

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
12th Legislative Day
Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Tony Maker, Larrabee Baptist Church, Machiasport.

National Anthem by Messalonskee Mastersingers, Messalonskee High School, Oakland.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Jonathan R. Meserve, MD, Falmouth.

The Journal of Thursday, April 24, 2025 was read and approved.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 514)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE FOR ITS 2024 OUT-OF-STATE MOBILIZATIONS

WHEREAS, regionally and nationally, the Maine Forest Service, as part of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, works within mutual aid agreements to assist state and federal partners, including during the recent 2024 mobilization season; and

WHEREAS, through the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and National Stafford Act Master Agreement, the Maine Forest Service had 30 mobilizations in 2024, sending resources to other parts of the country to respond to 25 incidents, including Hurricane Helene in the Town of Black Mountain in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the Maine Forest Service also sent personnel and equipment to California, New Mexico, Washington, Nevada, Oregon, Georgia, Alabama, Connecticut and Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, forty-one rangers, one forester and one entomologist from the Maine Forest Service participated in the 2024 mobilization season, as did staff from the Maine Land Use Planning Commission and other state agencies and 24 call-when-needed firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Forest Service sent these personnel and resources to other states to respond to wildfires and natural disasters, but because of our mutual aid agreements, Maine can rely on help from other states when natural disasters occur here; and

WHEREAS, while Maine forest rangers and Maine Forest Service staff, other state staff and the call-when-needed firefighters are highly trained, by mobilizing across the country, they gained invaluable additional training and experience that they can apply to the protection of Maine's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, wildfire suppression and emergency response missions are inherently dangerous, but through training, having reliable equipment, using proper personal protective equipment, conducting medical screenings and relying on peer support systems, the Maine Forest Service was successful operationally and in protecting all personnel both here and away in 2024; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Forest Service for its 2024 mobilization season and express our appreciation for and pride in the personnel of the Maine Forest Service and all who answered the call.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1215)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

**2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

April 25, 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 25, 2025, 7 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 25, 2025, as follows:

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Climate Superfund Act" (H.P. 1209) (L.D. 1808) (Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ANKELES of Brunswick, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, GEIGER of Rockland, GOLEK of Harpswell, SKOLD of Portland)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Create a Residential Rental Unit Registry" (H.P. 1207) (L.D. 1806) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, MALON of Biddeford, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Provide Low-interest Loans for Accredited College Graduates Entering Trade Professions and an Employer Tax Credit for Trade Tool Reimbursements" (H.P. 1213) (L.D. 1812) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MCINTYRE of Lowell, THORNE of Carmel, WHITE of Guilford)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Formalize a Process for Reviewing the Conduct of Judges and Justices" (H.P. 1211) (L.D. 1810) (Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BOYER of Poland, CARUSO of Caratunk, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HASENFUS of Readfield, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Submission of Documents for Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Cases" (H.P. 1212) (L.D. 1811) (Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Expand the Sales Tax to Luxury Services and Adjust the Sales Tax on Rental Cars" (H.P. 1208) (L.D. 1807) (Sponsored by Representative SKOLD of Portland) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: GOLEK of Harpswell, LOOKNER of Portland, MATLACK of St. George, ROEDER of Bangor)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue" (H.P. 1210) (L.D. 1809) (Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick) (Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, MONTELL of Gardiner, RAY of Lincolnville)

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. 143)

STATE OF MAINE

132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE

April 22, 2025

Brigadier General Diane Dunn

The Adjutant General, Maine National Guard

23 Blue Star Ave

Camp Chamberlain, Joint Force Headquarters

Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Brigadier General Dunn,

We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on April 30, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the National Guard and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

S/ Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 144)

STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

April 24, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 10, MRSA, Part 1, Ch. 1-A, §11.4-A2, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Citizen Trade Policy Commission*, effective immediately:

Representative Morgan Rielly of Westbrook to serve as a member of the House of Representatives. As first-named House member, Representative Rielly will also serve as House Chair of the commission;

Representative Edward Crockett of Portland to serve as a member of the House of Representatives;

Representative Arthur Mingo of Calais to serve as a member of the House of Representatives.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 145)

STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

April 24, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Chapter 631, §25002, I am pleased to appoint Jacqueline Mugwaneza of South Portland to the *Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations*, effective immediately.

Ms. Mugwaneza will serve on this commission as a representative of an immigrant or refugee rights organization.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 146)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

April 29, 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.":

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 1452 An Act to Allow the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Assess Civil Penalties for the Noncompliance of Emergency Medical Services Persons with the Requirement to Administer Naloxone Hydrochloride in Compliance with Trainings and Procedures Developed by the Board

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 1076 An Act to Hire School Security Officers to Protect Students and Make Schools Safer

Health and Human Services

L.D. 263 Resolve, to Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits Under MaineCare

L.D. 431 An Act Regarding Driver's Licenses for Individuals in Foster Care

L.D. 625 An Act Supporting Education for the Rural Health Care Workforce

L.D. 712 An Act to Clarify the Relationship Between Palliative Care Physicians and Hospital Physicians

L.D. 938 An Act to Implement Certain Local Spending and Sourcing Requirements Regarding the Statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

L.D. 1028 Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Equitable Access to Maternal Health Care and Birthing Facilities

L.D. 1070 Resolve, to Study a Medicaid Forward Plan for Maine

L.D. 1125 An Act Regarding the Impact of Certain Nonemergency Transportation Services Contracts on Community Action Agency Programs

L.D. 1191 An Act to Ensure Timely Reimbursement for Providers of Child Care Services for Children in Foster Care

L.D. 1235 An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties

L.D. 1280 Resolve, to Create Pilot Programs to Provide Tuition Assistance and Grants for Rural Child Care Providers

L.D. 1380 Resolve, Establishing the Study Group on Solutions to Address Maine's Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 1392 An Act to Limit the Applicability of the Laws Regulating Payroll Processors to Services Provided by Payroll Processors to Employers with a Legal Address in the State (EMERGENCY)

Judiciary

L.D. 1262 An Act to Improve Government Transparency and Accountability by Establishing a Process to Allow a Person to Require the State to Enforce Certain Laws and Rules

L.D. 1348 An Act to Increase the Limit on Damages Under the Maine Tort Claims Act for Negligence Involving School Field Trips

Labor

L.D. 1218 An Act to Allow Certain County Commissioners Who Are Maine Public Employees Retirement System Members to Switch to the Legislative Retirement Program

Taxation

L.D. 1278 An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process

L.D. 1368 An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption for Allowing Shellfish Harvester Access to the Intertidal Zone

Transportation

L.D. 667 An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and the Law Governing Inspection Fees

L.D. 676 An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council

L.D. 807 An Act to Limit the Number of Free Motor Vehicle Registrations That May Be Provided to a Disabled Veteran and Reimburse Municipalities for the Loss of Excise Taxes

L.D. 1194 An Act to Phase Out Vehicle Excise Taxes and Implement a Fee for Infrastructure Funding Based on a Vehicle's Annual Mileage (EMERGENCY)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 1334 An Act to Require Retailers to Place Any Liquor That Is Accessible to Customers at Least 48 Inches from the Payment Terminal

L.D. 1434 An Act to Allow Veterans' Organizations and Fraternal Organizations to Obtain a License to Operate the Draw Game Keno

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 147)

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

April 29, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:

on April 24, 2025

Janice de Lima of Falmouth, Robert C. Bryant of Hartland and Ian Houseal of Portland for reappointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

Pursuant to 30-A MRSA §5155, these reappointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 302)

**MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

April 24, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

- The Honorable Roger J. Katz, Esq. of Brunswick for reappointment, to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Transportation:

- Emily N. Becker of Poland for appointment, to the Maine Turnpike Authority, Board of Directors.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act Regarding the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund"

(H.P. 1217) (L.D. 1819)

Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

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.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Responsible Business Practices by Licensed Firearms Dealers"

(H.P. 1219) (L.D. 1821)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Online Data Privacy Act"

(H.P. 1220) (L.D. 1822)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Taxes, Spending or Debt Without Approval by the Voters

(H.P. 1216) (L.D. 1818)

Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter. (BY REQUEST)

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representative: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry"

(H.P. 1218) (L.D. 1820)

Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1206) (Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, GERE of Kennebunkport, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROBERTS of South Berwick, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: MOORE of Washington)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects all communities in Maine and people of all races, genders and economic backgrounds, and over 14,000 people in Maine are sexually assaulted each year and one in 5 Maine citizens will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, the effects of sexual violence have wide-ranging public health ramifications and societal costs, and survivors and their loved ones can experience consequences including mental health crises, substance use disorder, homelessness, lost wages and health care costs, among others; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence affects certain groups more often, and that disproportionate impact is related to historical experiences of marginalization and oppression, providing evidence that sexual assault is a tool of control and power; and

WHEREAS, systems of support for survivors of sexual assault often have inadequate resources, do not provide adequate options for justice and healing and retraumatize survivors; and

WHEREAS, widespread stigma and misconceptions around sexual violence result in low rates of reporting of crimes, increased isolation and shame for victims and the continuation of cultures of violence; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness in our communities about the causes of and solutions to sexual violence can lead to long-term positive cultural and systemic changes, and building a future free from sexual violence requires us to commit to making those changes; 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, take this opportunity to recognize April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to express our support for and encouragement of all those affected by sexual violence; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault as a token of our respect and support.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair Recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this "Joint Resolution Recognizing April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the State of Maine.

Sexual violence is a pervasive and deeply harmful issue that affects every community across our State. Every year, more than 14,000 Mainers are sexually assaulted. That staggering figure is more than a statistic. It represents our neighbors, friends, coworkers and family members. One in five people in our State will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. The impact of that trauma is long-lasting and profound. This Resolution not only acknowledges those facts, it also confronts the consequences that survivors face every single day. It also confronts ongoing shame and at times guilt, as well as mental health challenges, substance use, housing instability and the financial burden of lost wages and medical care, which are all a part of the ripple effect caused by sexual violence. And too often, the very systems meant to support survivors fail to do so. Survivors are met with inadequate resources, re-traumatization and a justice system that often does not meet their needs.

We also know that sexual violence is not experienced equally. Marginalized communities, including Black and Indigenous people, LGBTQ+ individuals and those living in poverty are disproportionately affected, revealing a larger truth: sexual violence is often a tool of power and control rooted in historical inequities. And of course, Mr. Speaker, children who are victims of sexual abuse live with this trauma well into their older adult years. That's why raising awareness is not a symbolic gesture; it is a critical step toward cultural and systemic change. Naming this month and recognizing its significance is about affirming that survivors matter, that our voices are heard and that our work to end sexual violence must be ongoing and urgent. It is also a reminder, Mr. Speaker, that survivors are not defined by their abuse and that we are seen, heard and believed.

This Resolution is also a statement of support. We honor and stand with the survivors of sexual assault and with the advocates, service providers and organizations like the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, who work tirelessly to support healing and drive prevention efforts across our State. This Resolution, Mr. Speaker, recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month, illustrates our commitment to creating a future where safety, dignity and justice are a reality for all Mainers. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Stover, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd like to recognize the Boothbay Region High School Drama Club. I'm Seahawk Nation proud today to have them here. The drama club won the gold for Class C competition and also brought home the silver for the State drama competition. And so often, we recognize our basketball and football and other athletes, and I'm just really proud of these kids for what they did; bringing home the awards; and I'm glad to have them here today. Thank you.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report of the Chair-Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

Representative SACHS from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Advance Equitable Energy Policy in Maine"

(H.P. 464) (L.D. 725)

Reports a recommendation for a **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE**.

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

On motion of Representative SACHS of Freeport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Statute

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions"

(H.P. 1214) (L.D. 1813)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Statute

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information in Records of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations"

(H.P. 1221) (L.D. 1826)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Statute

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Requests"

(H.P. 1222) (L.D. 1827)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

**Refer to the Committee on Judiciary
Pursuant to Statute**

Representative KUHNS from the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions"

(H.P. 1223) (L.D. 1828)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Change of Committee

Representative MEYER from the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Disruption to or Removal of Health Services"

(H.P. 1036) (L.D. 1578)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

Sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-76)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance"

(H.P. 642) (L.D. 995)

Signed:

Senators:

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

Representatives:

- SACHS of Freeport
- FOSTER of Dexter
- GEIGER of Rockland
- KESSLER of South Portland
- MCINTYRE of Lowell
- RUNTE of York
- WADSWORTH of Hiram
- WARREN of Scarborough
- WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Representative:

PAUL of Winterport

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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 Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Maine, on average, the low-income ratepayers pay approximately eight percent of their household income just for electricity, which is double the four percent maximum recommended by consumer experts. I want to emphasize that the EUT Committee is working in a very bipartisan way with our partners to lower the overall cost of energy. However, the majority felt it also important to support those programs, those relief programs, that we have in place. This is a one-time appropriation in order to support the Low-Income Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly have a lot of disagreements with the Representative from Freeport, but on this case, I agree. I stand in support of the Majority Report and urge the Members to vote Yea on the pending motion.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand in support of the pending motion.

Those of us on the Committee are working to try to reduce the rates for Maine ratepayers; however, that's, as they say, like shoveling against the tide sometimes. I will say that this particular bill; I'm hoping Appropriations can find the funding for it; will alleviate some of the expense of other ratepayers who have to pick up these funds for the LIAP program that assist those low-income ratepayers who are in need.

This is a growing issue, and it's grown; last Legislature, we placed a bill that raised the income threshold for those who would qualify for LIAP. And at the time, we recognized, because of the increase in electric rates that we are seeing over the last few years, and will continue to see for the next few, anyway, we saw that the numbers of people that would be in need of these funds was increasing as well. And as was mentioned by my good friend from Freeport, we find that more and more of the budget of our not only low-income ratepayers, but medium-income ratepayers, more and more of their budget is going to electricity as each year goes by. So, I hope you'll follow my light and support the pending motion.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to correct one statement that's being made in relation to this bill for the cost of the low income; for the cost to the low-income people. And net energy billing is the primary reason, the reason most of these low-income; most of your household income is going up is in relation to this program called net energy billing. Billing. So, if; keep that in mind when you make your vote today. Thank you.

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

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just had to rise and correct a misapprehension, having served on the EUT Committee for two terms now. NEB is responsible for six percent of the rise in costs over the last several years; six percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monticello, Representative Ardell.

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is a Band-Aid. Maine's energy policy is a failure and is eroding Maine's economic underpinning through net energy

billing; essentially a solar tax. This bill is essentially subsidizing the subsidy. But for the sake of Mainers, as a result of Maine's failure of an energy policy, in this case, a Band-Aid is necessary, and I would like to invite the Members of this Body to vote with me on this bill. 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. 100

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenpus, Henderson, Hepler, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Drinkwater, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hymes, Lance, Lyman, Mingo, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Soboleski, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Campbell, Jackson, Lanigan, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 120; No, 26; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

120 having voted in the affirmative and 26 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-76)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-76)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering"

(H.P. 328) (L.D. 499)

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-73)** 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.

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 Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill is about geoeengineering, which is defined in the bill as the "deliberate, large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems for the purpose of counteracting climate change."

Our Committee heard no credible evidence that cloud seeding, weather modification, excessive radio waves, microwave radiation; none of this is of current threat to Maine people, wildlife or our environment. So, this is an unnecessary and premature proposal at this time and, you know, banning geoeengineering outright without any scientific or technical evidence that a particular technology is being used, it could have, you know, it could potentially limit technologies in the future that might be able to help us address climate change through carbon sequestration, for example. So, right now, currently, NOAA; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association; they are required by law to track weather modification activities by others, including cloud seeding, and these reports are publicly filed on the NOAA's central library website. So, again, this is not a threat to Maine people at this time, and I ask folks to follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. This was brought to me by some constituents. This isn't my bill; I was going to put in a bill for geoeengineering that would've been a little bit different, but due to the number of bills that we had, I just piggybacked on another Member's bill. But I did want to bring up some information.

First of all, whether or not it's happening, at the hearing itself, there was testimony from a Connecticut company that, if you go back and watch, he did a pretty good job bragging about how well his company does, in fact, do with geoengineering. But I would like to read some information that I read at the hearing, just because I learned a lot just gathering the information about this bill that I did not have before.

So, many of my constituents have reached out to me with concerns over geoengineering. "Geoengineering is a truly fascinating science. I am amazed at the number of people who believe this to be in the realm of 'conspiracy theories' or things that are not true. Our government and governments around the world have used and are using this technology within the United States, Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, just to name a few. Individual states and companies have also joined in. Cloud seeding or the use of 'chemtrails' entails spraying particulates or chemicals, such as silver iodide, into clouds to affect their development. Geoengineering has been used in storm prevention/alteration, hurricane modification and weather warfare. Yes, warfare, by our own government. Operation Popeye is an example of military cloud-seeding in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. The United Nations addressed the issue of 'hostile weather warfare' in 1977 at the United Nations Environmental Modification Convention. While our country uses this technology to remain a dominant force in air and space, there can be disastrous consequences. Western Saudi Arabia was damaged by floods in 2009 that reportedly killed more than 100 people due to ineffective drainage systems' ability to handle the excess precipitation from their weather modification project. China has spent millions of dollars to alter weather before major gatherings, such as the Beijing Olympics and promotes artificial rainfall and hail suppression. The United Arab Emirates has been cloud seeding with potassium chloride, sodium chloride and magnesium among other materials to increase rainfall by 15-30% each year. These artificial rain storms can cause hail, gales and thunderstorms. This can cause issues in patterns of rainfall for the surrounding areas as well. Canada and the United States have had an agreement," and have had one; "since 1975 to share information on weather modification activity within our countries. Within our borders, Idaho Power has utilized cloud seeding to supplement its hydroelectric power generation for nearly two decades by increasing the annual snowpack. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been tasked by the Secretary of Commerce to record weather modification projects since 1971. Were you aware of any of this?" I was not.

"Many people have been questioning the effects of the fallout of these particulates coming down on us in our precipitation; mainly fog, rain, and snow. Do these metallics and chemicals pose a health concern for us, animals or crops? Recently, the American public has become more vocal in questioning the safety of weather manipulation. In 2024, Tennessee banned 'the intentional injection, release or dispersion of chemicals with the express purpose of affecting temperature, the weather or the intensity of sunlight within Tennessee.'" Think about that for a moment. They're using it to block sunlight, while we're plastering our State with solar panels. "Florida has a bill that 'prohibits certain acts intended to affect the temperature, the weather or the intensity of the sunlight within the atmosphere of its state.' Iowa has in a bill to ban the emission of air contaminants into the atmosphere to intentionally alter the weather. There are many questions, but one that we should really be asking is does the State of Maine even know what is in our aerosolized skies, and do we want to allow others

dominion over our skies without our consent." 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. 101

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

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

ABSENT - Campbell, Jackson, Lanigan, Skold, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 88; No, 57; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

88 having voted in the affirmative and 57 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.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-71)** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 201: Employer Reporting and Payments, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 53) (L.D. 89)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

ARCHER of Saco

BECK of South Portland

COLLINS of Sidney

MACIAS of Topsham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-72)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-71)** 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-71)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators"

(H.P. 491) (L.D. 749)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon

GREENWOOD of Wales

MATLACK of St. George

POMERLEAU of Standish

TUELL of East Machias

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

ROLLINS of Augusta

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the pending motion. And frequently, we have Divided Reports in this Chamber, but when we have a Divided Report that has bipartisan support, I'm disappointed that we're moving the Minority Report on the floor. For that reason, I request a Roll Call.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **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 East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion, and I do so for several reasons.

First, the Report before us fails to address and acknowledge a growing concern. Maine's quote-unquote 'senior' United States Senator, Susan Collins, is 72; our quote-unquote 'junior' United States Senator, Angus King, is 81. At the risk of being accused of referencing a piece of legislation not before the Body, they aren't exactly spring chickens. And because of that, we need to candidly consider what would happen if they were not able to fulfill the duties of their office, just as I, my brother and sister have to come to grips with the fact that our 70-year-old parents are also in their later years and will not always be there. That's not an easy thing to talk about, and for many in this Body, it hits closer to home than others. But the last thing a 70- to 80-year-old man or woman should have to think about is who is going to fill his or her shoes in public office should tragedy strike.

If we pass the motion before us and the office is vacated, the Chief Executive will have the authority to appoint on an interim basis anyone he or she wishes to, to one of Maine's two U.S. Senate seats. Anyone, Mr. Speaker, and not someone of the same political party. The current Chief Executive would be under immense pressure to replace a vacated Senator Collins seat with a Democrat. The previous Chief Executive would have jumped at the chance to replace Angus King with a Republican. That may be tough for some people to admit, but it's plain and simple political reality that would rightfully have either party up in arms if they were on the other side of the fence and if they lost one of their own, and Independents like the Representative from Belgrade or the Representative from Warren would never have any hope of having an unaffiliated Mainer in one of those two U.S. Senate seats.

My first objection to the pending motion boils down to fairness. If the seat is vacated by a Democrat, it should be filled by one; on an interim basis. If the seat is vacated by an unaffiliated Senator; again, on an interim basis; it should be filled by one. And the same goes for a Republican. The report before us fails the fairness test.

Second, it also fails the consistency test. Recently, down in Washington County, County Commissioner John Crowley tendered his resignation for health reasons. After 26 years in office, Commissioner Crowley notified the Chief Executive, who in turn was bound by law to select a replacement Commissioner from the same political party. She solicited nominations from our County Republican Committee of folks in that district, a slate of candidates was presented to her and she appointed; or is soon to appoint; one of those names on that list to serve until the next election. If the law had permitted it, there would have been nothing to stop her from appointing someone from the opposite party or an unaffiliated resident of the Commissioner's district, or to have stopped her from accepting recommendations from either the Democratic party or Independents at large. I'm not going to speculate what she would have done, but I'm going to say that for consistency's sake, we should reject the motion before us and adopt the same principle for our two United States Senate seats, and we should do it out of respect for the office our two Senators hold.

Third and finally, Mr. Speaker, we should reject the pending motion because the Chief Executive should not have the power to influence the next U.S. Senate election by giving a political ally a leg up on the competition. The motion before us of Ought Not to Pass does just that. If we reject it and pursue another course of action, Mr. Speaker, the Chief Executive won't be able to tip the scales, candidates for office will have to compete on an even playing field and Maine people will be the ultimate decision makers.

I oppose the pending motion and request that the Clerk read the Committee Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative TUELL of East Machias **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question through the Chair, if I may?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative may proceed.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Why are we bothering to go to Committee if the Majority party is going to run what they want for a Report anyway, and not actually do the, you know, for the Committee's work?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 102

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Brennan, Cloutier, Copeland, DeBrito, Dhalac, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kuhn, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, McCabe, Meyer, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Terry, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, Dill, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Javner, Kessler, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Matlack, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Runte, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Campbell, Jackson, Lanigan, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 56; No, 90; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

56 having voted in the affirmative and 90 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, 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.

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. 58) (L.D. 36) Bill "An Act to Clarify Processes of the Board of Environmental Protection" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-25)**

(S.P. 200) (L.D. 465) Bill "An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-24)**

(H.P. 221) (L.D. 321) Bill "An Act to Make May Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 758) (L.D. 1153) Bill "An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 87) (L.D. 154) Bill "An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-75)**

(H.P. 318) (L.D. 489) Bill "An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-74)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** 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

Resolve, to Study Barriers to Financial Assistance Programs for Farmers and Food Producers

(H.P. 374) (L.D. 606)

(C. "A" H-65)

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. 114 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Pursuant to the Constitution
Public Land**

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Certain Real Property in the Town of Richmond

(H.P. 320) (L.D. 491)
(C. "A" H-66)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 23 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 116 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge

(H.P. 189) (L.D. 289)
(C. "A" H-61)

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

On motion of Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, was **SET ASIDE**.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate it. I was born and brought up in Presque Isle, along with; yes, I called him Barry, not Detective or Sheriff. I always knew him as the redheaded kid from Elm Street. We grew up together in the same neighborhood, along with a third person that graduated in the class of '67 in Presque Isle. His name was Brian Niles, and he's a truck driver and he's from Connecticut. So, anyway, the three of us were born and brought up in the same neighborhood, and we played on the same, basically, the teams, and his father's name was Harry DeLong, and he was a mechanic for Etscovetz Garage and also his mother was a homemaker, Lola DeLong, that was his mother's name and there was a friend of my mother's. Again, we grew up in the same neighborhood, and he went his way, I went my way and Mr. Niles went his way.

With that, I'd like to say he was a great guy, he was a tough County kid of County legislators, they're all tough kids and he represented very well what a tough County kid is all about. With that, I'd like to say rest in peace, Barry, and may God keep his two kids in his arms. Carrie-Jo was his daughter and Flint is his son, and both of them, and I wish them all well and may God help him rest in peace, and thank you.

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

Acts

An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics

(H.P. 34) (L.D. 70)
(C. "A" H-63)

An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program

(H.P. 63) (L.D. 98)
(C. "A" H-59)

An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings

(S.P. 104) (L.D. 238)
(C. "A" S-22)

An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations

(H.P. 267) (L.D. 413)
(C. "A" H-67)

An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates

(H.P. 442) (L.D. 703)
(C. "A" H-64)

An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility

(H.P. 746) (L.D. 1127)

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.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 706)

MAINE SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 25, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On April 25, 2025, 4 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on April 25, 2025, as follows:

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use

(H.P. 74) (L.D. 109)
(C. "A" H-58)

Resolve, to Establish the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project at the University of Maine School of Law

(H.P. 570) (L.D. 884)
(C. "A" H-60)

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

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Optometric Practice" (S.P. 702) (L.D. 1803) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, HAGGAN of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook, BALDACCI of Penobscot, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: MASTRACCIO of Sanford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MATHIESON of Kittery)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Establish a Post-conviction Review Process for Crimes Committed by Victims of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation" (S.P. 705) (L.D. 1805) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BAILEY of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: LEE of Auburn, KUHN of Falmouth, BOYER of Poland, SINCLAIR of Bath, SATO of Gorham)

Transportation

Bill "An Act Concerning Funding and Oversight of Transportation Matters" (S.P. 704) (L.D. 1804) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel and Senator: HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: MASON of Lisbon, WHITE of Guilford, ALBERT of Madawaska, BISHOP of Bucksport)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Increase Transparency in State Government by Amending Laws Regarding Persons Attempting to Influence the Competitive Bidding Process and Lobbyist Reporting During Rule-making Processes" (S.P. 708) (L.D. 1814) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, FARRIN of Somerset, GROHOSKI of Hancock, DUSON of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: EDER of Waterboro)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE** in concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Require a Blood Test for Drugs for Drivers Involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident That Results in Serious Bodily Injury or Death"

(S.P. 703) (L.D. 1815)

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.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Conduct an Inventory of Existing Forensic Examination Kits in the Possession of Law Enforcement" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 707) (L.D. 1816)

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Promote Transparency in the Criminal Justice System by Requiring the Posting of Criminal Case Decisions"

(S.P. 710) (L.D. 1823)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Public Release of Information Regarding a Railroad Fatality"

(S.P. 711) (L.D. 1824)

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

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

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

On motion of Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford, the House adjourned at 11:57 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 30, 2025.