

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
7th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Scott Taylor, Hermon Baptist Church.

National Anthem by Marshwood Middle School Choir, Eliot.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Marco Cornelio, MD, Kennebunk.

The Journal of Thursday, April 10, 2025 was read and approved.

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

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At this point, the Chair recognized the Representative from Sanford, Representative LANIGAN, and he was added to the roll call of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**Recognizing:**

the University of Maine Women's Soccer Team, of Orono, which won the America East Championship, the team's second straight title. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 185)

Presented by Representative DILL of Old Town.

Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, Representative OSHER of Orono.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DILL of Old Town, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

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

Representative **DILL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, it is with great pleasure that I get to welcome the UMaine Women's Soccer Team reps here today after their second consecutive America East Championship title. They defeated their border rival, UNH, 3-0 to win this title. This was the first-ever border rival match for the Championship. Maine went 13-1-3 for the season, over their 11-2-6 2023 season, so, it was a little better this year. And this season marked the most wins since their 2000 season of 14-4-2. Maine is the first team to win back-to-back Championships since Stony Brook in 2019-2020.

Interestingly, the team had three sets of sisters on the team, led by sister captains Emma and Myla Schneider. Myla, a senior; get this; played every minute of the entire 2024 season. So, that shows her stamina as an athlete. However, me being a scientist myself, I must also say that Myla is a biology major, as was I a few years ago at UMaine, but that's where the comparison ends. She has a neuroscience minor and a pre-med concentration, with a measly 3.975 GPA. But I better warn

her to look where being a UM major may land you someday, so. Emma's a grad student, selected to America East All-Tournament Team and All-Conference Second Team. And finally, the last rep is Madison Michaud, who is a junior, and she hails from Gorham, Maine. I just want to say congratulations to these fine young athletes and scholars.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate UMaine Men's Hockey for their Hockey East Title, and I must admit I did attend every game this season. Thank you.

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

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**Recognizing:**

the University of Maine Men's Ice Hockey Team, of Orono, which won the Hockey East Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 186)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, Representative OSHER of Orono.

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 and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this certainly hasn't been my first time to rise for this team, and I am sure will not be my last time.

I stand today to speak about the incredible team and the talented, hardworking young men and their coaching staff that have successfully made the UMaine Men's Hockey Team the 2025 Hockey East Champions. This team is the first team outside the State of Massachusetts to win Hockey East since Maine won it in 2004. With 24 wins, only eight losses and six ties, this team won the sixth Hockey East Tournament in the program's history. Since winning the 2025 Hockey East Championship, six players have been signed into pro contracts, including: Harrison Scott to the Dallas Stars, Taylor Makar to the Colorado Avalanche, David Breazeale to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Ross Mitton to Bridgeport Islanders, Lynden Breen to Hershey Bears and Nolan Renwick to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of the young men that are here today and those who were unable to make it. First, I'd like to recognize Coach Ben Barr, who was for the third straight year recognized as runner-up Hockey East Coach of the Year. Brandon Holt, a junior defensive player, was named the Hockey East Third Team All-Star, runner-up for the best defenseman and is the first Maine defenseman to receive Hockey East All-Star Honors since the 2018-2019 team. Albin Boija, a sophomore goalie, was named New England Hockey Writers Association Division I All-Star, Hockey East Second Team All-Star and 2025 Maine Mike Richter Award finalist. Albin's Goals Against Average ranks fifth overall in the country, while his save percentage is tied for eighth-best and fourth among goaltenders with at least 30 games played. His four shutouts this season tie for the fourth-best in the country, while his 23 wins rank fifth. He was also named the William Flynn Tournament MVP. Five of the six 2025 Steve Nazaro All-Tournament team members were from UMaine: Albin Boija, Luke Antonacci, David Breazeale, Owen

Fowler and Harrison Scott. We won't mention the other player from UConn.

I also want to mention alternate captain Thomas Freel; who is here today; a UMaine junior forward, and he's up in the gallery with his team. He and all of his teammates were so much fun to watch over the last couple of seasons. Mr. Speaker, all I have left to say is, I can't wait for the next season; the fans, the arena, the team, the Screaming Black Bears Pep Band; of which my son has been a member for two years; and the coming together of our State to cheer on the Black Bears. Go blue.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night, as I was taking my three children to skating lessons, I looked around the rink and there was a handful of jerseys there, but by far, the jersey that outnumbered them all was the Maine jersey. And I think that's something that, growing up here in Maine, we just come to take for granted, is all of the University of Maine jerseys around us and hats and caps. I know it lines my closet, you know, and as a child, I wore a University of Maine Hockey jersey, I was fortunate enough to be able to wear a University of Maine Baseball jersey and that jersey means something. It means something to the individuals in the gallery today, from the soccer team that won back-to-back America East titles. It's not easy to win America East, it's even harder to win Hockey East; which I would liken that to the SEC conference for football of hockey; it is the absolute best teams in the country. And that hard work and dedication that these young individuals have put in throughout their entire life shows when they put on that Maine jersey. And I understand how hard it is that you are working a full-time job and going to school at the same time. And I just want you to know that you deserve that, you have put in the work, you have the skill. And know that when you put on that Maine jersey, you are putting it on for yourself, but you are putting it on for the entire State of Maine, because Maine is our premier team, whether it's hockey, basketball, baseball, football, soccer, what have you. So, thank you very much for your hard work, dedication, and go blue.

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

**Recognizing:**

Michael Andreasen, of North Yarmouth, Boys Varsity Soccer Coach at Greely High School, who received the National Coach of the Year for Large Schools Award from United Soccer Coaches. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 187)

Presented by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth. Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland, Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand to honor my friend, Mike Andreasen; who is known by his teams as Coach A. He is a National Coach of the Year for Large Schools Award for United Soccer Coaches. He received his award a couple months ago in Chicago.

Mike has coached both boys and girls at Greely High School and in the Cumberland school system for 33 years. The Greely boys' team won the Class B State Soccer Championship on November 9, 2024, at Cameron Stadium in Bangor. The boys' season was a strong one, culminating with an undefeated season, the first in school history, with a record of 17 victories and one tie.

My family moved to North Yarmouth over 30 years ago. We met Mike and his wife, Kim, as he coached and ran Cumberland Soccer Club. My children learned to play and my husband, Ron, became one of the coaches. Ron has been Mike's coach for well over 18 years. Mr. Speaker, taking words from *Ted Lasso*, football is my life, fits Mike and my family, too.

I must give a shout-out to Kim. Kim is the epitome of a soccer mom. I think she hasn't missed a single game that Mike has coached. She has supported all the players and their families, not just her own kids. Mike also teaches history at Gray-New Gloucester High School, and he coaches the girls' varsity basketball team in Gray-New Gloucester. He's been a soccer official for over 30 years. Oh, and in his spare time, he's a great Dad and a Granddad. And this clearly is a soccer-hockey day, and I'm just so honored to congratulate my dear friend, Mike, for this award.

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

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property"

(H.P. 1096) (L.D. 1655)

Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan. Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MORRIS of Turner, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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.

Bill "An Act to Develop Maine's Credentialed Workforce"

(H.P. 1094) (L.D. 1653)

Sponsored by Representative SARGENT of York. Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, HEPLER of Woolwich, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MURPHY of Scarborough, OSHER of Orono, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

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 Preserve and Strengthen the Fund for a Healthy Maine"

(H.P. 1099) (L.D. 1658)

Sponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.  
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: MEYER of Eliot, MOONEN of Portland, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland.

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.

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Bill "An Act Relating to Health Care Transparency and the Maine Health Data Organization"

(H.P. 1104) (L.D. 1663)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Representative: LIBBY of Auburn.

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.

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Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with Populations of More than 10,000"

(H.P. 1103) (L.D. 1662)

Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLINS of Sidney, PAUL of Winterport, SMITH of Palermo, Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Revenue for Affordable Housing by Adding Authorized Project Costs"

(H.P. 1098) (L.D. 1657)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, GERE of Kennebunkport, LEE of Auburn, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MURPHY of Scarborough, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SACHS of Freeport.

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

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Raise Revenue to Fund Firefighting Equipment Purchases and Training Related to Electric Vehicle Fires Through a Fee on Electric Vehicles"

(H.P. 1100) (L.D. 1659)

Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: GUERRETTE of Caribou, LANCE of Paris, LEMELIN of Chelsea.

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

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Establish a Comprehensive and Interagency Approach to Invasive Species Management"

(H.P. 1102) (L.D. 1661)

Sponsored by Representative FROST of Belgrade.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HASENFUS of Readfield, HEPLER of Woolwich, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested.

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On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Allow Paralegals to Be Paid by the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services"

(H.P. 1091) (L.D. 1650)

Sponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, DRINKWATER of Milford, HAGGAN of Hampden, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Remove the Term 'Alleged' When Referring to Victims of Sexual Assault in the Maine Revised Statutes"

(H.P. 1092) (L.D. 1651)

Sponsored by Representative PUGH of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, KUHN of Falmouth, MACIAS of Topsham, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SATO of Gorham.

Bill "An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities"

(H.P. 1097) (L.D. 1656)

Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, GRIFFIN of Levant, PAUL of Winterport, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act Creating a Private Right of Action Against a Government Employer"

(H.P. 1101) (L.D. 1660)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.  
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CHAPMAN of Auburn, HASENFUS of Readfield, LEE of Auburn, LOOKNER of Portland, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Create a Tax Credit for Providers of Dental Care for MaineCare Recipients"

(H.P. 1093) (L.D. 1652)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.  
Cosponsored by Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent, Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, GRIFFIN of Levant, LEMELIN of Chelsea, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act to Allow a Grace Period for the Payment of Excise Tax for Adult Use Cannabis Cultivation Facilities"

(H.P. 1095) (L.D. 1654)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, CROCKETT of Portland, FREDERICKS of Sanford, LAVIGNE of Berwick, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

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### SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 638)

#### **JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, May is Jewish American Heritage Month, established by the United States Congress to recognize the more than 365-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans, in the face of unspeakable discrimination and adversity, have fought tirelessly to realize the promise of the nation's founding and their achievements have enriched the country, stirred our conscience and challenged us to extend the miracles of freedom and security; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have worked to strengthen the promise of religious freedom because their ancestors were tested from the moment they came together and professed their faith, and Jewish Americans continue to teach us empathy and compassion, inspired by their parents and grandparents, who know how it felt to be a stranger, and to stand up for a more perfect union for all; and

WHEREAS, Jewish communities continue to confront hostility and bigotry, including in America; and

WHEREAS, our nation shares an obligation to condemn and combat anti-Semitism and hatred wherever it exists and we remain committed to standing against the ugly tide of anti-Semitism in all its forms, including the denial or trivialization of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, during Jewish American Heritage Month, we celebrate the hard-fought progress won through struggle and sacrifice and we rededicate ourselves to building a world where diversity is cherished and faith is protected; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, recognize May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month and take this opportunity to urge the citizens of the State to observe Jewish American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

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

**READ.**

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I contemplated for a little while what I wanted to say on the occasion of this Resolution recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month. One of the things that I thought about was cataloging contributions and contributors, Jewish Americans throughout our nation's history who have contributed to literature, the arts and sciences, and entertainment, health, law, national security, social movements, sports and other fields. But then it occurred to me that it's not the sum of the contributions of any community; whether it be Jewish or other communities; but it's rather the fact that we have this diverse tapestry.

The strand that is the Jewish American experience is one of many, and that's something that our experience as having been faced persecutions for dozens of centuries, under many governments, has left the Jewish people, including in this country, to wonder, what does it mean to live in a just society? And as Rabbi Hillel wrote about 2,000 years ago, "if I'm not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" And so, with the sense of the recent memory of persecution that had befallen his community in 1790, a leader in a Jewish community here in New England wrote to the then-newly elected President of the United States, George Washington, essentially asking, what does it mean to be Jewish in this new nation? We've lived under many governments, many sovereigns and executives and have suffered a lot. And so, what can we expect? That's of course a paraphrase of the letter that he wrote. And President Washington, who was then touring the United States with Thomas Jefferson and other dignitaries, replied to the Jewish community at the Touro Synagogue. He said, "it is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support." He said; excerpting later in the letter; he said, "may the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants – while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make them afraid."

So, even though that was written by the father of our country to the Jewish community, I do believe that President Washington's words have relevance today, as in all times. Nobody should be made to feel afraid. People should be able to exercise their own faith without fear, live their own way and nobody should make them afraid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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Bill "An Act to Address the Safety of Nurses and Improve Patient Care by Enacting the Maine Quality Care Act"  
(S.P. 509) (L.D. 1281)

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

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

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the Bill be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR**.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **REQUESTED** a roll call on **REFERENCE** to the Committee on **LABOR**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This LD 1281 amends Title 22 solely, which is under the purview of the Health and Human Services and on that fact alone, I believe that this bill should be referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE IN CONCURRENCE** to the Committee on **LABOR** and later today assigned. (Roll Call Ordered)

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1090)

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April 11, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On April 11, 2025, 30 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on April 11, 2025, as follows:

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

Bill "An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Compliance with Certain Constitutional Obligations Related to Disclosure of Evidence" (H.P. 1061) (L.D. 1607) (Sponsored by Representative BUNKER of Farmington) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

**Education and Cultural Affairs**

Resolve, to Facilitate the Ability of the Maine State Museum to Acquire and Preserve Special Collections (H.P. 1068) (L.D. 1614) (Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SARGENT of York)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming" (H.P. 1078) (L.D. 1624) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CROCKETT of Portland, MCCABE of Lewiston, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Improve Professional Development for Educational Technicians and School Support Staff" (H.P. 1080) (L.D. 1626) (Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, KUHN of Falmouth, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham)

Bill "An Act Regarding Workforce Development, Education Reform and Talent Retention" (H.P. 1081) (L.D. 1627) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

**Energy, Utilities and Technology**

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Pathways for Creating a Thermal Energy Networks Program in Maine (H.P. 1073) (L.D. 1619) (Sponsored by Representative RUNTE of York) (Cosponsored by Representative: MCINTYRE of Lowell)

**Environment and Natural Resources**

Bill "An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials" (H.P. 1087) (L.D. 1633) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

**Health and Human Services**

Bill "An Act to Require Data Collection and Major Substantive Rulemaking for the Lifespan Waiver Providing Home and Community-based Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Other Related Conditions" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1060) (L.D. 1606) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, HEPLER of Woolwich, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: MOORE of Washington, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Establish Maine's Care Force to Address the State's Health Care Crisis" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1067) (L.D. 1613) (Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, HASENFUS of Readfield, MALON of Biddeford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RAY of Lincolnville, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Address Child Stay Times in Hospital Emergency Departments (H.P. 1085) (L.D. 1631) (Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DEBRITO of Waterville, DUCHARME of Madison, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, JAVNER of Chester, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

Bill "An Act Regarding MaineCare Waiting Lists" (H.P. 1088) (L.D. 1634) (Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, MCCABE of Lewiston, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

**Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry" (H.P. 1069) (L.D. 1615) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FOLEY of Wells, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington)

**Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws Related to Landowner Representation Regarding Abandoned Property" (H.P. 1077) (L.D. 1623) (Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CRAY of Palmyra, MASON of Lisbon, ROBERTS of South Berwick, THORNE of Carmel)

**Judiciary**

Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1072) (L.D. 1618) (Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, PUGH of Portland, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

**Labor**

Bill "An Act to Decrease the Retirement Contributions Required for Teachers and State Employees" (H.P. 1065) (L.D. 1611) (Sponsored by Representative MCCABE of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: INGWERSEN of York)

**Marine Resources**

Bill "An Act Regarding the Preservation of Working Waterfronts" (H.P. 1079) (L.D. 1625) (Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery) (Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representative: MEYER of Eliot, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

**State and Local Government**

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Regulate Exterior Lights" (H.P. 1082) (L.D. 1628) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, MATLACK of St. George, WHITE of Guilford, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Bill "An Act to Require Legislative Committees to Provide Equal Time to Each Member of the Public Who Testifies" (H.P. 1083) (L.D. 1629) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, HASENFUS of Readfield, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation" (H.P. 1089) (L.D. 1635) (Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, JACKSON of Oxford, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

**Taxation**

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Apportion Differentiated Tax Rates on Real Property According to Use (H.P. 1064) (L.D. 1610) (Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, GEIGER of Rockland, MALON of Biddeford, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act to Lower the Exclusion Amount for the Estate Tax and Create an Exclusion for Family Farms and Aquaculture, Fishing and Wood Harvesting Businesses" (H.P. 1071) (L.D. 1617) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, MACIAS of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Tax Increment Financing Revenues to Support Lake Restoration and Protection Activities" (H.P. 1075) (L.D. 1621) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DUCHARME of Madison, GEIGER of Rockland, LEE of Auburn, ROLLINS of Augusta)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Income from State Income Tax" (H.P. 1076) (L.D. 1622) (Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Open Space Tax Law" (H.P. 1084) (L.D. 1630) (Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk) (Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York, TIPPING of Penobscot)

**Transportation**

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Solicit Proposals for the Utilization of Unused State-owned Railroad Lines (H.P. 1066) (L.D. 1612) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, EATON of Deer Isle, HYMES of Waldo, MONTELL of Gardiner, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, LIBBY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Requirements for Drivers to Surrender Their Physical Driver's Licenses During a Temporary Suspension" (H.P. 1070) (L.D. 1616) (Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle) (Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Provide Incentives and Amend Laws Regarding Access to Protect Rural Highway Capacity and Promote Long-term Economic Development" (H.P. 1086) (L.D. 1632) (Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DOUDERA of Camden, EATON of Deer Isle, MONTELL of Gardiner, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

**Veterans and Legal Affairs**

Bill "An Act to Counter Unlawful Cannabis Cultivation" (H.P. 1062) (L.D. 1608) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, ARDELL of Monticello, EDER of Waterboro, FOSTER of Dexter, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec)

Bill "An Act to Prevent the Participation of Individuals and Companies Linked to Federally Recognized Criminal Organizations in the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Programs" (H.P. 1063) (L.D. 1609) (Sponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, HENDERSON of Rumford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products" (H.P. 1074) (L.D. 1620) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MONTELL of Gardiner, RIELLY of Westbrook, SUPICA of Bangor)

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
S/Darek M. Grant  
Secretary of the Senate

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**  
Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 132)

**STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR  
66 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0066**

Letter of Transmittal  
Honorable Members of the Legislative Council, 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature;  
Honorable Janet T. Mills  
Governor of the State of Maine  
I am pleased to submit the Single Audit of the State of Maine for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the requirements of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our audit complies with 5 MRSA §243 and is also a prerequisite for the receipt of Federal financial assistance. During fiscal year 2024, \$5.5 billion in Federal financial assistance was expended by the State of Maine.

This document contains the following reports and schedules:

- Independent Auditor's Report
- Basic Financial Statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis, Notes to the Financial Statements, and Required Supplementary Information
- Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters based on an Audit of Financial Statements performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*
- Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
- Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
- Financial Statement Findings
- Federal Findings Indexes and Federal Award Identification Numbers
- Federal Findings and Questioned Costs
- Corrective Action Plan
- Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

On behalf of the Office of the State Auditor, I thank employees throughout Maine Government who assisted us during the audit. Please contact me if you have questions or comments about the 2024 Single Audit of the State of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,  
S/Matthew Dunlap, CIA  
State Auditor  
March 27, 2025

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 133)

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

April 15, 2025  
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

- Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
L.D. 1019 An Act to Provide Funding for Fort McClary Criminal Justice and Public Safety
- L.D. 330 Resolve, to Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Technical Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses
- L.D. 962 An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet  
Health and Human Services
- L.D. 1233 An Act to Modify Confidentiality Laws to Protect Children Being Placed into Custody by the Department of Health and Human Services
- Taxation  
L.D. 908 An Act to Eliminate the Sales Tax on Prepared Foods and Support the State's Hospitality Industry
- Transportation  
L.D. 557 An Act to Allow All-terrain Vehicles to Be Used on a Public Way
- L.D. 864 An Act to Allow the Use of Transporter Plates for Transporting Campers or Motor Homes
- L.D. 925 Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America (EMERGENCY)
- L.D. 989 An Act to Recognize Amateur Radio License Holders by Waiving Fees for License Plates Displaying Call Signs

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 1092 An Act to Ensure That Dual Distribution Prohibitions Are Not Violated by Direct Shippers of Wine

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 134)

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

April 15, 2025  
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Crockett of Portland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 315 An Act to Add a Personal Finance Course to the State Graduation Requirements in High Schools

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House

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

---

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

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE  
Change of Committee**

Representative KUHN from the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Retirement Benefits and Salary Adjustments for Judicial Employees"

(H.P. 743) (L.D. 1124)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR.**

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

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and sent for concurrence.

**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Use Certain Regional Transmission Organization Payments for Beneficial Electrification to Reduce Electricity Rates" (S.P. 268) (L.D. 585)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York  
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport  
GEIGER of Rockland  
KESSLER of South Portland  
RUNTE of York  
WARREN of Scarborough  
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter  
MCINTYRE of Lowell  
PAUL of Winterport  
WADSWORTH of Hiram

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

**READ.**

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand in opposition to the pending motion.

Very simply, this bill extends a sunset that takes place this year on funding; which is currently going through Efficiency Maine Trust; to fund heat pumps. This bill will add to that EVs, and I believe that there's a disparity in how this money will then go to people that I represent; who certainly have been taking advantage and installing heat pumps utilizing dollars that go to those. However, I am very confident that they will not be the majority or even equal to the number of people that will have the opportunity to use this money for EVs. I would prefer, Mr. Speaker, that we not pass this and that we continue to fund through the process for heat pumps alone. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion for several reasons.

This bucket of money, this three to four million dollars from the forward capacity markets that are being purchased for Efficiency Maine Trust, had indeed been dedicated to electric heat pumps. However, we can walk and chew gum at the same time. Efficiency Maine Trust is charged with two things: beneficial electrification, so that all Mainers can see lower rates

in their electricity through beneficial electrification; and number two, through reduced greenhouse emissions. They are simply asking that this small portion of their funding; which is braided amidst many, many other portions of funding; in fact, heat pumps, we've been lucky enough to have \$135 million and we were ahead of our heat pump goal so much so that we were able to extend that goal even further for beneficial electrification. All they are asking for is flexibility to meet the market, because the demand for EVs for places like schools, that funding ran out last year. So, they want to be able to spread the benefits throughout the State for both heat pumps and electric vehicle rebates. So, I urge folks to support the pending motion. Thanks so much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Warren.

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you. I wanted to speak briefly in support of this bill for a reason that's not stated outright in the bill, but which underwrites the entire purpose and function of the bill.

If we're going to be bidding into the forward capacity market for more funds for electric vehicles, that kind of begs the question, to what end; for what explicit purpose? And, well, I want to tell you. If we see the urgency of addressing climate change alongside both recognizing the reality of our Maine population and the value of equity in our rebate programs, we will need an approximate three times as much funding per rebate for low- and moderate-income residents to offset the amount of money that an average resident of this class can afford to pay for an electric vehicle. That's more than the one-third amount needed to offset a high-income rebate, and that's the majority of those who take advantage of this program today. These dollars are urgently needed not only to make critical changes in our transportation sector; which is our largest emitting sector in the State at present; but to do so in an equitable way.

I hope you will support the pending motion and future legislation to ensure that a just transition is allocated with funding in the most equitable way possible. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Cluchey.

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't always appreciate the floor speeches we hear in this Chamber, but today, I really do, because the Good Representative from Dexter raised some of the concerns I had earlier when I looked into this bill. But having listened to the Representative from Freeport and the Representative from Scarborough, they alleviated a lot of my concerns, and so, I'm happy to support this bill.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 82**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bunker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 77; No, 72; Absent, 1; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 1 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of Recreational Campfires"

(H.P. 604) (L.D. 939)

Signed:

Senators:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland  
BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren  
BUNKER of Farmington  
COOPER of Windham  
DILL of Old Town  
FROST of Belgrade  
GUERRETTE of Caribou  
HEPLER of Woolwich

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-48)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

CRAY of Palmyra  
JACKSON of Oxford

**READ.**

On motion of Representative PLUECKER of Warren, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Criminal Code Governing Restitution to Include the Costs of All Analyses of Suspected Illegal Drugs" (H.P. 456) (L.D. 717)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox  
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield  
ABDI of Lewiston  
BUNKER of Farmington  
LAJOIE of Lewiston  
LOOKNER of Portland  
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello  
MCINTYRE of Lowell  
NUTTING of Oakland  
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

**READ.**

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report and later today assigned.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for Legislation Regarding Land Development" (H.P. 477) (L.D. 735)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
CAMPBELL of Orrington  
OSHER of Orono  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
WOODSOME of Waterboro

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

**READ.**

Representative DOUDERA of Camden moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative PAUL of Winterport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

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

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

I rise today to speak in support of my bill to reinstate Maine's coastal sand dune protections; protections that were stripped away by LD 2266 last session. And let me be clear, that bill marked a dangerous turning point for Maine's environmental policy. It dismantled longstanding science-based safeguards for some of the most fragile and irreplaceable ecosystems in our State. This bill failed in the House the first time it was introduced. It barely passed in the Other Body. But through an aggressive and well-funded lobbying campaign, special interest groups exerted enormous pressure on lawmakers, and when it returned to the House, enough votes flipped to push it through. That was not legislative consensus; it was coercion.

Now, we're seeing the consequences. With protections weakened, doors have opened to reckless development, particularly on Sears Island, one of Maine's last remaining undeveloped coastal areas. A site where fragile sand dunes and wetlands are now on the chopping block to make way for an industrial offshore wind port, a project tied with floating turbine platforms, the Voltturnus, that failed to advance in federal testing and faces serious doubts about its future.

So, why Sears Island? Because of its water depth. That is it. It is not because it is the best site; it's because it's the most politically convenient. And that convenience comes at a high price; the destruction of protected ecosystems, critical wildlife habitat and a natural buffer that protects our coast from erosion and storm damage. But we've seen this story before. When a dry cargo terminal was proposed on Sears Island in the 1990s, a joint federal review from the EPA, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded the project would cause the following: irreparable harm to aquatic ecosystems; disruptions of water circulation patterns; destruction of habitat for threatened and endangered species; permanent damage to wetlands, fisheries and water quality; and finally, severe economic and environmental degradation to the region. But that project was stopped. But the threats have returned. This time, under the greenwash banner of offshore wind.

And let's address the shameful rhetoric being used to justify this. A Committee Member called Sears Island's dunes 'dead dunes.' Let me be blunt; there's no such term in Maine's environmental laws or scientific records. The Maine Department in Environmental Protection and Geological Survey recognize dunes as dynamic, living systems; vital for stability, wildlife and storm protection. Labeling them dead is not science. It's an excuse to bulldoze a priceless ecosystem for profit. It is a lie meant to deceive us into thinking these dunes are expendable and they're not. Worse still, this project threatens Maine's heritage fishing industry, a cornerstone of our economy and way of life. The proposed development would involve shoving millions of cubic yards of soil into the ocean, smothering clam beds, scallop grounds and other vital marine habitats. These are not just patches of seabed; they're the lifeblood of our coastal communities, supporting fishermen and their families

who have worked these waters for generations. Destroying these resources for a speculative industrial project is a betrayal of our heritage and a direct attack on our livelihoods.

But let's be honest about what is happening. Maine is prepared to destroy a fragile coastal ecosystem and cripple an historic industry for a speculative project that may never succeed. And while some claim this is a step forward for the environment, it is anything but. In fact, research from NOAA shows that intact dune systems are one of our best defenses against coastal flooding and storm damage. They absorb wave energy, prevent erosion and protect property and infrastructure. Even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that preserving natural ecosystems is more effective at reducing long-term environmental risk than many of the very industrial projects proposed to solve these problems. We are replacing a proven natural defense with a concrete experiment. And the damage doesn't stop at the shoreline. The piping plover; a federally threatened and State endangered bird; relies on these coastal dunes for nesting and survival. Its population is already under stress. If we continue to develop these areas, we are not just putting birds at risk; we are eliminating entire habitats. And for what? A platform that may never be built. A project that may never be viable. There's no excuse for this. This is not responsible development; it is short-sighted, politically driven and environmentally devastating. Consider this, only two percent of Maine's entire coastline consists of sand dunes. We have just three sand dunes left in this region alone. That's it. Once they're gone, we don't get them back. That's why I submitted this bill to restore the protections LD 2266 tore down, to ensure that future development decisions are guided by science, not special interests, and to prevent the destruction of one of the few truly wild places we have left.

We must decide what kind of legacy we want to leave. Do we want to be remembered as the ones who let our coast be carved up by short-term projects and outside interests? Or do we want to be remembered as the ones who stood up, drew a line and said, enough? Let's protect what we cannot replace. I urge a strong, united vote to reinstate Maine sand dune protections and stop this dangerous precedent from becoming permanent policy. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative Dana.

Representative **DANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Greeting in Passamaquoddy]. Mr. Speaker, Honorable House Members, I rise today in support of the bill, LD 735, to protect the fragile sand dunes of Sears Island. And I do so not only as a Representative in this House, but as a Passamaquoddy person, part of a nation that has lived in connection with these lands, islands and waters for thousands of years.

The sand dunes on Sears Island are not just sand; they are a living ecosystem, they are barriers against storm surges and they protect inland ecosystems. They are a nesting ground for birds and homes to plants and insect species that have adapted over generations to that specific place. Once disturbed, these ecosystems do not return, and once lost, they take with them the entire relationships between the land and the spirit.

The development being proposed, whether for industrial use or as part of a green initiative, requires leveling these sand dunes, filling in coastal areas and reshaping the natural flow of the ecosystem, all in the name of protecting the environment. But is it really protecting the environment, Mr. Speaker? And I ask you, how can we protect the environment by destroying it? That is not sustainability, that is not stewardship and that is not what our next generations deserve. Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past. My people, the Passamaquoddy, have

already been and seen what happens when coastal construction is done without the respect for the land, water and the life that it holds. At Sipayik, a causeway was built that changed the tides. It was once a vibrant place to fish that had become barren. The fish stopped returning, the water stopped breathing, the clams stopped growing, in the same way that this project will impact that specific environment. It was not intentional, but the loss was permanent. Now we stand at another crossroads, and I urge this Body; let us learn, let us listen and let us choose differently.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, that we consider what we might destroy. I ask us to value the ecosystems not just for what they can do for us, but for what they are. They are sacred, they are balanced and they are alive. We must protect these sand dunes not just because they are beautiful or rare, but because they are necessary, and we must recognize the contradiction of tearing up one piece of Earth in order to save another. The Passamaquoddy people know that the health of this land is the health of the people. We want to protect these dunes. We protect not only the wildlife, the habitat; and we protect wisdom, future livelihoods and the soul of this coastline and the beauty that it brings. Let us not sacrifice the natural world to serve an understudied energy source. Let us build a future that is truly in balance. [Closing in Passamaquoddy]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, LD 735 would repeal legislation that became law just last year after substantial debate in both the ENR Committee and in this Chamber. The provisions that became law were thoroughly and thoughtfully considered, with hours of testimony and discussion. What passed was a special exemption from a major substantive rule for a manmade sand dune on Sears Island, an exemption that took into account the projected environmental and economic benefits of supporting offshore wind operations. In addition to the exemption, the measure included one million dollars appropriated from the General Fund to compensate for the less than one-half acre dune; money that has now been paid into the Coastal Sand Dune Restoration and Protection Fund for grants to restore, protect, conserve, nourish or revegetate other coastal sand dune systems in Maine. So far, 10 applications have been received for those grants and awards will be distributed to communities around the State later this year.

Not only would LD 735 undo this legislation and the Coastal Sand Dune Restoration and Protection Fund, but it would require any legislation that conflicts with U.S. EPA regulation to be sponsored only by a legislator who represents the affected area and may be enacted with a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I do not want to be dictated to in terms of what legislation I can and cannot sponsor.

LD 735 would repeal the DEP's authority to grant a permit to MDTOT to construct a port on Sears Island, a strategic State plan that has been in the making for decades and that taxpayers have consistently supported and paid for. Sears Island is owned by the State of Maine, with two-thirds of it placed in permanent conservation for all of us to enjoy and the remainder an important asset as a deep-water port. LD 735 would also prohibit the State from developing any land on Sears Island without first establishing an Indigenous Land Protection Committee and obtaining from such Committee a certification that an area to be developed does not contain a site sacred to Indigenous people of Maine. While perhaps well intentioned,

neither this provision nor the bill as a whole was created in consultation with Maine's tribal leaders. Furthermore, currently any port development in the State, whether at Sears Island or any other location, initiates the National Environmental Policy Act and the Historic Preservation Act, and these Acts provide for tribal consultation and involvement where a federally authorized project may affect a property of tribal significance.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to add that we did have Mr. Fred Moore from the leadership of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and I want to quote from what he said to us. "Passamaquoddy leadership as represented by the two Chiefs of the Passamaquoddy Tribal Reservations ... have not been involved with any communication with any persons or organizations regarding the sponsorship or co-sponsorship of these ... bills. That should clarify that the Passamaquoddy Tribe greatly appreciates the opportunity to come here to clarify their position, which is neither for nor against." He went on to say, "part of the reason for the Passamaquoddy Tribe to not take a position on these two particular bills is that the area in question lies in what we would consider the traditional territory of the Penobscot Nation. We have not been asked by the Penobscot Nation to offer any support or opposition to these bills or to weigh in on those. It is out of respect and protocol that the Passamaquoddy Tribe would not take a position on bills impacting another Tribe's territory as long as that Tribe is still around and exercising responsibility for the preservation of their cultural and economic interests. It would be inconsistent with protocol for us to weigh in on ... developments on another tribe's territory," and it is my understanding that the Penobscot Tribe has hired a sustainable energy liaison to represent the Nation in offshore wind planning research and development, including the potential use of Sears Island for a port.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I want to say that LD 735 would also take away additional acreage as well as an ecologically sound sand dune that was put into protection last year and was added to the conservation area. I hike on Sears Island several times a year, Mr. Speaker. It's lovely, but it is not an undeveloped piece of land. There's a paved road, a cellphone tower, aging stormwater features, old cellar holes and a jetty. But there are also sweeping views of Penobscot Bay and tall, salt-sprayed spruces. I am very glad that two-thirds of this island is in permanent conservation and will be available for the future generations to visit and hike. But I am also proud that the State of Maine owns such an important asset as this deep-water port, because this is the place that can make floating offshore wind a reality. This is the place that can help our State harness that renewable energy. This is the place where we can make great strides to achieve our climate goals. No matter what breezes are blowing in from Washington, D.C. right now, offshore wind will come to the Gulf of Maine, and it will be a key factor in our State's energy generation. And when it does, the town of Searsport and the rest of Midcoast Maine deserves to benefit economically from that development. LD 735 would have us jettison this critically important and strategic spot and throw away the environmental and economic benefits it holds for our State's future. This is a bill that takes us backward, Mr. Speaker. I ask you to follow the Majority Report and oppose LD 735. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative Dana.

Representative **DANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to put on record that Frederick Moore is not an elected official and represents the Tribe in a lower capacity. I also stand here speaking on behalf of both Chiefs that have spoken to me and gave me permission to co-sponsor on these bills and speak

on behalf of them, the ones that was referenced from the Passamaquoddy Tribe not supporting. Also, I wanted to put on record, Mr. Speaker, that our Chief from Motahkmikuk, Chief Nicholas, had also stated on record here within the House in Committee that the offshore wind project did impose its eminent domain and not respecting the Tribes and consulting with the Tribes on behalf of these bills.

So, thank you, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make sure that that was said here today and that this Body understands that we were not consulted with properly, and also, I do have the permission to be able to speak on behalf of the Passamaquoddy Tribe based around these issues. Thank you.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I think a brief history of the island might be important. Years and years and years ago, the whole island was commercial farming. Henry Knox owned the island, and it was a commercial farm. The State, in its wisdom, bought the island and immediately preserved two-thirds of it into preservation. They then proceeded to develop a site to become part of the three-port plan supported by many, many Chief Executives.

Offshore wind may or may not happen, we don't know that, but what is on that island, number one, is access for people. There was no road; that was built by the State of Maine. There was 300 acres that was preserved for development. Jobs; jobs have been diminished. There's no longer a Bucksport mill, there's no longer a Brewer mill. Brewer is repurposing into fabrication, thanks to Cianbro. There's so much potential in the lower Penobscot basin for us to take that already approved, improved and potential; either, maybe or not; there's a railroad bed across that access that can carry import or export of rail straight to Chicago. That rail can carry double-loaded containers.

Now, one of the issues that are confusing to me is in this bill, it says "Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island," and notice dunes is plural. There are two dunes in the 300 acres where they're owned by the State. Two. If we all remember, the significant dune was transferred to preservation, so, it is now already part of the 660 acres. The dune; one; which is in question is created by a jetty that was part of the improvement; a jetty that juts out into the bay. That particular dune is a collection of sand and driftwood and trees that have come in from the sea wood. That one has been described as a 'dead dune.' There is no sea life on it. The other dune has already been transferred to the preservation side; the live dune, the dune of value; and I'll continue to call it the 'dead dune,' without sea life on it; will be re-created when the pier is rebuilt. It only became a dune because of the jetty. So, that is a dune in question, not dunes, one dune.

And then, the other interesting piece of this is that it affects people; Representatives, Senators; from putting in a bill to affect somebody else's district. Well, I'm the somebody else. Orrington can become a major part of the solution of municipal solid waste. My good friend from Old Town has a bill in to help solve municipal solid waste. So, this bill would prevent my good friend from Old Town from helping Orrington because it would affect another district.

There are components in this bill that just don't make any sense. So, I would support the Majority Ought Not to Pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 83**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Pugh, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Warren, Webb, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bunker, Guerrette, Rana, Sato.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 81; No, 65; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Limit Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs to a One-for-one Exchange"

(H.P. 142) (L.D. 219)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York  
MOORE of Washington  
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot  
DAIGLE of Fort Kent  
DEBRITO of Waterville  
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth  
MCCABE of Lewiston  
SHAGOURY of Hallowell  
ZAGER of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant  
JAVNER of Chester  
LEMELIN of Chelsea

**READ.**

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

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

Representative **FREDERICKS**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I urge your support of LD 219, which would restore the one-to-one needle exchange requirement.

Before COVID, this was the past practice for 20 years. Addicts were required to return a dirty needle to receive a clean needle. In 2020, during the pandemic, this was changed due to minimize exposure to the virus by decreasing personal contact. Since then, up to 100 needles are dispensed to the drug user. That's one full box of needles to each user. The unintended consequences resulted in hundreds of thousands of dirty needles being strewn about in our communities, playgrounds, trails, parking lots, beaches, sidewalks, redemption centers; just everywhere. All Mainers and their pets are at risk of a dirty needlestick and contracting a bloodborne illness. Secondly, our communities have a spoiled public image, because of the abundance of orange needle caps and the hypodermic syringes.

Every city and town does not have a syringe service. Thirteen gracious communities host these State-funded needle exchange programs, yet because no requirement for the one-to-one exchange, dirty needles have migrated beyond the host sites and Mainers are complaining. Last year, 500,000 syringes went uncollected. And you can see for yourself where they are. To rectify this, some cities and towns have distributed more needle boxes, some have trained their public works department to pick up needles. One community has incentivized the return of dirty needles by using taxpayer dollars to pay the addict for each dirty return.

Mr. Speaker, directing money to its recovery treatment is more prudent than spending money on needle return. Mr. Speaker, our cities and towns shouldn't have to address this problem. They shouldn't have to assign staff to this problem. They shouldn't have to spend money on this problem. The State created the problem and can resolve the problem by restoring the requirement for the one-to-one needle exchange as it once was. Please vote no on the present motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to support this bill, LD 219, and I concur with the Good Representative from Sanford in her statement.

I was a member of the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee last session, and this measure came up and it received overwhelming support across the LPC, across the State. And again, this year, although I wasn't there, I know that the LPC weighed in and there was overwhelming majority uniform agreement to this one-to-one exchange. The unintended consequences of strewn used syringes all over public spaces, the obvious public safety concerns and the cost to the host municipalities were primary factors that the MMA's LCP supported this bill.

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

Representative **RANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Colleagues. I rise today in strong opposition of LD 219.

I stand before you today as the Representative of Bangor. Our community is facing a devastating public health crisis and HIV outbreak among our unhoused population, with 21 confirmed cases as of the first week of March, and that number has only risen. LD 219 proposes to reinstate a rigid one-for-one syringe exchange policy for Maine's certified syringe service programs. Let me be clear; this bill is a step backwards. Backwards for public health, backwards for harm reduction and backwards for public safety.

No one wants syringes left in our streets or our parks or our neighborhoods. That is a shared concern among all parties. But LD 219 would undermine the very programs that are working to actually reduce those syringes and that syringe litter and prevent the spread of diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C. Public health experts, evidence and lived experience all tell us the same thing: this rigid one-to-one exchange model does not match the reality of substance use. It does not work. People lose syringes, they misplace them, they may get them from different sources. A strict one-for-one requirement doesn't promote safe disposal; it actually discourages safe disposal and makes litter more prevalent in our communities. And when people are discouraged from using syringe service programs, syringe waste in public spaces goes up, not down.

If we truly want to reduce syringe litter and improve public safety, we must ensure people have access to clean supplies and safe disposal options; not barriers, not stigma and not red tape. That's why I'm proud to be sponsoring two pieces of legislation that offer real solutions. One proposal would create a grant program to fund community cleanup and disposal efforts, the other would increase mobility for the syringe service programs, allowing them to better serve people where their need is the greatest, following the model that our Chief Executive implemented at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic with great success. We already know what works. We have seen it in our rural towns and cities alike. We need to build on those proven strategies, not dismantle them with legislation like LD 219.

Public health policy must be grounded in science and best practices and in the lived realities of our communities. LD 219 is out of step with all three. For the health of our communities, for the safety of our public spaces and for the lives we have the power to protect, I urge you to join me in voting against LD 219. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

We've heard a lot here about public health. How is it helping the public with these needles strewn all over the ground? My mother, who's 82; actually, I correct that, she's 83 now; is still pretty active and does a lot of walking and walks around the block where she lives out in Windham. And she tells me almost every single time when she walks about all the needles that are all over the ground as she's walking around the block. I remember; I've been here long enough to remember; all the debates we had over nips and how we should put deposits on them because they were littered all over the ground. Mr. Speaker, I contend that all these needles strewn all over the ground are a lot worse than those nip bottles. And I think that giving out 100 needles for each one; that's not an exchange

program, that's giving out needles. And I believe that we need to stop the insanity, I call it, of the constant giving out of these needles and then saying it's for public health, when it's not public health to have these all over the ground, sticking in the feet of our animals; if people are picking them up, the diseases that could be transferred. It's just horrible, and I think we've got to come to a solution, and I believe that going back to the one-to-one, which was in effect for I believe around 20 years prior and it seemed to work and during COVID, I get some of the changes we've made; COVID's over. We don't need to have some of those same rules we had under COVID. I'd like you to follow my light and oppose the pending motion.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't give the sentence about, like, I wasn't going to rise about this bill, even though I wasn't going to rise about this bill. But when we're talking about public safety, the Representative from Bangor did bring up many issues, and I was trying to write them down and think through them just as a nurse. And I do have to agree with her; it's very hard to do an exchange for one on one. They are misplacing them, they're misplacing them everywhere else; where everyone else is exposed to a public safety crisis due to this. Children in parks; I'm in a rural area, and this is a huge problem even for us. I cannot imagine somebody being given 100 needles and not having to return any of them. It's our taxpayer dollars. Restoring the needle exchange has no fiscal note, but there is a fiscal note leaving it as it is, because apparently, some places are using taxpayer dollars; taxpayer dollars, Mr. Speaker; to have this picked up when the people who are using the drugs; truthfully, I understand addiction, I truly do, but if we're going to move towards addiction recovery, there has to be accountability and, at the very minimum, there should be accountability for something where you're putting a needle into your body and if you have an illness, any sort of disease, you are putting others at risk and exposing them while you're just throwing that down to the ground. This changed because of COVID, and as everybody has mentioned, COVID is over. The very reason that we went to this is over, Mr. Speaker.

I'm opposed to this motion, and I just really hope that we can think about not just; sorry, Mr. Speaker, I got a little distracted there. But just the fact that we have children walking around, pets, as the Representative from Arundel mentioned; you know, our older folks, they don't think to look down on the ground to look for needles. At a playground, children are not looking for needles, but they are stepping on them. This is a danger, and it is a health hazard. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Chapman.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I urge your support for LD 219 and restore the one-for-one needle exchange.

Home rule allows a community to address, problem-solve and govern issues specific to their community, but this issue should not require the community to spend time, money or staff to resolve the problem. The State created this problem, and the fix can come from the State without spending any money at all. The syringe service program is not offered by every community, yet the dirty needles show up in every community. The problem of millions of dirty needles being discarded in our cities and towns is a result of State action during COVID. Receive a clean one and get dispensed out with 100 new, clean needles; excuse me; turn in a dirty one, get 100 clean ones back, to every addict. The collateral damage is now dirty needles are littering our trails, beaches, playgrounds and putting people at risk. I'd also like to

say that having to do bloodborne pathogen classes to work in a municipality to clean the parks or to work in a redemp or just being a common laborer because you have to deal with these needles and learn how to handle sharps; and, again, bloodborne pathogens; it doesn't seem right. Thank you.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to rise today, Members of this House. One of the communities that I have the pleasure of representing, Mr. Speaker, is Sanford, and I don't know if you're aware, we have this road we call the 'Million Dollar Road to Nowhere' down by the old mills that haven't been developed and we just recently had to close that road down to the public due to the pollution of dirty needles with, actually, biohazard coming in and having to clean it up. It was unbelievably disruptive to the community. And the reason this is happening is because getting these needles is so easy.

I don't want to go into an education thing for everybody here in the House, Mr. Speaker, but I don't know if many of you even know what heroin is or how it can be administered or how you can even take it; and unfortunately, having a family member go through the struggle and, thank God, clean today almost two years, which I'm super happy about; there's different ways to administer this drug. You can sniff it, you can smoke it, you can inject it. When you inject it, that is the most deadly form of it, it's the most pure form. That's when you put it directly into your bloodstream. That's what we're doing for people, is we're literally giving them the trigger to a nuclear bomb and saying, 'here you go, do what you want with it.' But instead, when you turn in that switch that you made it through that time, we're going to give you 100 more. It's also used for currency; these needles are currency in the drug trade. So, when you don't have a needle and you have drugs, they'll trade for drugs. They'll use this as currency.

Now, I wish we did this for diabetics; I mean, I wish we could say, here's 100 needles for a diabetic, you know, and take your insulin and be healthy, but we're not here talking about that today, Mr. Speaker; we're talking about a dangerous drug. We're talking about a drug being administered by people that aren't medically licensed to administer it. So, I ask this Body as what is so hard and what is so bad about having them be held accountable a little bit? They live in the community, too. I don't live in their community, they live in our community, we live in a community together. And I'm fine supporting people with addiction problems, and I'm supportive of a needle exchange program that's safe and effective. But when you're just enabling people with a dangerous vehicle, it's like giving someone that just got a DWI when he crashed his car, giving him three more cars and a 30-pack of Heineken and saying, 'hey, here you go, bud.' I mean, literally, that's what we're doing here. We're not talking about a five-cent, you know, return fee like you do with nips; we're not talking about plastic bags that you have to pay five cents for. There's no accountability in this bill at all. It's a willy-nilly, here you go, feel good because I don't have to deal with it, because this isn't part of our life. I don't know if anybody uses heroin in here; I mean, I sure don't, I don't wish that upon anybody; but I think it's silly that we're talking for this whole State that has been dealing with this crisis and has been dealing with this problem and just saying, let's just enable more people to do it, let's enable people that don't choose to do drugs to get access to getting stabbed by needles when they're walking in the parks or walking down the trails. And I know everybody's saying the one-for-100 program; let's just say that we're giving them five needles for one, that's still four needles too many. I'll tell you, if

you hold them accountable, so they can do their drugs, they will follow some rules, because their goal at the end of the day is seeking to be able to get high, which is unfortunate, and it is an addiction, it is a problem and I'm all for those solutions, Mr. Speaker. But making them turn in one needle and get one needle back; that is not detrimental to their life living comfortably. They will do that.

And another thing I just want to point out is when an addict wants to get high, they don't give a crap if they've got 99 needles over in this bag over here and they got one over here that's dirty, they're still going to use the one that's convenient and easy to use. Okay? So, we can talk about it all day long, but let's just talk real. What's happening on the streets, what actually happens with people that have addiction problems. And let's not make this a party issue, let's make this a Maine issue, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only thing I have to say about the needles: the more needles you see on the ground, the dumber the State becomes. So, anything that would promote the one-on-one as far as this current bill goes; I'm going to vote no on this particular pending motion. I'd appreciate it if everybody else does the same thing, too. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't be long. You know, it wasn't that many sessions ago, we were discussing how plastic bags are very bad for our sea turtles and the environment, and we did something about it. Now, we're talking about needles that are endangering women, children, men, and with deciding whether to do a one-to-one program. Let's solve the problem. Maybe the compromise will be we'll give you two for every one you turn in. But we were concerned about plastic bags; clean it up; let's clean up the environment, and if this bill helps, let's get it cleaned up. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative Geiger.

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a really difficult bill for me. I'm a nurse, I have graduate work in public health, my son's best friend stepped on a needle in our public park a number of years ago and went through months of testing. I am deeply troubled by the amount of needles that are everywhere. I agree with many of the statements made by my colleagues on the other side, but I'm troubled by the one-to-one, because the science doesn't support it. I'm troubled by the one-to-100, because it seems insane to me to spread that much waste throughout Maine, and we know that that's what's happening. I am going to reluctantly vote against this bill, but I would dearly ask my colleagues to bring us a better bill that matches the science and the deep concern for a public health crisis of needles possibly contaminated with HIV and Hepatitis C in our public parks, on our trails, so that we can walk the line of both helping those who use them and helping everyone else who doesn't need to step on them. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the pending motion to not pass this bill that makes the drug needle exchange program go back to one-for-one.

The Good Representative from Bangor stated that this bill, An Act to go back to one-to-one; does not match the reality of public health concerns. Mr. Speaker, what does not match the

reality of public health concerns is our current policy. Our current policy is a public health and safety concern. We all know it. Parks are filled with these needles, and it's not just the urban areas, it's spilled over everywhere. It's a problem everywhere in the State.

Mr. Speaker, one needle in for one needle out is pretty reasonable. I've heard about it doesn't match the science, but one needle in for unlimited amount of needles out certainly does not, and it's created a catastrophe, a safety concern, and I think as the Good Representative from Rockland stated, that everybody here knows it's a problem, Mr. Speaker. So, let's vote with common sense today. Let's move back to a common-sense solution, and then, if you want to talk about expanding it further from there, science-based, let's do that, but let's not leave it the way it is, because that is what does not match the reality of public health concerns, is our current policy. So, let's do away with it and pass this today, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. As we've heard, LD 219 would limit the number of clean, sterile syringes our needle exchange programs can dispense, reverting back to a one-to-one ratio that Maine allowed until 2022, before adapting new rules for a needs-based system exchange known as one-to-one plus, in line with a public health approach to harm reduction.

A bipartisan majority of the Health and Human Services Committee recognized a needs-based system is evidence-based in reducing disease transmission, including HIV, hepatitis C and B among people who use drugs, and that LD 219 represented a giant leap backward. Instead of limiting the number of clean syringes as a means to address needle waste; I agree, a very real issue and a public health concern in and of itself; we should expand options for safe disposal, and there are a number of excellent options for this, including increasing sharp boxes, mobile needle exchanges; in other words, meeting folks where they are at; mail-in exchanges, grant programs for needle waste cleanup and as we speak, Portland has an excellent buy-back program that is proving highly effective in alleviating needle waste.

There are in fact actionable solutions to the problem of needle waste that do not, as LD 219 does, run counter to public health efforts. Please join me in support of the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative MILLIKEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't planning on speaking to this, but I just wanted to address a couple of the things that have been said by some of my colleagues. I don't currently use heroin, but I have a history of using heroin, and so, I think it's really important that we all recognize some of the harmful rhetoric that we're using when we're talking about people with substance use disorders.

The Representative from Sanford stood and said that he would prefer that we not vote on this as a partisan issue and because of that, I'd like to draw all the Members' attention to the; as the Representative from Eliot just pointed out; bipartisan Report of Ought Not to Pass on this specific bill. Additionally, I think it's important that we all remember that most people, many people, who have substance use disorder do not use one dose of a drug a day. When I was in active use, I used many doses a day, and therefore, I think, for many reasons, it is unwise of us to use a one-to-one needle exchange. I also; I missed some of the debate earlier, I was off the floor for a few minutes, but I think it's important, and it might've already been mentioned, so, apologies if I'm reiterating something that's already been said;

we are currently experiencing an HIV outbreak in the City of Bangor that the State is not adequately addressing. And I think it's important for all of us on this floor and all of us across the State to remember that some of these health problems that are coming up for our friends and our community members and our children and our spouses and our parents who use drugs, they are not limited to the confines of the community that uses drugs. An HIV outbreak is detrimental to the health of the people across this State, not just to the people who use substances.

I will, of course, be voting with my friend from Eliot on the Ought Not to Pass; I think it would be important, and I encourage all of my colleagues on the floor to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 84**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bunker, Cray, Guerrette, Jackson, Sato.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 69; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities" (H.P. 629) (L.D. 969)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery  
CIMINO of Bridgton  
FLYNN of Albion  
FOLEY of Wells  
MASTRACCIO of Sanford  
MORRIS of Turner  
OLSEN of Raymond

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ARFORD of Brunswick  
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth  
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

**READ.**

Representative MATHIESON of Kittery moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kittery, Representative Mathieson.

Representative **MATHIESON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill directs the EMS Services board to adopt rules to allow municipalities to conduct or host EMS licensing and re-licensing. Although the Committee heard loud and clear that a large portion of EMS professionals are volunteers and rural communities are having significant difficulties getting training programs in their communities, the Committee felt that this was not the vehicle to solve that problem. The community believes strongly that the EMS services needs to offer more flexible training opportunities for volunteers. We also believe that alternative opportunities need to be offered for licensed professionals like nurses and medical doctors with experience in emergency medical experiences. But unfortunately, this bill did not solve those problems. Therefore, I ask you to support the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that access to emergency medical response services across Maine is essential to the State's health care system. Yet as a State, we have struggled for years to address the shortage of EMS workers. This shortage has led to longer response times, increased mortality rates and a strain on the existing EMS workforce. The severe shortage of EMS workers is not just a concern, it's a health care crisis that demands immediate attention.

In June of 2023, a national study by the University of Southern Maine's Maine Rural Health Research Center revealed that 15 of the 16 Maine counties have so-called 'ambulance deserts,' where people are located more than 25

minutes from an ambulance station. In the northeast, Maine was ranked as the second-worst ambulance desert state. In the 131st Legislature, we attempted to stabilize our State EMS crisis by approving \$31 million of the \$70 million EMS officials requested to provide a lifeline while longer-term solutions could be considered. The original goal of that legislation was to shore up the State's eligible 260 EMS providers, many of which were on the brink of collapse. Yet the Rules Committee of the Maine EMS Board; who oversees how funds are disbursed; chose to allocate \$9 million for training centers. Maine EMS approves 10 training centers in the State. While the investment in Maine training centers, I believe, was needed, and they are filling a niche for paid EMS workers, the training centers are not designed to meet the majority of our State's EMS shortage. I don't believe they intended that to be the case, but nevertheless, it is. The State EMS currently prioritizes using federal workforce grants for those training to become full-time paramedics or EMTs. Volunteers are given a lower priority, limiting volunteers to two out of the 20 seats in a class. These training centers are not designed to meet the needs of our State's volunteer EMS needs. The Maine EMS Education Committee and the Maine EMS Rules Committee; neither one includes a single representative of a volunteer department. This example alone illustrates the lack of concern for volunteer departments that characterizes Maine EMS. They have zero representation. To make sure I'm clear on this fact: the two committees that make the rules for our EMS program have zero representation from a volunteer department. Representation matters. This example alone illustrates why training centers appear to have a lack of concern for volunteer departments that characterizes the Maine EMS.

Maine has 340 registered fire departments. Many communities in Maine, particularly our island communities and rural areas, rely heavily on volunteer firefighters, with 69.5% of the departments being fully volunteers and 23.7% mainly being volunteers. Small communities with volunteer departments need better access to classes and more classes in a variety of locations. We need educational training structures suitable for volunteer EMS. By design, our training resources are directed at workforce development candidates. That's great, except most communities; particularly rural areas; rely exclusively on volunteers to provide emergency medical services. We need training options designed to meet the needs of our volunteers, yet we don't have them.

Today, we have an opportunity before us to create the change we need. We have a chance to give our local communities a lifeline, an option to rebuild, keep and maintain their volunteer workforce simply by giving them back a right they once had. The bill before you will enable departments to bring the classes to the students, thereby making the training more accessible. This approach ensures that the same quality of training provided in the training centers is maintained, while also addressing the specific needs of our volunteer EMS workforce.

LD 969, "An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities," is not a complex bill; it is a straightforward, one-paragraph bill with no fiscal note that can fix one broken step in our EMS system. It directs the Emergency Medical Services Board to adopt rules to allow municipalities to conduct or host emergency medical services, licensing and relicensing training. The allowance of local training by a person qualified to give that training ensures the same quality of training provided in the training centers is maintained while, again, also addressing the specific needs of our volunteer EMS workforce shortage and creating a needed tool for rebuilding and supporting our essential EMS workforce.

I am asking all of you today to vote no on the initiative that's on the board. Our local municipalities deserve this opportunity. Our volunteer departments can't rebuild or grow without it. Let's pass this option back to our local communities to decide whether they want to do it to rebuild their EMS workforce shortage. Thank you for your time.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Mr. Speaker, I hadn't intended on rising on this, but after looking at the bill, it actually makes sense that it's going to give small towns the ability to be invested in for EMS and fire services. I guess my question is, what's wrong with that?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wells, Representative Foley.

Representative **FOLEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to answer that question.

In our Committee hearing, we did hear from the Community College System; who is tasked with providing this training; and they specifically stated that they do go to municipalities, they will go to towns, they coordinate their training in the towns with the local EMS directors. So, that training is available. While I do agree with my good colleague from Kittery, there are issues within the system. This bill simply does not address those issues, but the training is available through the Community College System. Thank you.

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in opposition to this motion.

I had occasion to sit in the HCIFS Committee for the hour or so this bill was being heard during public hearing, and quite frankly, I don't blame my friends on my side of the aisle for the way they voted. If you heard the testimony from Maine EMS, you would probably come away with that impression. But two weeks later, our delegation, via Zoom, met with one of our local EMS providers, who is a volunteer administrator and who is at her wit's end with finding qualified trained personnel in the Representative from Harrington's district, I believe. And the frustration and desperation that I heard led me to the conclusion that Maine EMS; there's a disconnect between what they're saying and what is reality on the ground, to put it diplomatically. Now, whether there are training programs available, that may be so, but as the Representative from Wales mentioned, this bill does no harm, and I think it might just help communities improve their services, improve their flexibility and do so in a cost-effective way. Training the trainer isn't necessarily a bad thing if the original trainer is properly trained, and for those reasons, I will be opposing the motion before us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like a moment to clarify some things that were said by; I forget where from; the Good Representative on the other side of the aisle about EMS training being able to happen in local communities. At face value, they can. They're not feasible. And the reason I was given from a person that I spoke to; who was at the hearing from SMCC; is they're not financially viable, meaning they need to fill their classroom to make it financially

viable. And we're talking about over 400 towns, some people have one person that needs to be certified, some people that have a couple that needs to be certified. These classes, you know, they're sparse, there's a couple of them given, with only two seats dedicated to volunteers and 69.5% of our departments rely on volunteers. So, they're just, they're not feasible. And if a town wanted to now do it on their own, they would have to become a training center, which is, again, is not even close to financially feasible, and the time consumption and the process doesn't help address our critical shortage of EMS that we have right now in our State.

The EMS training center approval process, in turn, is complex and lengthy, as exemplified by its 68-page standards and its accompanying 136-page guide. Nonprofit volunteer ambulance services and municipalities in Maine simply do not have the time nor the resources to obtain and maintain Maine EMS training center status in order to secure licenses from one or two volunteer individuals. It's already hard enough to staff and operate a nonprofit volunteer ambulance service, let alone try to achieve training center status. Suggestion that volunteer departments should obtain training center status themselves as a solution is no solution at all and fails to consider the working environment of our volunteer ambulance services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me a second chance to rise.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 85**

YEA - Albert, Arata, Archer, Ardel, Bagshaw, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Cimino, Cloutier, Collins, Copeland, Crafts, Daigle, Dhalac, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Gattine, Gere, Gifford, Graham, Gramlich, Griffin, Hepler, Javner, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McIntyre, Meyer, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Ankeles, Arford, Babin, Beck, Boyer D, Boyer M, Carlow, Caruso, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Crockett, DeBrito, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Eder, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Golek, Greenwood, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, McCabe, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Roeder, Schmursal-Burgess, Sinclair, Skold, Strout, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, White J, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bunker, Chapman, Cray, Guerrette, Jackson, Sato.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 84; No, 60; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

84 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Persons Under 18 Years of Age from Marrying"

(H.P. 790) (L.D. 1185)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
HAGGAN of Penobscot  
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth  
BABIN of Fort Fairfield  
CARUSO of Caratunk  
LEE of Auburn  
O'HALLORAN of Brewer  
PUGH of Portland  
SATO of Gorham  
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HENDERSON of Rumford  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

**READ.**

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm on the Minority Report for several reasons. In recent years, we changed the age to marry from 16 to 17 years old with parental consent. I was against the change, because personally, I know of situations where a young person wanted to get married, maybe because there was a pregnancy involved or their partner was entering the military, and I feel these are very valid reasons for two people to be joined in marriage should they decide to do so. Mr. Speaker, this bill raises the age of marriage from 17 to 18 years old. There's no longer a need for consent from parents; it's 18. In public hearing, we heard some pretty horrific stories of arranged marriages, coerced marriages. Fortunately, none of those stories were from people here in Maine. In fact, there were no statistical evidence from Maine provided to suggest that the current law regarding marriage in our State is in need of change.

Mr. Speaker, I did some soul searching, and I've debated each side of this bill over and over in my mind, and my thoughts have evolved. In recent years, this Body has passed laws that allow our young people to make life-altering decisions. Minors can have abortions without parental knowledge or consent; minors can obtain so-called gender affirming care without parental knowledge or consent. Mr. Speaker, these young people are not old enough to understand the long-term impacts of these life-altering decisions like a marriage. Just like youth who want to get married at a young age and, you know, for these reasons, I'm changing my original stance. I'm going to join the Majority Report and be on the Record with a vote that makes a

statement to all Mainers that we recognize that these kinds of decisions do have a very significant impact on a young person's life, and it can wait. It can wait till they're 18 years old. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and support the Majority Report. Thank you.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. And it was my freshman term in the 130th, when you were the Speaker and I got up and addressed this same issue being on Judiciary Committee, and we were trying to take away 16 and making it 18 and we settled on 17. Here, we're trying to take away 17 and make it 18 only.

I won't make any comparisons between the judgment needed to alter your body in a sexual manner, I won't make the comparison to joining the military at the age of 17 and having parental consent like happened with me, and I spent a 21-year career in the Air Force; which turned out to be a good decision for a 17-year-old; but I also had to have my parents sign for me at 17 to be married. I was married for 12 years, and it was the happiest year and a half of my life. But I was still married for 12 years, and I'm still in communication and good friends with my ex-wife. My point is, when it comes to making decisions; we have ham for breakfast today, that's okay; we might choose bacon tomorrow, we might choose vegetables and fruit the next day. So, it's not about one-size-fits-all on the decision-making process. It's about being able to make a choice. My father once said, 'every time a law is passed, you lose another right.' I never knew how right he was until I got down here and saw exactly what it was.

I commend young people that decide to do the honorable thing; I'm a little old-fashioned, I'm getting more old-fashioned by the year; but if somebody wants to do the right thing and marry someone, they should be able to do that if the parents agree to it. I understand there's nefarious reasons why that may not be the case and that some people are forced into it, but the difference between 17 and 18 is not much. And if we do this, then we're also saying 17-year-olds don't have the decision-making capability to join our military or go off and make a career on their own. Mr. Speaker, I'm in opposition to this, and I encourage those to follow their own light within their own heart and vote the way that they feel comfortable. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in support of LD 1185.

As much as I am a strong advocate for freedom and support for parental rights, I recognize the unfortunate fact that not all parents are the same. There are, unfortunately, bad actors who profit from arranging, coercing or forcing minor children to marry. The Judiciary heard horrific testimonies from many victims and the agencies who couldn't help them because they were minors.

When minors marry; or are forced to marry; they do not have access to the same legal rights as adults. They could face overwhelming legal and practical barriers if they try to leave home, retain an attorney or bring legal action. This lack of protection leaves the youth very vulnerable. I have a few points to highlight of the roadblocks that are currently in State Statute. Minors, first of all, can't easily open the door and leave home if their parents are planning an unwanted wedding. They can be labeled a runaway, taken into temporary custody by law enforcement, who must then notify their parent or guardian. Direct service providers or domestic violence shelters across the

country routinely turn away unaccompanied minors due to funding guidelines or liability concerns, and in Maine, a minor may only enter a youth shelter with the written consent of their guardian. Minors in Maine cannot easily retain an attorney, because most contracts with minors are voidable, and they cannot easily and independently bring legal action.

Marriage before 18; specifically arranged, coerced or forced marriage; has been determined to be a human rights abuse that destroys a girl's health, education and economic opportunities and significantly increases their risk of experienced violence. With regards to education for our minors and making sure that the next generation; which is something very dear to my heart; is educated, equipped and empowered to prosper and be contributing members of our communities. The school dropout rates for married minors are three times higher than unmarried minors. Lastly, this bill was overwhelmingly supported by the Justice of the Peace Associations as well as legal and victims service organizations.

We can't eliminate all abuse, but we can eliminate this for our 17-year-olds. We can stop the incentivizing and legalizing of the trafficking of minors under the guise of marriage, and it's for these reasons that I support this measure. Thank you.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I just want to pose a couple questions, I'm not going to go longwinded here. If someone can answer; in the State of Maine, we just passed, I think last session, 14 years old, you can have gender-affirming care without parental consent; that was one of my questions, is that true or not? And then the other one is, if a minor chooses to get birth control without parental consent and then a COVID shot without parental consent, I'm just wondering why someone 17 years old can't choose to get married with parental consent? So, that's my question if anybody can answer it.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Sanford, Representative Lanigan, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't press my light to answer that question, but I will do my best. No, minors who are 14 years old in the State of Maine cannot access gender-affirming care. That was a bill taken up in the 131st Legislature, and the result was quite different than that.

So, I would like to speak for a few moments in support of the pending motion. The Representatives are correct that the Judiciary Committee has considered this bill in the past, as recently as two years ago, but a couple things were different this time that I think changed the outcome in part. First of all, we received data from the Bureau of Vital Statistics demonstrating that this is a phenomenon happening in Maine. About half a dozen minors per year; 17-year-olds; are married, and this time we saw it broken down by gender, and in fact, it is almost entirely minor girls marrying older adults. So, that disparity raised some concerns. Second, since we reviewed this bill in the 131st Legislature, every other New England state has gone to 18. That, in my mind, put minors in Maine at some risk that our State could become an attractive place for individuals who are seeking to marry minors.

It is true, as we've heard, that it's possible to imagine particular anecdotal situations where a teen marriage could be beneficial: when the young people are particularly mature; when they have a good reason for it and they have very supportive families. But overall, the data show that these mostly girls really

are at risk. Married minors are not fully emancipated, and as a result, they have limited legal rights, and when they need to get themselves out of a bad situation, it can be hard to do that. They can have difficulty entering into certain contracts such as accessing banking, getting credit, signing a lease. And we heard mixed information about the extent to which they can access domestic violence shelters and homeless shelters without parental participation. And even in situations that are short of abuse, marrying under 18 does affect these young people's futures in terms of education and ultimately employment. Kids who marry under 18 are 50% more likely to drop out of high school and are four times less likely to graduate from college. So, for all of these reasons, I would urge my colleagues to support the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do just rise to answer the Good Representative from Sanford's question.

Currently in State law, there is no age restriction for gender-affirming care with parental consent. Without parental consent, the ages are 16 and 17. And if my memory serves correctly, it was codified into law through LD 535 in the 131st Legislature; the sponsor was the Representative from Biddeford, she had brought forward the legislation and it was lengthy debate in the Judiciary Committee on what age restriction there was with parental consent on gender-affirming care. And when I had posed that question, I was told to Google it. When I Googled it, I found the Cambridge Institute had written a study that talked about how children as young as six could go into puberty, and when I posed the question on whether or not it was the intent of the bill to allow no age restriction on gender-affirming care with parental consent; to be as young as six years old; there was an array of frenzied responses, but overwhelmingly, it was there are varied reasons why a child would go on hormone replacement therapy and that there was no need to put a restriction on that if the parent consented. And I hope that answers the Representative from Sanford's question.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I'm a little nervous, because this was a bill that I presented and then have come to really believe in and love passionately, more than I ever thought that I would, in large part due to folks who have survived a forced marriage which can occur after the age of 18, but as others more eloquently spoke before me, there's more protections in place once you come to the age of 18 where you can escape an abusive situation. And so, it is for them that I stand and wanted to share some of the really impactful words that I will carry with me always.

"Six months after our spiritual ceremony, I was *legally* married at the age of 16 and pregnant to my rapist. My pregnant belly should have alerted authorities to a rape instead of a rubber stamping of my marriage certificate. I was not advised of my rights or even asked if I wanted the marriage. My dad consented on my behalf with a notarized permission slip. None of it felt like a real marriage to me. It began to feel more and more like a prison after our legal marriage with the birth of my daughter. My personal experiences highlight the very real dangers that minors face when being forced into marriage. My perpetrator would've stopped at nothing to entrap me in the marriage so that he could escape statutory rape charges." That's Mrs. Tasneem.

Another brave woman, Mrs. Dredge: "When I was 16, I met a 24-year-old man, who lived with some boys in my high school, and with stars in my teenage eyes, I believed he hung the moon. Four months later, I was pregnant, and a year after that, I was begging my mom to give parental consent for me and my boyfriend to get married after the attorney representing him on criminal theft charges suggested we do so before the sentencing. Since my boyfriend was a persistent and prior felon, the attorney wanted us to use the marriage in the arguments for leniency on his sentence to show the judge he was a changed man, a family man with a new wife and baby. At 17, I became his bride; he was 25, and his prison sentence was suspended. Over the next nine years, the statistics surrounding child marriage, such as the high likelihood of poverty, lack of further education, and enduring many forms of abuse, would ring true in my marriage in addition to the fact that I had married a sexual predator, which was something I struggled to see even after the sheriff leading the sex crime investigation said the only difference between me and the other girls he had abused was that he married me and I had the evidence of the crime, our son's DNA."

So, I ask this Body to support the pending motion and to show survivors of forced marriage, both in Maine and in the United States, that we hear them and that we understand it takes decades to overcome this trauma and that we are going to do everything we can to stop this from taking place in our corner of this country. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 86**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Poirier, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Underwood, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Campbell, Cimino, Collins, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bunker, Chapman, Cray, Guerrette, Jackson.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 93; No, 52; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

93 having voted in the affirmative and 52 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-49)** on Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State

(H.P. 341) (L.D. 522)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot  
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor  
ARCHER of Saco  
BECK of South Portland  
MACIAS of Topsham  
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney  
DRINKWATER of Milford  
LIBBY of Auburn  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

**READ.**

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

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bill is asking for a gender study, which I would like to remind the Body that we have a commission on the status of women; the Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; and in my hands, I have a report on the Maine Women's Labor and Economic Security from 2024. So, we didn't feel that it was necessary to duplicate another study, and also, we questioned the fiscal note of \$5,000; we thought that was low. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to my colleague's comments, the Permanent Commission was delighted to be able to take on this research. They indicated their pleasure and their hope that this would fill in some gaps that previous research had not ascertained. They furthermore said that the \$5,000 price tag was adequate. But in general, this legislation addresses a persistent issue that affects the economic well-being of countless Mainers. Occupational segregation by gender remains a significant barrier to achieving true economic equity. Women are disproportionately

represented in lower-paying industries and roles, while underrepresented in higher-paying fields. This imbalance not only perpetuates the wage gap, but also limits the potential of our workforce. We cannot fix what we cannot measure. And also, this is nonpunitive and forward looking. This bill does not force a regulatory hammer; it calls for a study, a baseline understanding of how the problem looks today, so we can design real home-grown solutions tomorrow. Thank you.

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

Representative **COPELAND**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of my bill, LD 522, a "Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State." It's long overdue.

This Resolve requests data. As you know, data is crucial to making sound decisions. More than half of Maine's population is of women. We matter, and we need to be sure we are treated equitably. I've been asked by the Maine Women's Lobby to put this bill forward. I ask you to follow my light and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If anybody is interested in the perfect definition of identity politics, this bill is it. Thank you.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 87**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P.

ABSENT - Bunker, Chapman, Cray, Guerrette, Jackson.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 82; No, 63; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

82 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-49)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules the Resolve was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-49)** and sent for concurrence.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 362) (L.D. 796) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Windham and Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 237) (L.D. 337) Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays and the Law Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission Charges on Memorial Day" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 371) (L.D. 603) Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 11) (L.D. 47) Bill "An Act to Provide an Exception to a Fishing Prohibition near the Crooked Brook Dam" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-46)**

(H.P. 255) (L.D. 401) Bill "An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-51)**

(H.P. 446) (L.D. 707) Bill "An Act to Amend the Membership of the State Employee Health Commission and Make Referential Changes to the Office of Employee Health, Wellness and Workers' Compensation" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-50)**

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

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

**ENACTORS**

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Increase Student Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure

(S.P. 29) (L.D. 1)

(C. "A" S-9)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 115 voted in favor of the same and 11 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Prior Authorization for Air Ambulances

(S.P. 14) (L.D. 5)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 117 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing

(H.P. 54) (L.D. 90)

(C. "A" H-41)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 111 voted in favor of the same and 3 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 12: Fees for Kickboxing Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine

(H.P. 174) (L.D. 271)

(C. "A" H-38)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 105 voted in favor of the same and 11 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 2: Fees for Muay Thai Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine

(H.P. 175) (L.D. 272)

(C. "A" H-37)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 110 voted in favor of the same and 7 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Acts**

An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District

(H.P. 193) (L.D. 293)

(C. "A" H-39)

An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Prohibiting Fees Charged for Receiving Paper Statements from Financial Institutions and Credit Card Issuers

(S.P. 261) (L.D. 580)

(C. "A" S-8)

An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical Apparatuses

(H.P. 401) (L.D. 633)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program

(H.P. 495) (L.D. 765)

An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits

(H.P. 559) (L.D. 873)

An Act to Update the Solar Energy Development Reporting Date Deadline

(S.P. 395) (L.D. 906)

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

An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food

(S.P. 206) (L.D. 468)

(C. "A" S-10)

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

On motion of Representative PLUECKER of Warren, was **SET ASIDE**.

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

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. I support the Majority; Unanimous Report on this bill and addressing food insecurity, helping Maine residents and using locally produced food are all things that I agree with, so, I support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wilton, Representative Hall.

Representative **HALL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This was a unanimous Report coming out of Committee. This bill allows the SNAP benefits to be used at farmer's markets. This is a good bill. Please support our farmers and support this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This was a bill that I sponsored with great support from Good Shepherd Food Bank and all the farmers. I was so pleased that it was a unanimous Report out of Committee. This is so important at every level as we see cuts to SNAP coming from Washington. I thank you, thank you, thank you to the Committee and please support this bill.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 88**

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Collins.

ABSENT - Bunker, Chapman, Cray, Guerrette, Jackson, Lanigan, Morris, Paul, Pomerleau, Quint.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 139; No, 1; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

139 having voted in the affirmative and 1 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding Suspected Drug-related Overdoses"

(S.P. 643) (L.D. 1646)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

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Resolve, to Honor Margaret Chase Smith and Joshua Chamberlain in the National Statuary Hall

(S.P. 656) (L.D. 1648)

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.

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Dirigo Business Incentives Program"

(S.P. 658) (L.D. 1664)

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.

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Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act to Provide Additional Remedies for Educational Discrimination"

(S.P. 655) (L.D. 1647)

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

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

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Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operations of the Legislature (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 657) (L.D. 1649)

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

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

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

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On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the House adjourned at 1:35 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 17, 2025.