from the Senate and 10 from the House of Representatives. The joint standing committee having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs consists of 21 members, 5 from the Senate and 16 from the House of Representatives. The first Senate member named is the Senate chair. The first House member named is the House chair. The Senate chair shall preside and in the Senate chair's absence, the House chair shall preside and, thereafter, as the need may arise, the chair shall alternate between the members from each chamber in the sequence of their appointment to the committee. The sequence of appointment for the biennium is as announced by the presiding officers in each chamber. Every member of the Senate and the

House of Representatives is entitled to at least one initial committee assignment.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

READ and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 8)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules shall convene no later than January 9, 2025 to review, consider and report on the following items as possible amendments to the Joint Rules:

1. Elimination of or limitations on the use of concept drafts;
2. Changes to dates of cloture for first and second regular sessions;
3. Changes to the process of referring legislative documents to committees;
4. Limitations on sponsorship and cosponsorship;
5. Changes to the process of submitting joint resolutions, including reducing the vote to request the calling of an Article V constitutional convention to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to a majority vote;
6. Changes to notices for committee public hearings and work sessions and the availability of sponsor amendments;
7. Improvements to the consistency of processes for public notice, public participation and decorum across all committees;
8. Changes to committee reports and voting hours;
9. Changes to the process regarding fiscal notes;
10. Changes to the processes regarding budgets and appropriations;
11. Other matters considered or identified by the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature; and
12. Any matters referred to the committee.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

READ and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES** in concurrence.

The following Senate Order: (S.O. 12)

ORDERED, that all Bills and Resolves carrying or requiring an appropriation or involving a loss or gain of revenue that are in order to be passed to be enacted, or finally passed, shall, at the request of a member of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs or the Presiding Officer, be placed on a special calendar to be called up for consideration only by the same.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

READ and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES** in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 18)

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
82 STATE HOUSE STATION, ROOM 104 CROSS BUILDING
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0082**

January 10, 2025

The Honorable Craig V. Hickman, Senate Chair
The Honorable Anne-Marie Mastraccio, House Chair
Members of the Government Oversight Committee
82 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, President of the Senate

Members of the 132nd Maine Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker of the House

Members of the 132nd Maine House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Government Oversight Committee Members, Senators and Representatives:

In accordance with 3 MRSA §995(4), I respectfully submit the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) Annual Report for 2024. OPEGA's service to the Legislature as an independent, non-partisan resource is meant to support the important role of legislative oversight and to help improve the performance of State government. We remain committed to serving Maine's legislators and citizens as a trusted source of objective, credible information.

Sincerely,

S/Peter Schleck

Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 19)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, President
Maine State Senate

The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker

Maine House of Representatives

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Resolve 2023, c. 103, the Criminal Records Review Committee is pleased to submit its final report. Copies of the full report have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others may access the full report on-line through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at <http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>.

Sincerely,

S/Donna Bailey

Senate Chair

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

House Chair

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Cap Publicly Owned Land Area at No More than 50 Percent of Any County"

(H.P. 116) (L.D. 183)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, QUINT of Hodgdon, STROUT of Harrington, TUELL of East Machias.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

(H.P. 94) (L.D. 161)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CRAY of Palmyra, GERE of Kennebunkport, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested.

On motion of Representative PLUECKER of Warren, the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons"

(H.P. 105) (L.D. 172)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BISHOP of Bucksport, DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, LAJOIE of Lewiston, NUTTING of Oakland, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Regional Ambulance Service in Southern Penobscot County"

(H.P. 109) (L.D. 176)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Bail Code to Eliminate the Class E Crime of Violation of Condition of Release"

(H.P. 112) (L.D. 179)

Sponsored by Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.

Cosponsored by Representative: LIBBY of Auburn.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools"

(H.P. 88) (L.D. 155)

Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, KUHN of Falmouth, MCCABE of Lewiston, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Allow School Boards to Expel or Suspend Students Regardless of Grade Level"

(H.P. 98) (L.D. 165)

Sponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, MINGO of Calais, POIRIER of Skowhegan, STROUT of Harrington, WOODSOME of Waterboro, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Improve Safety in Public Schools by Requiring Silent Electronic Notification Systems in Classrooms"

(H.P. 101) (L.D. 168)

Sponsored by Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.

Cosponsored by Representative: BRENNAN of Portland.

Resolve, Establishing a Pilot Program to Reduce Personal Electronic Device Distractions During the School Day

(H.P. 103) (L.D. 170)

Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, SARGENT of York.

Bill "An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements"

(H.P. 107) (L.D. 174)

Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford.

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BAGSHAW of Windham, CARUSO of Caratunk, COOPER of Windham, FOLEY of Wells, HALL of Wilton, HENDERSON of Rumford, QUINT of Hodgdon.

Bill "An Act to Modify the Calculation of Pupil Counts Used for Determination of School Administrative Unit Operating Costs"

(H.P. 114) (L.D. 181)

Sponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: SARGENT of York, STROUT of Harrington.

Bill "An Act to Fund Students in Maine Schools Who Are Experiencing Homelessness"

(H.P. 126) (L.D. 193)

Sponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MALON of Biddeford, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senator: INGWERSEN of York.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Establish Time-of-use Pricing for Standard-offer Service"

(H.P. 119) (L.D. 186)

Sponsored by Representative RUNTE of York.

Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representative: SACHS of Freeport.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Notifications Related to Substance-exposed Infants"

(H.P. 89) (L.D. 156)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies"

(H.P. 99) (L.D. 166)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, MCCABE of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Provide 2 Hearing Aids to MaineCare Members with Diagnosed Hearing Loss"

(H.P. 100) (L.D. 167)

Sponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Representative: SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Estate Recovery and Planning for Long-term Care"

(H.P. 102) (L.D. 169)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Establish MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for the Maine Veterans' Homes on a Per Resident Basis"

(H.P. 115) (L.D. 182)

Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

Bill "An Act to Allow Businesses to Impose a Surcharge on Credit Card and Debit Card Transactions"

(H.P. 84) (L.D. 151)

Sponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representative: MINGO of Calais, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives and Nonprescription Emergency Contraceptives"

(H.P. 96) (L.D. 163)

Sponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MATHIESON of Kittery, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: BAILEY of York, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act Regarding Coverage for Step Therapy for Advanced Metastatic Cancer"

(H.P. 111) (L.D. 178)

Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representative: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Interactions of Pharmacy Benefits Managers and So-called 340B Entities and Reimbursements by Pharmacy Benefits Managers to Pharmacies"

(H.P. 113) (L.D. 180)

Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Representative: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

Bill "An Act to Increase Availability and Affordability of Mental Health Care and Substance Use Disorder Services by Removing the Certificate of Need Requirement"

(H.P. 122) (L.D. 189)

Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: HASENFUS of Readfield, LAJOIE of Lewiston, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SINCLAIR of Bath, SKOLD of Portland.

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Foreclosure Process

(H.P. 117) (L.D. 184)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, FLYNN of Albion, HASENFUS of Readfield.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Mooring of Watercraft"

(H.P. 86) (L.D. 153)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, DODGE of Belfast, EATON of Deer Isle, STROUT of Harrington.

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws"

(H.P. 90) (L.D. 157)

Sponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.
Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State"

(H.P. 104) (L.D. 171)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representative: BRIDGEO of Augusta, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements"

(H.P. 106) (L.D. 173)

Sponsored by Representative WOOD of Greene.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, MASON of Lisbon, THORNE of Carmel.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act to Require a Specific Time Frame for Agencies to Comply with Requests for Public Records"

(H.P. 85) (L.D. 152)

Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: LOOKNER of Portland, SINCLAIR of Bath.

Bill "An Act to Improve the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act"

(H.P. 127) (L.D. 194)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, KUHN of Falmouth, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases"

(H.P. 128) (L.D. 208)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York, Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, WHITE of Guilford.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers"

(H.P. 120) (L.D. 187)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, DRINKWATER of Milford, GREENWOOD of Wales, LANCE of Paris, LIBBY of Auburn, PAUL of Winterport.

Committee on **LABOR** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State

(H.P. 80) (L.D. 147)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CAMPBELL of Orrington, LIBBY of Auburn, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias.

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Statewide Popular Election of the State Auditor"

(H.P. 81) (L.D. 148)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CAMPBELL of Orrington, LIBBY of Auburn, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Attorney General

(H.P. 82) (L.D. 149)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CAMPBELL of Orrington, LIBBY of Auburn, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Treasurer of State

(H.P. 83) (L.D. 150)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CAMPBELL of Orrington, LIBBY of Auburn, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Opportunities to Invest Municipal Tax Increment Financing Revenues"

(H.P. 118) (L.D. 185)

Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BLIER of Buxton, BRIDGEO of Augusta, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GATTINE of Westbrook, ROLLINS of Augusta, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: NANGLE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Numismatic Transactions from State Sales Tax"

(H.P. 123) (L.D. 190)

Sponsored by Representative FLYNN of Albion.

Bill "An Act to Support Maine Businesses by Establishing a Pass-through Entity Tax and Tax Credit"

(H.P. 124) (L.D. 191)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.
Cosponsored by Representative: DUCHARME of Madison, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Exempt from State Sales Tax Utility Vehicles Purchased for Use in Commercial Fishing, Agricultural Production, Aquacultural Production and Wood Harvesting"

(H.P. 125) (L.D. 192)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, JACKSON of Oxford.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws"

(H.P. 87) (L.D. 154)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.
Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Require Vehicle Registrations to Include the Next of Kin of the Vehicle Owner"

(H.P. 92) (L.D. 159)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BISHOP of Bucksport, EDER of Waterboro, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, QUINT of Hodgdon, WHITE of Guilford.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate REAL ID Requirements in Maine"

(H.P. 93) (L.D. 160)

Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: LEE of Auburn, LOOKNER of Portland, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SINCLAIR of Bath.

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge

(H.P. 95) (L.D. 162)

Sponsored by Representative THORNE of Carmel.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHARME of Madison, HAGGAN of Hampden, PAUL of Winterport, Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Authorized Emergency Vehicles from Tolls When Operating in an Official Capacity"

(H.P. 97) (L.D. 164)

Sponsored by Representative MCINTYRE of Lowell.

Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin.

Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Permit the Sale of Motor Vehicles on Sundays"

(H.P. 121) (L.D. 188)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CHAPMAN of Auburn, LANCE of Paris, LIBBY of Auburn, POIRIER of Skowhegan.

Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** suggested.

On motion of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Direct the Secretary of State to Establish a Date Each Year for Voting by Absentee Ballot"

(H.P. 91) (L.D. 158)

Sponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel.

Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FREDERICKS of Sanford, HYMES of Waldo, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Ensure That Only Citizens of the United States May Participate in Elections

(H.P. 108) (L.D. 175)

Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn.

Bill "An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing"

(H.P. 110) (L.D. 177)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 9)

ORDERED, that Representative Amanda N. Collamore of Pittsfield be excused Jan 8 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Cianbro, of Pittsfield, which celebrated its 75th Anniversary of business on September 12, 2024. In 1949, Carl, Bud, Ken and Chuck Cianchette began a business that has developed into one of the largest construction and construction services companies in the United States. The 100% employee-owned company has grown to become an organization of over 3,100 team members. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand today to recognize Cianbro of Pittsfield.

For 75 years, Cianbro has been a shining example of innovation, resilience and community commitment. Cianbro was founded by the Cianchette Brothers in 1949 and is one of America's largest employee-owned, open-shop construction and construction services companies. This company began as a small family-owned business and is now one of the most respected construction companies in the country. Cianbro has not only built bridges, roads and power systems, but has also built trust, opportunities and a legacy that continues to inspire. Through the decades, Cianbro has consistently demonstrated a deep dedication to excellence, safety and sustainability. What truly sets this company apart is its people; the hardworking skilled professionals who carry forward the values of integrity, collaboration and community service. Cianbro's commitment to Pittsfield and the State has been unwavering. They've created jobs, supported Pittsfield's community sports teams, theater and schools and continuously give back to our community in a number of ways year after year.

On a personal note, three generations of my family, including a great-aunt, multiple uncles, my grandmother, both of my parents, my brother and myself have all worked at Cianbro. I can see Cianbro from my house, the American flag flying high and brightly lit each night.

Today, we honor Cianbro's contributions and recognize their 75 years of extraordinary leadership and impact. Congratulations to everyone at Cianbro on this incredible achievement. Here's to the next 75-plus years of success and making Pittsfield and Maine proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Kittridge A. Johnson, of Winter Harbor. Mr. Johnson was a veteran of the United States Air Force, having served as a mechanic. He started lobstering when he was eight years of age and fished until August 2024. He also sold cars and served on the board of Regional School Unit 24. He raced in the Winter Harbor lobster boat races every August and won many trophies. Mr. Johnson will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 16)

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

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

READ.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to take a moment and recognize my friend, Kit Johnson. He came from a huge family in Winter Harbor, the Johnson family, and it seemed like everybody called him Uncle Kit and although he wasn't my uncle, I called him Uncle Kit, my kids called him Uncle Kit, because he was that type of person to me.

In Winter Harbor, it seems like everybody's got a nickname, and Kit was the person that seemed to give out a lot of those nicknames; Razor, Rat, Whitey, it goes on and on. He called me 'Schleprock.' It was an attitude thing; at the time, I guess I was complaining a lot and I don't know if anybody knows the character of Schleprock, but you can Google him. It was an endearing nickname. He didn't give out those nicknames to be mean to anybody, he gave them out to be endearing to you, and I appreciated that.

His nickname for the last 25 years or so was 'Mr. Lucky,' because he won a lobster boat at the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races and named his boat *Mr. Lucky*, so, then he had a nickname. One of the nicknames that he gave out that really got my funny bone was, he nicknamed one of his nephews 'Mr. Finestein.' And it didn't make sense to me, I didn't know why he was calling him 'Mr. Finestein' until the nephew explained to me it was because he was running afoul of the law so often and sending so many fines to Augusta that he told him he had his own personal secretary in Augusta to collect his fines.

We traveled many miles hunting. I learned more about hunting and partridge hunting and the Golden Road and Katahdin Iron Works and locations all over the State of Maine from him, and learned a lot about fishing and halibut fishing and scallop dragging. He will be sadly missed in Winter Harbor by many, many family and many friends and I really miss him on a daily basis. And that's why I'm thankful for the promise of Heaven and I was glad this summer when I invited him to come to church with me, that he came and he really came to know the Lord even more than he had in his whole life. And so, I'll see him again and I'm glad that promise is there for everybody that wants to take it. So, I'll miss you, Mr. Lucky, and I'll see you later.

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

In Memory of:

Lisa A. Boutilier, of Rumford. Ms. Boutilier will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 17)

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford, Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Lisa A. Boutilier was born on June 11, 1981, to Terry Boutilier in Strong, Maine. A lifelong Mainer, Lisa grew up in Rangeley and Harrison and lived in South Paris, Norway, Skowhegan and Rumford. She is survived by her mother, Terry; her siblings, Toby, Derrick, Emily and Amy; as well as her children, Curtis, Francis and Evan.

Lisa loved nature and animals, with particular fondness for her cats. She loved butterflies, too, which symbolized rebirth and freedom to her. Creative to her core, Lisa was a consummate artist. Her daughter, Francis, told me that she could draw literally anything. Music was a particular passion of Lisa's and though she loved all music, she was especially fond of the Grateful Dead and Nirvana, as you may have guessed from the names of her two oldest children. Francis also told me that Lisa was recently baptized into the Christian faith and could always, always, always find the good in even the worst situations. Camus talked of having an invincible summer within himself that remained unshaken midst the storms of life, and I think that's a perfect description for the optimism and resilience that grew in Lisa's heart.

Lisa died the week of Christmas of an apparent overdose. She was a beloved sister, daughter, friend and mother. Her sons became my sons nearly a decade ago, and that's when I first made her acquaintance. We spoke on the phone first and I remember telling her how wonderful her boys were. "Of course they are," she said; "they came from me, after all." When I remember her, I think of her holding her youngest, my youngest, our youngest on her lap and bouncing him as he giggled. Her face shone with deep, apparent and all-embracing love. She was endlessly proud of her children, and I can say that her pride is justified. They're brilliant, kind, loving people. They're a credit to her and a gift to the rest of us.

I wanted to speak about Lisa because if I don't, I'm afraid she'll become a statistic, an abstraction, that people will refer to her as simply an overdose instead of the complex and loving human being she was. She was more than her pain, more than her addiction, more than the choices she made or the challenges that befell her. We're going to hear policy in this Body during the next two years relating to substance use disorder, and I hope we can all remember that the people affected by substance use disorder aren't numbers. They are beloved; beloved in the eyes of their friends, their families, the communities and in the eyes of God. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Ed Doudera, of Camden. While a student at Boston University and Suffolk University School of Law, Mr. Doudera worked at Tufts-New England Medical Center in the research administration department. He later became Executive Director of the American Society of Law & Medicine, a fledgling nonprofit devoted to bridging the gap between lawyers and health care providers. Mr. Doudera helped edit the society's two journals, planned and held several conferences and co-edited a series of six books resulting from the conferences. Leaving the society in 1985, he and his wife-to-be Vicki bought a Victorian house on Elm Street in Camden. They renovated the house and in June 1986 opened it as the Blackberry Inn, which they operated for over 10 years. Mr. Doudera also started a law practice and served for many years as the pro bono attorney for Midcoast Habitat for Humanity, helping families attain affordable housing and enabling the organization to grow. He helped many other nonprofit boards and organizations, including the Pitcher Pond Association, which he served as Treasurer; the Saltwater Classroom, which he also served as Treasurer; and the Knox Clinic, which he served as Vice President. Mr. Doudera will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of 38 years, the Honorable Vicki Doudera, his family and friends and his community;

(HLS 7)

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Senator BAILEY of York, Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot, Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Senator BENNETT of Oxford, Senator BERNARD of Aroostook, Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Senator BLACK of Franklin, Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec, Senator BRENNER of Cumberland, Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, Senator CURRY of Waldo, Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec, Senator DUSON of Cumberland, Senator FARRIN of Somerset, Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock, Senator GUERIN of Penobscot, Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot, Senator HARRINGTON of York, Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Senator INGWERSEN of York, Senator LAWRENCE of York, Senator LIBBY of Cumberland, Senator MARTIN of Oxford, Senator MOORE of Washington, Senator NANGLE of Cumberland, Senator PIERCE of Cumberland, Senator RAFFERTY of York, Senator RENY of Lincoln, Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Senator STEWART of Aroostook, Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Senator TIPPING of Penobscot, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative ADAMS of Lebanon, Representative ALBERT of Madawaska, Representative ANKELES of Brunswick, Representative ARATA of New Gloucester, Representative ARCHER of Saco, Representative ARDELL of Monticello, Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield, Representative BAGSHAW of Windham, Representative BECK of South Portland, Representative BELL of Yarmouth, Representative BISHOP of Bucksport, Representative BLIER of Buxton, Representative BOYER of Poland, Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, Representative BRENNAN of Portland, Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, Representative BUNKER of Farmington, Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington, Representative CARLOW of Buxton, Representative CARUSO of Caratunk, Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn, Representative CIMINO of Bridgton, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Representative

COLLINS of Sidney, Representative COOPER of Windham, Representative COPELAND of Saco, Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, Representative CRAY of Palmyra, Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent, Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative DEBRITO of Waterville, Representative DHALAC of South Portland, Representative DILL of Old Town, Representative DODGE of Belfast, Representative DRINKWATER of Milford, Representative DUCHARME of Madison, Representative EATON of Deer Isle, Representative EDER of Waterboro, Representative FARRIN of Jefferson, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, Representative FLYNN of Albion, Representative FOLEY of Wells, Representative FOSTER of Dexter, Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford, Representative FREDETTE of Newport, Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, Representative FROST of Belgrade, Representative GATTINE of Westbrook, Representative GEIGER of Rockland, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, Representative GIFFORD of Lincoln, Representative GOLEK of Harpswell, Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative GRIFFIN of Levant, Representative GUERRETTE of Caribou, Representative HAGGAN of Hampden, Representative HALL of Wilton, Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, Representative HENDERSON of Rumford, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, Representative HYMES of Waldo, Representative JACKSON of Oxford, Representative JAVNER of Chester, Representative JULIA of Waterville, Representative KESSLER of South Portland, Representative KUHN of Falmouth, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, Representative LANCE of Paris, Representative LANIGAN of Sanford, Representative LAVIGNE of Berwick, Representative LEE of Auburn, Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea, Representative LIBBY of Auburn, Representative LOOKNER of Portland, Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls, Representative MACIAS of Topsham, Representative MALON of Biddeford, Representative MASON of Lisbon, Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, Representative MATLACK of St. George, Representative MCCABE of Lewiston, Representative MCINTYRE of Lowell, Representative MEYER of Eliot, Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, Representative MINGO of Calais, Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland, Representative MONTELL of Gardiner, Representative MOONEN of Portland, Representative MORRIS of Turner, Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, Representative NUTTING of Oakland, Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer, Representative OLSEN of Raymond, Representative OSHER of Orono, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative PAUL of Winterport, Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Representative PLUECKER of Warren, Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, Representative POMERLEAU of Standish, Representative PUGH of Portland, Representative QUINT of Hodgdon, Representative RANA of Bangor, Representative RAY of Lincolnville, Representative RIELLY of Westbrook, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, Representative ROEDER of Bangor, Representative ROLLINS of Augusta, Representative RUNTE of York, Representative SACHS of Freeport, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, Representative SARGENT of York, Representative SATO of Gorham, Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, Representative SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro, Representative

SINCLAIR of Bath, Representative SKOLD of Portland, Representative SMITH of Palermo, Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Representative STOVER of Boothbay, Representative STROUT of Harrington, Representative SUPICA of Bangor, Representative SWALLOW of Houlton, Representative TERRY of Gorham, Representative THORNE of Carmel, Representative TUELL of East Machias, Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram, Representative WALKER of Naples, Representative WARREN of Scarborough, Representative WEBB of Durham, Representative WHITE of Guilford, Representative WHITE of Ellsworth, Representative WOOD of Greene, Representative WOOD of Norway, Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro, Representative YUSUF of Portland, Representative ZAGER of Portland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.
READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, none of us gets here alone. We say that a lot, but it really is true. We have the voters who elect us, our constituents who support us, our friends, neighbors and relatives who give advice, boost us when we're flagging, shuttle us around and make us nutritious meals. And there's always that one person who truly is our champion. For me, that person was my husband, Ed. I can't begin to list the ways that he's supported me in my work as a legislator. The way he listened carefully to the testimony I wrote or the way he would tune in to our proceedings now and then and offer suggestions; lots of suggestions. Some of you might remember when he stopped in last session and the Speaker introduced him simply as Ed, because that's what I had written on the blue sheet. His encouragement helped me to become a writer, succeed in business and be a good parent. He was my number one fan and fortunately I thanked him on occasion, and hopefully often enough.

Ed was a wonderful dad; the kind who was always ready with sound advice and guidance, but who also believed that kids need to make their own decisions. Our family is tight-knit, and Ed knew that we all loved and appreciated him. He was a good friend and citizen; someone who served our community in low-key but important ways. He was an integral part of the school board when our new five-town CSD was formed. He was Chair of Camden's Budget Committee for two terms. He helped with Scouting; as you heard, was the Treasurer of our Pond Association and advisor for our daughter's nonprofit and treasurer and he was, for years, the *pro bono* attorney for Midcoast Habitat.

The last emails that he printed out in his home office, which we christened the 'Ed-quarters,' were detailed questions and plans for the nonprofit Knox Clinic, of which he was Vice President. Last summer, he orchestrated the clinic's purchase of a building in Rockland, so that they would have a permanent place, and with that complicated task behind him, was working to help set up the clinic's primary health and dental care practices.

Ed was one of Knox County's most relaxed attorneys. He was always in jeans and never wearing a tie, but behind the casual appearance was a razor-sharp mind that liked solving problems and enjoyed seeing others succeed. He had many degrees and commendations, including a Masters of Law in intellectual property along with his JD. He was an Eagle Scout. He had written books on medical ethics and he had earned

accolades from peers in Boston. But nobody really knew, because these things were only a means to an end for him. These were all qualities that I loved, and I had seen in action over our 38 years of marriage. But what I didn't know, and what I've only started learning, is that he was an everyday champion in our community. In the many cards that I've received and in the scores of letters I'm getting are stories of a man who took the time to share conversations, no matter where he was or how busy, who smiled and chatted with the staff in the Town Office, who seems to have had a secret life at Hannaford, making people feel seen and heard as he encountered them in the aisles. And whenever I would offer to go shopping, he would say, why are you going to come? You're just going to stand there with your hands in your pockets and talk to everybody! But it turns out he did a fair amount of that, too.

The Knox County Registry of Deeds reached out to me to mention Ed's kindnesses. A previous Town Manager took the time to write, a mortgage broker said he was always professional but warm and friendly and always took good care of his clients. His work was meticulous and his integrity shone through in everything he did. And then, there are the stories of things he did for people in our district, often for no or very little payment; scholarships he set up, nonprofits he helped launch, thorny problems that he solved; things I didn't even know about. As an attorney, Ed followed strictly the code of client confidentiality, so, it's been a gift for me to learn these things as I work through my grief.

There are lessons in here for me and I think for all of us. How we interact with people on an everyday basis is just as important as the amount of fancy degrees we might earn. A genuine smile or a nod of encouragement is not trivial, but will always be treasured. As William Wordsworth said, the best portion of a good man's life are his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love. I'm privileged to be learning more every day about Ed Doudera's impact, and I'll go forward letting his life continue to influence my own. May he rest in peace. Thank you.

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

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

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because the community that you and I call home has lost one of its protectors. Sergeant Jacob Wolterbeek of the Biddeford Police Department died on December 12th in a car accident while driving home in rainy conditions in the wee hours of the morning, having just spent his shift looking out for the residents of our city. He was 41 years old.

Sergeant Wolterbeek was the most decorated officer in the department and distinguished himself in many roles, including the city's community-oriented policing engagement unit. Beyond the awards and accolades, we've had the privilege over the past month of hearing stories of his service, focused primarily on the individuals he helped. Sheriff King discussed how he went above and beyond to help the victim of a land scam get their property back, the *Press Herald* spoke with a man who had gotten in trouble for fighting and drugs as a teenager but Sergeant Wolterbeek treated him like a human being and helped him realize that he had the potential to do more with his life and helped inspire him to turn his life around. The Sergeant was a fun-loving father of three who enjoyed staffing community

events and was intent on making sure Biddeford kids could keep sledding at Winterfest as long as possible.

I find it appropriate that this is the first time I rise to speak in the 132nd Legislature, because telling the story of this man and his service is telling the story of the type of thing which makes communities stronger. Sergeant Wolterbeek leaves behind a legacy which we should aim to honor in our work. He is part of a proud tradition of first responders; police, fire, EMS and others; who run toward danger when the rest of us run away from it, who do their duty even during weather conditions which make most of us want to stay home in comfort. We do not do enough to honor people like him while they are still living, and I believe, as we remember the stories of first-responder bravery that we see, such as during the Lewiston shooting or the ongoing efforts to save people in their neighborhoods from those horrible fires in California, I believe that we should speak up more often to express our gratitude.

Our police chief, JoAnne Fisk, is here today, along with Deputy Chief Steven Gorton, Lieutenant Normand Allaire and Mayor Marty Grohman, and they are here on behalf of the Sergeant's family; his wife, Julie, his children, Evelyn, Emma and Jack. I thank Chief Fisk and everyone in Biddeford's police and fire departments for the work that they do every day, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Sergeant Jacob Wolterbeek. He served us well. Thank you.

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

Representative **FOLEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be remiss in not standing up and recognizing Jake Wolterbeek, who grew up in the town of Wells. I was fortunate enough to have coached him in soccer and I knew his family intimately and he came from a great family, and he will be sorely missed and I just wanted to stand up and recognize him in his passing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 83)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 97)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 208 by adding at the end 2 new paragraphs to read:

A proposal to adopt a uniform or model act must be prepared in concept form and must include an Internet address at which may be found the text of the proposed uniform or model act.

A proposal to recodify a title of the Maine Revised Statutes may not go forward in the absence of legislation prepared in accordance with this paragraph. Legislation that proposes to recodify a title of the Maine Revised Statutes must be prepared by the Revisor of Statutes to direct appropriate Legislative Council staff to work with the requestor over the course of a sufficient number of legislative interims to ensure the accurate completion of the recodification. Legislation that authorizes such a recodification must be placed on the special study table that is established in accordance with Joint Rule 353. The Legislative

Council shall review legislation proposing recodifications together with proposed studies that are on the study table and shall authorize the allocation of budgetary and staffing resources for those studies and recodifications identified by the Legislative Council. Legislative resources may not be used to recodify a title without approval of the Legislative Council. For purposes of this paragraph, legislation to recodify a title of the Maine Revised Statutes includes legislation that proposes to recodify, with or without substantive revisions, the entirety of one or more titles of the statutes or a substantial portion of one or more titles of the statutes.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 302 to read:

Rule 302. Membership.

Each of the joint standing committees consists of 13 members, 3 from the Senate and 10 from the House of Representatives. The first Senate member named is the Senate chair. The first House member named is the House chair. The Senate chair shall preside and in the Senate chair's absence, the House chair shall preside and, thereafter, as the need may arise, the chair shall alternate between the members from each chamber in the sequence of their appointment to the committee. The sequence of appointment for the biennium is as announced by the presiding officers in each chamber. Every Except for members serving on the Legislative Council, every member of the Senate and the House of Representatives is entitled to at least one initial committee assignment.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 304, first paragraph to read:

At the beginning of each legislative biennium, the presiding officers shall establish procedures that govern public hearings, work sessions and confirmation hearings. Once established, copies of the procedures must be sent to the committees, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. A committee by majority vote may ~~make propose~~ exceptions to the rules and ~~notify the presiding officers of exceptions to the rules~~; exceptions to the rules are subject to the approval of the presiding officers. Final committee rules must be posted and made available upon request at all public hearings and work sessions.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 305 to read:

Rule 305. Scheduling Public Hearings and Work Sessions; Concept Draft Amendments.

1. Scheduling. At the beginning of the regular session, the presiding officers shall jointly establish authorized meeting days for committees to hold their public hearings and work sessions, taking into consideration the availability of assigned staff and hearing rooms. Committees may meet only on authorized meeting days unless the presiding officers authorize an exception in writing. Each committee shall distribute a detailed list of hearings and work sessions that have been scheduled for the following week to all committee members. This schedule must also be posted outside the committee room. Notice of a committee's public hearings and work sessions must be posted each day in the State House and the Cross Building. A committee may not hold a hearing or conduct a work session for which notice has not been posted.

2. Advance Notice. Public Notice of public hearings must be advertised provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Friday 2 weekends in advance of the hearing date, including, but not limited to, by posting on the Legislature's website. All exceptions must be approved by both presiding officers.

3. Notification of Sponsors. The committee shall direct the committee clerk to notify all sponsors of the bill of the public hearing and work session on the bill.

4. Access. It is the intent of the Legislature that a person not be denied access to committee public hearings and work sessions because of a disability. Committees shall provide reasonable access for disabled persons to their proceedings and allow adequate time for participation by disabled persons.

5. Hearing of Concept Drafts; Preparation of Amendment; Confidentiality; Posting. A bill printed as a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, with the exception of budget bills presented by the Governor, model acts and uniform acts, and referred to a committee is subject to the provisions of this subsection.

A. The sponsor of that concept draft shall prepare and submit a proposed amendment to that concept draft to that committee no later than 3 business days before the public hearing scheduled for that concept draft.

B. If nonpartisan staff is used to assist in the preparation of a proposed amendment required by paragraph A, the sponsor is limited to one draft. Notwithstanding the rules of confidentiality, nonpartisan staff may discuss with the chairs of the committee to which the concept draft has been referred the status of the proposed amendment for the purposes of committee scheduling and to facilitate the purposes of this section. Nonpartisan staff may not disclose the content of the proposed amendment.

C. The proposed amendment must be posted on the committee's testimony page on the Legislature's website no later than 2 business days before the date of the public hearing on the concept draft.

6. Automatic Withdrawal. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 310, if a sponsor of a concept draft fails to submit a proposed committee amendment as required by subsection 5, that concept draft is automatically and immediately withdrawn and placed in the legislative files.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsections 1 and 2 to read:

1. Legislature in Session Suggested Reference by Secretary and Clerk. When At the direction of the presiding officers, when the Legislature is in session, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall jointly suggest an appropriate committee reference for every bill, resolve and petition offered. The suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If they are unable to agree, the question of reference must be referred to a conference of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Upon their agreement, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If they are unable to agree, the question of suggested reference must be referred to the Legislative Council for resolution. Upon the decision of the Legislative Council, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber.

Each suggested reference appearing upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber must contain a recommendation for the printing of the document being referred and may contain a recommendation on the number of copies of that document to be printed.

Any member may move for reconsideration of a committee reference on the floor. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 103, a majority vote is necessary to overturn the original committee of reference.

2. ~~Legislature Not in Session Reference to Committee by Secretary and Clerk.~~ When the Legislature is not in session or is in recess ~~for more than 4 days~~, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House may refer the bills to the appropriate joint standing committee for public hearing and order printing, subject to the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

Upon reference of a bill to a committee by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House pursuant to this subsection, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is inappropriate, a communication must be sent to the Senate and House with a recommendation of "change of committee reference." Upon reference of a bill to a committee pursuant to this subsection, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is appropriate, that bill remains in that committee. If there is not a majority agreement among the chairs and leads regarding reference of that bill, the bill is designated for discussion by the committee for a possible committee report of "refer to another committee" under Joint Rule 310, subsection 2. Any bill that undergoes a reference determination pursuant to this subsection that is retained by the committee must be scheduled for a public hearing.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 310, subsection 2 to read:

2. Committee Reports. The report of the committee must include a recommendation. Recommendations that may be made are:

Ought to Pass
Ought to Pass as Amended
~~Ought to Pass in New Draft~~
Ought Not to Pass
Refer to Another Committee
Leave to Withdraw

Except for Leave to Withdraw, the committee shall vote on all recommendations to be included in reports on a bill during a work session on that bill. When the committee recommendation is not unanimous, a minority report or reports are required. ~~Except as provided in subsection 5, minority~~ Minority committee reports must be voted on at the same work session as the majority report on that bill. ~~Notwithstanding subsection 5, a~~ A committee vote to report a bill out favorably must be taken based on written language before the committee at that time or on a motion describing the content of the report. After a committee vote, no substantive change may be made in the committee report unless motions to reconsider and to amend the report are approved at a committee work session. All reports on any legislative document must be submitted to the Legislature at the same time.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by striking out all of Joint Rule 310, subsection 4; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 310, subsection 5, paragraph A to read:

A. If any member is absent from the committee at the time of the vote, that member's vote may be registered with the clerk up until noon on the 2nd business day following the vote. A member may register a vote only on a report that was made

when the vote was taken by the committee. A member may not register a vote with the clerk creating an additional report.

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 353, subsection 1 to read:

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this Joint Rule, the following terms have the following meanings:

A. The term "legislative study" or "legislative study committee" means any group of individuals established in an Act, Resolve or Joint Order or by the Legislative Council, except those exempted under policies adopted by the Legislative Council, whose duties include studying and reporting to the Legislature on any matter or advising the Legislature on any matter and that requires the use of legislative resources; and

B. The term "legislative resources" means the expenditure of any funds appropriated or allocated to the Legislative Account, ~~the appointment of one or more persons by the Legislature~~, the inclusion of one or more legislators as members of the legislative study committee or the use of Legislative Council staff; and.

~~C. The term "non-legislative study" or "non-legislative study group" means any group of individuals directed by legislation to report back to the Legislature on any issue but that is not otherwise a legislative study.~~

; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 353, subsection 8 to read:

8. Legislation may not be introduced by legislative studies or non-legislative study groups. Legislative and non-legislative study committees or groups may include proposed legislation in their reports to the Legislature, but are not authorized to introduce legislation. Upon receipt of a report submitted by a legislative ~~or non-legislative~~ study committee or group, the joint standing committee to which the report is submitted, or the appropriate joint standing committee of jurisdiction in the event that the report is submitted to the Legislature as a whole, may introduce a bill during the session to which the report is submitted to implement its recommendations on matters relating to the study.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 129)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 206, subsection 3 to read:

3. Indian Wabanaki Tribal Representatives. The member of the Penobscot Nation, the member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians elected to represent their people at each biennial Legislature may sponsor legislation specifically relating to Indians and Indian land claims, may offer floor amendments to this legislation, may cosponsor any other legislation and may sponsor and cosponsor expressions of legislative sentiment in the same manner as other members of the House.

READ.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as the House Chair of the Joint Rules Committee. We just put the recent work of that Committee under the hammer on the previous Supplement, but I wanted to comment on this one very briefly because it came to us from our friend and colleague, the

Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative Dana, over the weekend. He pointed out that the language in our Joint Rules, Joint Rule 206, is outdated in how we describe our Tribal Representatives that serve here in this Body, and this is a simple two-word change to fix that. I had the opportunity to have conversations with folks of both parties on the Rules Committee and we all felt like this was an easy fix that we could make together. So, I ask for your support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Order was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: I request unanimous consent to address the House on the record.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received an email that I believe warrants reading at least a portion of it into the record.

Good afternoon. I am reaching out to you with a quick note to implore you regarding the budget and the payroll tax increase for family leave. My family brings home just under \$60,000 per year. We've never been on a vacation our entire lives. We do not own toys, we do not have any luxuries, just the basics to get by. We do not even have a car payment because we cannot afford it. Our list of necessities; and it goes on regarding housing, electricity, groceries and medical bills. This does not include the cost of fun things like birthday presents, Christmas gifts, Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter dinners, date nights, sports, dance lessons. My family can't afford these things. We don't qualify for MaineCare or SNAP benefits like many Mainers do. We find ourselves visiting food pantries once per month just to make ends meet. We are struggling. We have stopped paying our house payment to save for a camper to live in. This is the position that our government has put our citizens in, and we are not the only ones. My brother's family has built a shed to live in, a one-room shed with just a bathroom that offers any semblance of privacy. Another friend of mine moved into a camper from a mobile home last fall because they cannot afford the mobile home payment or the lot rent. Another family member of mine is also living in a camper. She asked this question, Mr. Speaker; Is this the vision that you have for Maine? We live in rural Maine, like so many Mainers do. We are perplexed that the Maine Legislature, for years, seems to have a fantasy idea that taxpayers can just continue to support the programs and projects that the Chief Executive and the Legislature desire to follow after. Something's got to give. The payroll tax increase may not seem significant to you, but it's taking much-needed money from my family every single month when we already feel like we are going to drown. Where else do you recommend that we cut our budget? How much more do you expect us to give? I am trying to help you understand the plight of normal Mainers; real people who are suffering every single day to just get by.

This is from Mr. and Mrs. Conner in Searsport, Maine, and I suspect that we all received this email, and I would encourage my fellow legislators to read it. I'll get to the announcement portion of my announcement.

Mr. Speaker, the Chief Executive's biennial budget includes myriad new and increased taxes, including raising the tobacco tax, creating a brand-new prescription tax, creating an ambulance service tax, among others. In the coming weeks, this budget will be the subject of much legislative debate, but it is worth it to me to be on the record right now. It is unacceptable to contemplate raising taxes on any Mainer right now. Whether it's increasing a tax or inventing a tax, as seems to be prevalent throughout this biennial budget, Maine people are already suffering under the fourth-highest tax burden in the country. This budget will make poor people poorer, and it underscores the divide that so many already feel with two Maines and that feel that only one seems to matter to the Maine Legislature. The only acceptable solution is to cut spending, but this biennial budget does not do that. Maine people like the Conners cannot afford this budget, with its ever-expanding taxes, and it is audacious of this Legislature to even contemplate doing so. No new taxes, no raised taxes and no raiding the Rainy Day Fund. That is the only acceptable solution. And so, regardless of which side of the aisle you sit, I invite you to support Maine citizens by signing the pledge for no new taxes, no increased taxes and no raiding the Rainy Day Fund in this biennial budget. Maine citizens cannot afford anything less. And I will not hold my clipboard up, as it is a prop, but I have it in hand for anyone that would like to sign it.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members the opportunity for announcements is for announcements, and if we're going to use the announcements as a matter of *ad hoc* debate, I think we will have a very lengthy two-year session if debates on policy spill over into our announcements. I just want to caution the Body from getting into a practice where announcements are an extension of our policy debates.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the University of Maine System Campus Police from Issuing a Citation or Summons Related to a Parking Violation to a Visitor of the University of Maine System"

(S.P. 85) (L.D. 198)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 84) (L.D. 197)

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Cost of Electricity by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Resources of Energy"

(S.P. 91) (L.D. 204)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services" (S.P. 79) (L.D. 143)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Number of Children a Family Child Care Provider May Care for Without Having to Be Licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services" (S.P. 89) (L.D. 202)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Financial Institutions from Charging Multiple Fees for Attempted Withdrawals Involving Insufficient Funds" (S.P. 78) (L.D. 142)

Bill "An Act to Establish a Limit on the Interest Rate Charged for Revolving Loans" (S.P. 88) (L.D. 201)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create the Small Business Capital Savings Account Program" (S.P. 95) (L.D. 195)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Bag Limit for Turkey" (S.P. 92) (L.D. 205)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Limited Immunity to Maine Human Rights Commission Mediators" (S.P. 77) (L.D. 141)

Bill "An Act Regarding Documents Obtained by Subpoena by the Government Oversight Committee" (S.P. 94) (L.D. 196)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Businesses by Eliminating the Automatic Cost-of-living Adjustment to the Minimum Hourly Wage" (S.P. 93) (L.D. 206)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate" (S.P. 80) (L.D. 144)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption" (S.P. 76) (L.D. 140)

Bill "An Act Pertaining to Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Durable Medical Equipment, Breast Pumps and Mobility-enhancing Equipment" (S.P. 81) (L.D. 145)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Amount of the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit That May be Taken in a Year" (S.P. 82) (L.D. 146)

Bill "An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Employer-supported Child Care" (S.P. 90) (L.D. 203)

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

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

Resolve, to Rename the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge in the Town of Standish (S.P. 87) (L.D. 200)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Change the Limits on Candidates' Communications with Voters at the Polls" (S.P. 86) (L.D. 199)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifying Contributions of Cash Under the Maine Clean Election Act" (S.P. 96) (L.D. 207)

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

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

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

On motion of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, the House adjourned at 12:00 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 83) and in honor and lasting tribute to Ed Doudera of Camden, Thomas Lambert of Burlington, Hubert R. Billings of Deer Isle, Kittridge A. Johnson of Winter Harbor and Lisa A. Boutilier of Rumford.