

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
14th Legislative Day
Tuesday, May 6, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Shane Stoops, First United Pentecostal Church, Augusta.

National Anthem by Gary Crocker, West Gardiner.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, April 30, 2025 was read and approved.

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

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Grant Funding for the Maine Farms for the Future Program"

(H.P. 1286) (L.D. 1925)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, HALL of Wilton, PLUECKER of Warren, RANA of Bangor, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

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 Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person Under 21 Years of Age" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1281) (L.D. 1920)

Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: FROST of Belgrade, OSHER of Orono.

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

On motion of Representative DILL of Old Town, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Repurpose Long Creek Youth Development Center and Build a Community System of Support"

(H.P. 1284) (L.D. 1923)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Require Law Enforcement Officers Employed by Tribal Governments to Complete the Same Training Required for Other Law Enforcement Officers"

(H.P. 1294) (L.D. 1933)

Sponsored by Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FLYNN of Albion, HENDERSON of Rumford, LEE of Auburn, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Public Utility Service by Addressing Seasonal Property Hazards"

(H.P. 1290) (L.D. 1929)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, DODGE of Belfast, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, LOOKNER of Portland, MATLACK of St. George, RAY of Lincolnville, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Matinicus Isle Plantation to Issue a Revenue Bond for Urgently Needed Repairs to the Plantation's Electric Power Generating Facility" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1274) (L.D. 1913)

Sponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representative: MATLACK of St. George.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KESSLER of South Portland, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-use Plastic Containers"

(H.P. 1289) (L.D. 1928)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, HEPLER of Woolwich, RIELLY of Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Support Workforce Development for Families That Were Involved in Child Protective Activities by Requiring the Sealing of Certain Records" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1283) (L.D. 1922)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Bill "An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development"

(H.P. 1293) (L.D. 1932)

Sponsored by Speaker FECTION of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, POIRIER of Skowhegan, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, DUSON of Cumberland.

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.

Bill "An Act to Regulate Earned Wage Access Services Providers"

(H.P. 1276) (L.D. 1915)

Sponsored by Representative SKOLD of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, CROCKETT of Portland, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot.

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.

Bill "An Act to Create a Statewide Housing Resolution Board"

(H.P. 1282) (L.D. 1921)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Bill "An Act to Require Increased Housing Density or Lower Minimum Lot Sizes for Workforce Housing"

(H.P. 1287) (L.D. 1926)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, COPELAND of Saco, Speaker FECTION of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot.

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 Protect Housing Quality by Enacting Mold Inspection, Notification and Remediation Requirements"

(H.P. 1288) (L.D. 1927)

Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: MONTELL of Gardiner, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

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

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

Bill "An Act to Increase Penalties for Violations Related to Water Well Drilling"

(H.P. 1296) (L.D. 1935)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Acts of Violence Committed Against a Pregnant Woman"

(H.P. 1291) (L.D. 1930)

Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, COLLINS of Sidney, GRIFFIN of Levant, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting"

(H.P. 1295) (L.D. 1934)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, JULIA of Waterville, RIELLY of Westbrook, WOODSOME of Waterboro, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BENNETT of Oxford, GROHOSKI of Hancock, TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Housing Density Requirements in Sole Source Aquifer Island and Peninsular Communities"

(H.P. 1275) (L.D. 1914)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, HEPLER of Woolwich, MATLACK of St. George, MITCHELL of Cumberland, STROUT of Harrington, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, RENY of Lincoln.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested.

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

Bill "An Act to Encourage New Residential Housing Through a Tax Exemption for the Sale or Rental of Such Housing"

(H.P. 1285) (L.D. 1924)

Sponsored by Representative WALKER of Naples.

Bill "An Act to Annually Reimburse the Town of Charleston for 43 Percent of Property Tax Revenue Lost Due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility's Tax-exempt Status"

(H.P. 1292) (L.D. 1931)

Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representative: PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

Bill "An Act Regarding the Regulation of Tobacco"

(H.P. 1297) (L.D. 1938)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, KUHN of Falmouth, MEYER of Eliot.

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.

Bill "An Act to Close Maine's Tax Loophole for Offshore Profit Shifting"

(H.P. 1298) (L.D. 1939)

Sponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George.

Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representative: SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Hannah Meneses, of Whitefield, whose quick actions helped to save a man trapped in a sinking car in Davis Stream in Jefferson. Ms. Meneses swam to the partially submerged vehicle and, working with another passerby, was able to smash the car windows, freeing the driver and helping him to the shore. We extend to Ms. Meneses our appreciation for her heroic, life-saving actions and offer her our best wishes;

(HLS 227)

Presented by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln, Representative FARRIN of Jefferson.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newcastle, Representative Crafts.

Representative **CRAFTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It's quite an honor to be able to recognize a local citizen and constituent who has done amazing things.

On March 28th, Hannah was driving humbly to work and noticed a partially submerged car in Davis Stream. While most of us might call 9-1-1 or yell for help, she stripped down and jumped into the freezing water to rescue the 60-year-old driver, Mr. Richard Pauley, thus saving his life. She swam back and forth to the car multiple times trying to open the door and windows, finally smashing the back windshield with a tool provided by a local bystander. Local law enforcement credit Ms. Meneses with the saving of Mr. Pauley's life, and so, for her heroic bravery and demonstrating the ability of, really, everyday citizens to do extraordinary things in our State, I'd like to congratulate and thank Ms. Meneses.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Jefferson, Representative Farrin.

Representative **FARRIN**: Yes, I also want to commend Hannah Meneses on her heroic day to save a man's life. After taking an exercise class with her at the YMCA, I know of her relentless energy. I am so glad she was there in Jefferson to save the man. I am also happy that she's allowed me to strategically place two of my campaign signs on her Whitefield home. Also, I commend her by taking her son Remy to the polls to vote, where I met her, she explained to him about what I was running for. She is a remarkable woman. Thank you.

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

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

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I rise to honor Donald Beane of Moscow, who just retired from; wait for it; 46 years as the First Selectman of the Town of Moscow.

He graduated from Bingham High School, University of Maine Farmington with a Bachelor's in education and from the University of Maine with a Master's in education. He taught at Fairfield schools. He returned to live in Moscow and taught at Caratunk's one-room schoolhouse. He then completed a teaching career of 39 years with teaching in the Moscow and Bingham schools. He was married to the late Camille Ouellette, also a teacher, and they lived in Moscow with their two children, Rebecca Ambrose and Glen Beane.

Just a side note, Donald's father was William S. Beane. He was a State Representative in the 100th and 101st, and he is credited with a 'William Beane Bill' which allowed for the State of Maine to have a picture on the driver's license. So, the story goes that Donald's parents ran Beane's General Store and, unbeknownst to them, some teens came in to purchase beer with falsified identification. After quite an interrogation by law enforcement, not only did Billy Beane keep his liquor license, but he later sponsored legislation to require a photo ID on the Maine driver's license.

Back to Mr. Beane; in 1979, he ran for Moscow's First Selectman as a write-in candidate and followed unopposed for the next 45 years. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Upper Kennebec Valley Ambulance Service. He's active at the Catholic church in Bingham, he sings to this day in the choir, he serves at St. Peter's thrift store and the food pantry. He loves to travel, loves to cook and entertain, and his sister says he can put on a dinner party with the best of them. And he was just elected last month as the Second Selectman to help mentor the new First Selectman.

Over the last 20 years, I, as Caratunk's First Selectman, have had the honor and privilege of serving with Donald Beane in regional efforts, with our two abutting towns coinciding, including where the former US Air Force radar station is located in both Caratunk and Moscow. I can affirm that Donald has always carried sound wisdom, kindness, a calm demeanor and a rational approach that considers all aspects on behalf of his town and his residents. And so, it's an honor here to recognize him and to honor a great civil servant, a respected rural municipal leader, a loyal American and Maine citizen. Thank you.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report of the Chair-Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

Representative MEYER from the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Development of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities by Exempting Certain Facilities from the Requirement to Obtain a Certificate of Need"

(H.P. 1261) (L.D. 1890)

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

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

Subsequently, on motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Resolve

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Class D and Class E Crimes Relating to Marijuana Possession and Cultivation"

(H.P. 1277) (L.D. 1916)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 103, section 8.

The Report was **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Resolve

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Sealing of Criminal History Record Information Related to Convictions for Conduct That Is No Longer a Crime in the State"

(H.P. 1278) (L.D. 1917)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 103, section 8.

The Report was **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Resolve

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Criminal History Record Information Act with Respect to Criminal Charges Dismissed as the Result of a Plea Agreement"

(H.P. 1279) (L.D. 1918)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 103, section 8.

The Report was **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Resolve

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Types of Convictions Eligible for Sealing Through a Post-judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information"

(H.P. 1280) (L.D. 1919)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 103, section 8.

The Report was **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Sent for concurrence.

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

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Landowner Liability Protections to Include Sport Shooting Ranges" (S.P. 467) (L.D. 1137)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act" (S.P. 272) (L.D. 588)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

READ.

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-97)** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Definition of 'Terrorism' in the Laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency" (H.P. 147) (L.D. 224)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MCINTYRE of Lowell
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representative:

ARDELL of Monticello

READ.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**. The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-97)** 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-97)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-94)** on Bill "An Act to Employ Mental Health Personnel Within the Maine State Police" (H.P. 198) (L.D. 298)

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
MCINTYRE of Lowell
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:
Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec
Representatives:
ARDELL of Monticello
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**. The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-94)** 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-94)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools" (H.P. 466) (L.D. 727)

Signed:
Senators: RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:
MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CARLOW of Buxton
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:
Representatives:
BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Testing of Solar and Wind Energy Developments for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination"

(H.P. 305) (L.D. 451)

Signed:
Senators: LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:
SACHS of Freeport
GEIGER of Rockland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-88)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator: HARRINGTON of York
Representatives:
FOSTER of Dexter
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

Representative KESSLER of South Portland 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 KESSLER of South Portland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Study the Effects of 5G and Other Non-ionizing Radio Frequency Radiation-emitting Technology on Bird, Bee, Insect and Other Wildlife Populations and the Effects of Long-term Exposure on Children

(H.P. 564) (L.D. 878)

Signed:
Senators: LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:
SACHS of Freeport
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WADSWORTH of Hiram
WEBB of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-87)** on same Resolve.

Signed:
Representatives:
FOSTER of Dexter
GEIGER of Rockland
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
WARREN of Scarborough

READ.

Representative KESSLER of South Portland 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 KESSLER of South Portland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-86)** on Bill "An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income"

(H.P. 702) (L.D. 1080)

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

READ.

Representative KESSLER of South Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative KESSLER of South Portland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Energy Costs by Permitting the Ownership of Generation by Investor-owned Transmission and Distribution Utilities"

(H.P. 1050) (L.D. 1592)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter
MCINTYRE of Lowell
WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

On motion of Representative KESSLER of South Portland, 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 the Availability and Affordability of Health Care by Eliminating Certificate of Need Requirements"

(H.P. 485) (L.D. 743)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-96)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

READ.

On motion of Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, 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 Regarding Nondiscrimination in Financial Services"

(H.P. 566) (L.D. 880)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-99)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

CIMINO of Bridgton

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Provide State Recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe"

(H.P. 519) (L.D. 812)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, Requiring the Judicial Branch to Report on the Implementation and Operation of Its Electronic Filing System

(H.P. 893) (L.D. 1370)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-91)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the November General Election Day as a State Holiday"

(H.P. 17) (L.D. 53)

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
FARRIN of Jefferson

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-91)** 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-91)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-32)** on Bill "An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 194) (L.D. 461)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ABDI of Lewiston
ARDELL of Monticello
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-32)**.

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his 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 Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Mr. Speaker, you'll remember it was not too long ago that we had a very similar discussion on a bill coming out of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee about funding rural patrols. If you remember, I was in support of that bill, as I believe that the appropriate way to fund rural policing in Maine is through more investment in the Maine State Police to patrol rural counties in general and the entire State of Maine. I do not think that we should pick and choose and identify specific counties upon which they must patrol. And for that reason, I supported the previous bill, but I will be voting against this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully would disagree with the Representative from Readfield today.

I respect where he's coming from and certainly his position. However, this bill is the result of copious work with our county delegation, State police, local law enforcement agencies to address the needs that have been well documented for rural patrol and not just Washington County, but all across rural Maine. At that time, the decision was made for us as a county, as a delegation, to put forward a bill and work with any other bills that may come forward. Sitting through the Committee process, the Committee by a majority agreed that both bills should move forward on their own merits and be; the wish at the time was for each to be sent to Appropriations and the details to be sorted out there.

Certainly, we appreciate the Representative from Madison putting forward his bill and don't see this as strict competition to it, but we feel both approaches ought to be brought forward out of an overwhelming need for rural patrol and increased effort of the State police, and would ask that the Body support the pending motion of Ought to Pass as Amended out of respect for the Committee's work and out of respect for our county delegation's work. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrington, Representative Strout.

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in support of the pending motion.

I, too, appreciate the other bills that have been before us that were passed. As a resident of Washington County, I know that the need is multifaceted for the problems and the drugs that we have going on in our area. The recent news yesterday was another drug bust, same road, a family of people. And I just would like everybody to think about, too, not just what the officers are there to enforce, but also, they are helping to save lives. We have drug overdoses at a high rate. At the end of March, we lost four people that I know, and there were several others that were luckily able to be revived. And having more people that can respond is a safety issue as well. We know that the other bill was passed and what we're asking is that this can also be placed on the Table for consideration if there are not funds to fill the other bill. So, I would encourage you and ask you to support the motion. Thank you.

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.

Not only is Washington County one of the poorest counties in Maine, but it also experiences some of the highest drug use and overdose and overdose deaths per capita. Washington County is also a border county and increasing patrols in Washington County are not only vital for the protection of Washington County, but to stop the spread of illegal dangerous drugs into the State of Maine. So, I would ask the Members to please support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 107

YEA - Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McCabe, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Ray, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sargent, Sayre, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Archer, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Cloutier, Copeland, Crockett, Eaton, Friedmann, Gattine, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Pugh, Rana, Rielly, Roeder, Salisbury, Sato, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb.

ABSENT - Cooper, Doudera, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, O'Halloran, Pluecker, Sachs, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 103; No, 37; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

103 having voted in the affirmative and 37 voted in the negative, with 10 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" (S-32)** 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" (S-32)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-defense to Safely Retreat or Abstain from Performing Certain Acts upon Demand"

(H.P. 315) (L.D. 486)

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.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **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: 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. 108

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, 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, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Doudera, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, O'Halloran, Pluecker, Sachs, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 72; No, 68; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 10 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 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Education"

(H.P. 50) (L.D. 86)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **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 Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Chamber, I stand today to express my opposition to this motion.

While some of the provisions may seem straightforward, I have concerns about the potential impacts of this legislation. Specifically, I'm concerned about the potential implications of updating Statutes regarding private schools' receipt of public funds for tuition purposes to reflect the *Carson v. Makin* decision. While I understand the need to align with court decisions, I believe it is crucial to ensure that the use of public funds continues to primarily support our public education system; which serves all students, regardless of background. Any expansion of public funding to private institutions should be carefully considered and include robust accountability measures to ensure taxpayer money is being used effectively and equitably.

Furthermore, while streamlining processes like community school district reorganization may seem efficient, I worry about the potential for reduced public input and transparency if this change can occur without a Private and Special Law. Local control and community engagement are vital to ensuring our schools meet the needs of our students and families. While other provisions in the bill, such as updating the definition of 'homeless student' and clarifying audit procedures, may be beneficial, I urge legislators to carefully consider the potential unintended consequences of changes related to private school funding and community school district reorganization.

Finally, there is not a Fiscal Note attached to this bill, making it fiscally irresponsible to pass legislation without

knowing the commitment to our taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, thank you for considering my position.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill before us was a department bill brought on behalf of the Department of Education, and it simply is clarifying some things in Statute that are outdated that need to reflect changes to current law. And there is no fiscal note because they do not expect any cost to the Department to make these changes.

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. 109

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, 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, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, 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, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Doudera, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, O'Halloran, Pluecker, Sachs, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 72; No, 68; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1. 72 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 10 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 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements"

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

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **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 Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I stand in opposition to this motion.

I believe that no child should be denied access to a public education based on their family's sincerely held religious beliefs. The current situation in Maine forces families to choose between their faith and their child's education; a choice no family should have to make.

We heard compelling testimony from Aaron Siri, the lawyer who successfully argued for the reinstatement of religious exemptions in Missouri. During his testimony, Mr. Siri stated that, in his professional opinion, Maine is currently violating the Maine Human Rights Act, as well as the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, by not allowing for religious exemptions for school attendance. Furthermore, there is already a case, *Fox v. Makin*, in federal court in Portland, Maine, addressing this very issue. Considering this ongoing legal challenge and the potential constitutional concerns raised by legal experts, it seems only prudent for us to proactively address this by supporting the reinstatement of religious exemptions.

Moreover, recently, this House voted in favor of the ERA Amendment, which also promises to protect religious freedom. This demonstrates a legislative commitment to upholding fundamental rights, including the right to practice one's religion without undue burden.

Given the legal challenges, the constitutional concerns raised by experts and the recent legislative action affirming religious freedom, wouldn't it be prudent for us to support this

bill and reinstate religious exemptions, ensuring that all Maine families can access public education without compromising their deeply held religious beliefs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time and consideration.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I respectfully disagree with the balance of various rights that the Good Representatives from Livermore Falls and Milford have advanced with this bill.

The problem that this bill, LD 174, is attempting to address is that kids; and adults; get sick and they miss school and work when they get communicable diseases, infectious diseases that are vaccine preventable. Just a real brief bit of historical context. More than a couple hundred years ago and going back into, you know, going further back, before we apply the scientific method in the Age of Enlightenment, children died at a rate of about 46%. That's an average of about two dozen studies looking back over the centuries. Then, something tremendously valuable happened. It was a series of innovations, vaccines being a key one of them. Over the last couple hundred years, that rate of about one in two children dying before they reach the age of majority dropped, so that in the United States, it's about; it's less than one percent, about 0.7%. That's still too high; I'd like to get to where some of the Nordic countries are at 0.3%, or even zero percent. But vaccines are a cornerstone of what has saved children's lives in incredible numbers over the decades and even the last couple centuries. And this was a point that Dr. Joe Anderson and the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter emphasized in his testimony. He called vaccines a cornerstone of that effort to save lives and make lives better. Inadequate vaccine rates put kids at risk. That is another key point.

So, question seems to perennially come up, and I understand why it keeps coming up, because there's various interests at stake and we have to weigh those. The cases in Texas and probably about 19 or 20 other states of measles in inadequately vaccinated communities emphasizes how contagious measles is. A simple cough can spread this virus and that can cause tremendous illness and even death, as we have seen just in the last few months. So, the mechanism in the 129th, in 2019, was to only allow medical exemptions. And Mr. Speaker, medical exemptions are perfectly valid reasons and not especially difficult to obtain. Did it work? The answer is yes. Again, the pediatricians in our State, in their testimony; and folks can look up the graph if they're interested; shows that in every state save four; every state in this country, compared to the pre-pandemic years; every state has decreased its kindergarten vaccination rates, has seen a decrease in the vaccination rates. Why is this significant? Well, on the graph, you see that the 95% vaccination rate; which is the key threshold for measles; most of the states have fallen short of that. And so, it shouldn't be a surprise; it shouldn't be a, you know, grim realization that we are seeing outbreaks of measles. So, the four that had increased include Kansas, Alabama, Connecticut and Maine. And Maine is the only one, the only state that has gone from the at-risk below 95% to now, because of the law that we had passed in the 129th, is now well above the 95%; is at 97% and change. So, a tremendous success in terms of a piece of legislation achieving something that is demonstrably needed for the health and wellness of our children and other community members. In fact, the Maine Council of Churches has pointed out that no major religion says that vaccines are not good. In fact, they encourage vaccinations; that the Maine Council of Churches pointed out; and that some even call it a moral obligation. And I

recognize, Mr. Speaker, that not everyone's going to agree with the Maine Council of Churches, but I think it's worth mentioning.

Is this constitutional? That's another very important question, because sometimes, things that have utility and are good for people might be unconstitutional. And I would hope that everyone in this Chamber would agree that the Constitution is the thing that we took an oath to support and defend, all parts of it. So, it's a pertinent question, and it's something that I think that the sponsor rightly brought up in this debate. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, is that vaccine mandates have stood the constitutional test of time. In 1907, the *Jacobson* case was the first time when the U.S. Supreme Court undeniably said vaccine mandates have a place in American law, they are not unconstitutional. This was affirmed a couple generations later, in the *Prince* decision in 1944, and every single time that a case; and there have been other challenges that could have gone to the Supreme Court; the Supreme Court has said this is not something that we feel we need to rule on, except for a very few examples. For instance, the Chief Executive's requirement that health care workers during the pandemic be vaccinated. This did go to the Supreme Court, because the Supreme Court certainly recognized the urgency and the exigency of a pandemic and thought it was worth weighing in, and they weighed in affirming the validity; the constitutional validity; of a vaccine mandate for health care workers.

Now, we all have our own internal metrics, our own compass of whether something is constitutional or not, and certainly, courts do, that's what they exist for, and certainly the Supreme Court is the chief of those. So, it is possible that the Supreme Court could change its mind, but it hasn't in more than a century, and it has ample opportunity to do so. So, I think that by my own weighing; which is affirmed by decades of consistent court affirmations; this is constitutional. And Mr. Speaker, the current law addresses a real problem affecting the health of children and others. The mechanism works; it's been affirmed constitutional. I would ask you and everyone in the Chamber to please vote to support the pending motion of Ought Not to Pass on LD 174, and I just want to leave you with a couple of paragraphs, because the discussion about vaccines is a difficult one, because it weighs things that we see against things that we don't see.

Now, prevented illness is hard to talk about, because you don't know who is alive today because of the vaccines. We know that from studies, that millions of people are, but we don't know which ones, and so, they can't come to testify on how grateful they are about the vaccine. So, we need to rely on other ways. So, this is a voice from pre-vaccine era, and this is from a rural hospital. "The paramedic solemnly flung open the door and the mother came in, or rather, she seemed to fly in, slithering on her ice-covered felt boots, unmelted snow still on her shawl. In her arms she carried a bundle, from which came a steady hissing, whistling sound. The mother's face was contorted with noiseless weeping. When she had thrown off her coat and shawl and unwrapped the bundle, I saw a little girl of about three years old." This is a physician in a hospital writing. "For a while the sight of her made me forget operative surgery, my loneliness, the load of useless knowledge acquired at university: it was all completely effaced by the beauty of this baby girl. They used to draw angels like that. But in the depths of her eyes was a strange cloudiness and I recognized it as terror; the child could not breathe. 'She'll be dead in an hour,' I thought, with absolute certainty, feeling a sharp twinge of pity for the child. Her throat was contracting into hollows with each breath, her veins were swollen and her face was turning from pink to a pale lilac. I immediately realized what this coloring

meant. 'The little girl has diphtherial croup. Her throat is already choked with membrane and soon it will be blocked completely.'" Mr. Speaker, diphtherial croup is a vaccine-preventable illness. I ask that we vote to ensure that as few people as possible suffer like this girl did in the pre-vaccine era. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my great-grandparents in the 1860s lost three toddlers in two years, and I'm sure it's because of a lack of a vaccination. But I'm not here to talk about vaccinations, Mr. Speaker. I'm here to talk about what we've already enshrined in law. And for the previous speaker, I would encourage him to read the case in Mississippi that had a similar case, a similar law in Mississippi as we have in Maine and the Supreme Court ruled that Mississippi has to have a religious exemption.

Mr. Speaker, at this pivotal moment, we have the opportunity to restore a fundamental right, one guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, enshrined and protected under the Maine Human Rights Act, by ending the exclusion of children from public education based on their religious beliefs. The Maine Department of Education sent out a priority notice to all schools, immunization requirements for schools, and I want to quote from that memo: "Considerations for special populations under federal law; children, regardless of their citizenship or residency status, are entitled to a public education. School Administrative Units may not prohibit nor discourage children from enrolling in schools because they or their parents are undocumented immigrants." And that was quoting the *Plyler v. Doe* Supreme Court decision, which states; Supreme Court decision states; oh, that's the Supreme Court of the United States; states may not deny access to a basic public education to any child residing in the state, whether present in the United States legally or otherwise. That is the law.

On August 16th of 2023, Portland, Maine, the federal case, *Fox v. Makin*, marked an important development. The Court denied the State's request for summary judgment for the following reasons. Remember, a federal judge denied the State's motion. The Court found there is a plausible claim for violation of the Free Exercise Clause, and this is a quote from that decision: "A law is not neutral 'if it singles out religion or religious practices' and is 'not generally applicable if it treats any comparable secular activity more favorably than religious exercise,' or it 'prohibits religious conduct while permitting secular conduct that undermines the government's asserted interest in a similar way.'" It's Section 3355, that is the law that is being challenged, a 90-day grace period is an additional example. "The Commissioner;" that would be Commissioner Makin; "conceded that although a new student would be given 90 days to obtain vaccination before being excluded from school, 'a religious family that moved into town and needed 90 days to find alternative schooling for that child;" now listen to this, Mr. Speaker, this is the Commissioner; "would not be afforded the same 90-day grace period." The Commissioner conceded that new students on day one do not present any different risk in that classroom compared to unvaccinated students who claim religious exemptions. Again, that's the judge's ruling on this case. "Maine continues to permit multiple nonreligious exemptions;" again, this is the Judge's words; "including a 90-day grace period for non-religious students, a medical exemption and the IEP sunset provision, all of which arguably undermine its students' health and safety interest while restricting religious exemptions that may pose compatible risks." Section 3355 does not require teachers who share the same classroom and other school facilities as students to be

vaccinated at all. "For these reasons, the Court declines to dismiss plaintiff's free exercise claim for failure to state a claim."

Count II of the amended complaint states a plausible claim for a violation of the Equal Protection Clause. The "Plaintiffs allege that defendants have violated their right to the free exercise of religion, which is a fundamental right. 'Unquestionably, the free exercise of religion is a fundamental institutional right.' Accordingly, the Court must apply strict scrutiny." And as the previous speaker has mentioned about the case, *Jacobson*, back in, I think it was 1903, the Court did not use strict scrutiny at that time. "For the reasons delineated above with respect to Plaintiffs' free exercise claim, the Court finds it plausible that Section 3355 does not survive strict scrutiny and therefore declines to dismiss" the Equal Protection Clause. "Accordingly, this case shall proceed against the Commissioner Porter, and Munsey, for injunctive and declaratory relief in their official capacities as to both Counts I and II." Mr. Speaker, the Court has ruled that the case may proceed. The State's position is untenable.

Mr. Speaker, on February 21, '25, the Chief Executive of our State, Chief Executive Mills, responded to President Trump's inquiry regarding Maine's compliance with Title IX by stating, and I quote, 'we're going to follow the law.' I wholeheartedly agree. I'm sure this Body agrees. We must uphold the law and ensure the restoration of religious exemption as guaranteed by both the U.S. Constitution and Maine's Human Rights Act. And I want to quote from that Human Rights Act: "Right to freedom from discrimination in education. The opportunity for an individual at an educational institution to participate in all educational, counseling and vocational guidance programs without discrimination, because religion is recognized and declared to be a civil right." Our own laws declare it to be a civil right, but we're denying children an education if they're not completely vaccinated. If they're a religious family and asking for that 90-day exemption, the Commissioner is on record saying we won't give it to them. That just defiles all logic. Title 5, Chapter 337, "Unlawful educational discrimination. It is unlawful educational discrimination and violation of this Act on the basis of religion to: Exclude a person from participation in, deny a person the benefits of, or subject a person to, discrimination in any academic, extracurricular, research, occupational training or other program or activity." Also, this Body in the 126th and 127th passed An Act to Protect Religious Freedom and An Act to Preserve Religious Freedom, two separate sessions, both passed similar laws.

But let me be clear; there are lines that we will not cross when it comes to civil rights, fundamental freedoms and the basic dignity of every person in this State. We will stand firm. These are not matters of partisan debate; they are the foundation of who we are as a people and as a nation. Protecting these principles is our moral obligation and is what ensures a place where everyone can live with fairness, respect and opportunity of these values. There is no complacency, "because remember, every decision here affects the lives of real people." Mr. Speaker, these are your words from December 4th of 2024. I ask you now; are they your true convictions or merely words read from a script? Mr. Speaker, show us the strength of your convictions. Stand firm in defending what is right, even when it's difficult. The time for empty words have passed. We need to get these 7,000 kids, approximately, that have been removed from Maine schools the opportunity; if they so desire; to return to public education. It is now time for action that reflects the values we were elected to uphold. The Court has agreed with you that there are lines we will not cross when it comes to civil rights, fundamental freedoms such as religious freedom.

This Body has a choice. We can do the right thing and restore the rights to a religious exemption, or we can take the easy way out and leave it to the courts to decide. But we were not elected to take the easy way out. Sometimes, we must make difficult decisions.

In this case, the courts have already ruled that a religious exemption is a constitutional right. When one person's constitutional rights are taken away, it is an attack on the rights of all of us. We cannot allow the erosion of these fundamental freedoms for any individual, as it threatens the rights of all of us. And in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the State's professional witness on herd immunity was put under oath, and in the deposition, the good doctor agreed that her methodology did not recognize natural immunity when she came up with her herd immunity numbers. Again, she did not recognize natural immunity; she spoke that under oath in a deposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. When the First Amendment was passed in the 1700s, the first freedom was that of the freedom of religion. Obviously, this was a tantamount concern for our Founding Fathers. Right now, in Maine, Maine is only one of six states without religious exemptions from school vaccines. Our failure to have a religious exemption is discrimination against our children by failing to provide equal protection to our children. It's requiring that people who live in Maine actually have to move out of state if they want to be able to have a religious exemption. So, their children are being deprived from living in the State of Maine. Some are going to New Hampshire, where they can practice religious freedom and not have to be vaccinated. This is clearly discrimination against our children. These are Maine children, and they deserve the right to be able to stay in their communities, be educated and not be discriminated against because their parents cannot make that decision and have them exempted for religious reasons from vaccines.

So, please oppose this motion and please restore religious exemptions in the State of Maine and restore parental rights to our parents and please protect Maine children. Thank you.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What this particular question that needs to be answered, and that question basically is it's my body, and I'll do with it what I want. Thanks.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2020, there was a statewide referendum held where 72% of Mainers voted to uphold the law allowing for exemptions from immunization requirements for medical purposes only.

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. 110

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, 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, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Arata, Cooper, Doudera, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Sachs, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 67; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, 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 Availability and Affordability of Mental Health Care and Substance Use Disorder Services by Removing the Certificate of Need Requirement"

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

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-95)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

READ.

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

Representative MORRIS of Turner **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 Turner, Representative Morris.

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

The goal of this legislation is simple: We need more mental health care providers, we need more substance use disorder services in this State. This has been well documented over the last few years, I think; it's something that certainly multiple Committees have been working on, trying to find solutions. There's been a lot of bipartisan work on this issue. This seeks to find a way by repealing the Certificate of Need requirement. The way Certificate of Need works is it is effectively allowing your competition to weigh in on whether or not you need the services needed and whether or not a new facility can be built. This would remove that requirement for these two very important issues, two issues that have really arisen and been a pressure point in Maine and in our health care system the last few years. By removing a Certificate of Need, that's another barrier that people that are looking to address the issue of mental health care, as well as substance use disorder, would not have to go through an additional barrier, additional steps, to be able to build facilities and be able to offer services without having to seek permission from the government, as well as their competitors. So, I would encourage this Body to vote against this motion and let's pass this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **MATHIESON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill would exempt psychiatric and behavioral health hospitals from the Certificate of Need review for projects that exceed the \$14 million threshold. For behavioral health providers, I agree, we need an increase in behavioral health providers in Maine. But this bill represents large psychiatric hospital projects, like the recent hospital construction renovation with Northern Light Acadia Hospital. The non-hospital-based behavioral health and substance use disorder services are not capital-intensive organizations. In general, they are outpatient service locations with ambulatory populations that enter and leave the building, receiving counseling and group therapy. Eliminating the Certificate of Need requirements for this type of service will have no effect on community-based behavioral health services, since this type of provider doesn't meet the threshold for project review. But there is a real risk to eliminating the Certificate of Need for inpatient-based care, as national for-profit behavioral health substance use disorder hospitals can

enter into Maine's health care market with the sole purpose for caring for commercially insured patients, refusing to serve our MaineCare patients and the uninsured, destabilizing our already fragile system. For this reason, I ask you to support the motion on the floor.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 111

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collins, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, 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, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, 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, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Doudera, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Sachs, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 67; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 9 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 Repeal the Provisions of Law Requiring Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Cover the Cost of Towing and Storing Certain Vehicles"

(H.P. 923) (L.D. 1401)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton

FLYNN of Albion

FOLEY of Wells

MORRIS of Turner

OLSEN of Raymond

READ.

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

Representative MORRIS of Turner **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 Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is before us as a repeal of a provision of law that requires every single Mainer to buy a towing insurance policy, even if all they seek is the State limits for a liability policy. The reality of what this has done is it has fallen hardest on some of our poorest residents that now have to pay, according to the Bureau of Insurance in their testimony, upwards of 100 extra dollars a year for an insurance policy to cover the cost of the new towing mandate.

The Bureau of Insurance testified in favor of this bill in Committee. In part, what they said is that the idea of a policy around liability only is to protect other motorists in the event of an accident to make sure that their costs are covered if they are not at fault. This is attempting to ensure that it does not protect accident victims, but rather guarantees that commercial service providers will be paid. Indeed, the Bureau pointed out that there are other opportunities for towing insurance companies to seek a remedy to ensure that they are paid for their services, including being able to hold onto the vehicle and sell the vehicle if it is abandoned. This is requiring motorists; all motorists; to pay for an insurance policy, an additional coverage that they do not need, that they do not want, is, I think, irresponsible. We have seen again, some of our citizens that have the least, that are trying to comply with the laws around having to have auto insurance policy; that is in all of our best interest; that every single Mainer has an auto insurance policy, at least their liability limits, so that if someone does damage to my property, that there's an avenue for me to get paid and ensure that we don't have those types of issues. To now be required to single out one industry to ensure that they get paid, as opposed to other; there's no other place in law, to my knowledge, where that is done.

Furthermore, we are the only state in the country that is currently requiring this type of policy in our auto insurance policies. I think we should, as the Bureau said, restore the liability policies to where they were meant to be, where it is there to ensure that any property damage done to other motorists is taken care of, and there are other remedies available for towing companies. It should also be noted that in many cases, they ask to be asked to come to these accident scenes, ask to be put on the list, knowing full well what the current landscape is of that. And just passing a law saying that now there is a guarantee that every single Mainer has to buy an extra \$500 worth of insurance

that, in many cases, they will never use or never need, it is causing people to pay more for insurance. And we don't know, because they don't have; they're just guessing right now; we don't know and we won't know for a few years what the actual experience is of this. Once we start getting claims, we will. I would argue it's time, we should just end this experiment, we should repeal this law and pass this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **MATHIESON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill does repeal the law that requires motor vehicle liability coverage in the amount of up to \$500 per accident for towing and storing charges, incurred as a result of an accident involving an insured vehicle, if the vehicle is towed at the request of law enforcement officers. This law was phased in as of July of 2024. The first report that the Committee heard from the Bureau of Insurance indicated the premium impacts would be estimated as an impact of 0.5 to 2.6 percent. The Committee felt that this was a new law and we needed to see more information and more data.

The Committee heard from many towing companies who work with public safety, that they were not being paid for towing and storage of abandoned accident vehicles, and this process could take an average of 60 to 75 days for a title to be issued. These companies have limited storage space and indicated they would likely not continue to tow for police, fire and rescue if they were not reimbursed. We felt that we needed to continue to support our Maine small businesses getting out of bed at 3:00 a.m. when they are called by their city police, Sheriffs' Departments and State Police for assistance along the roadside in keeping our roads safe. Please support the motion Ought Not to Pass.

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. 112

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

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

ABSENT - Cooper, Doudera, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Sachs, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 80; No, 61; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, with 9 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 Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes"

(H.P. 520) (L.D. 813)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-90)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **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 Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for five years now, I've stood before this Body on behalf of the Kineo Tribe. For more than a decade; actually, about 13 years now; they've been pleading with the State for recognition of who they are; a Native American tribe. They've been denied time and again, with reasons like the timing isn't right, they'll compete for funding, they should use the federal recognition process or we have no process for this.

One thing that hasn't been objected to is the fact that the Kineo are indeed Native Americans. In fact, some of them have even been issued lifetime Native American fishing licenses by our State, even though they're not enrolled in a current Maine tribe. Through the hearings and work sessions, it was actually found that some of the Kineo actually shared very close ancestors with members of the current tribes. We were talking about it in the hallway.

Federal recognition can take years and 10s of thousands of dollars to go through the process. In fact, the tribes here in Maine currently did not follow a singular path to gain federal recognition. Some gained recognition through court rulings while others gained their recognition through Acts of Congress. None of them went through the federal process that we see

today. Mr. Speaker, LD 813 creates a process for State recognition of tribes in Maine. A fair process that includes documented lineage and would be well vetted and provides a clear criteria.

Mr. Speaker, it's not uncommon for recognized tribes to oppose new recognition due to concerns over funding and shared resources. We've seen this in our State, back when the Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Tribes were trying to gain recognition, the other two tribes vehemently opposed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and support the creation of a path forward. I don't know of any other group in Maine claiming Native American tribal status other than the Kineo that will use this process. Who are we to deny an opportunity for these people to be seen for who they are, to be recognized; who are we to deny them? Mr. Speaker, it's a shame that they have to ask us in the first place for simple validation of who they are, so, I ask you to join me in at least giving the opportunity for this bill to pass and give them a path forward. They're a small tribe of under a hundred, I believe it's 86 or 87 people, who just want to be seen for who they are. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And with due respect, of course, for the Good Representative and the individuals who came seeking recognition, the Committee opposed this bill for two reasons.

First, there was concern that legislative recognition of a tribe may exceed State authority, and to that point, I'll read from testimony we received: "The Wabanaki Nations have been engaged in a very public effort to repair the relationship the nations have with the State of Maine, working to restore the recognition of that sovereignty and the right to self-determination. The power to recognize and give this status is not and should not be in the hands of the State as they do not have the authority to designate who counts as a tribal nation." The reason for that is because there is a process and criteria for how nations are recognized federally, and it's especially salient here when the standards are so different. Under the proposed State recognition process, it is really focusing on establishing an affinity group based on history or ancestry, whereas the federal recognition rests on the recognition of a governmental entity. The tribe must have been operating as an entity on a substantially continuing basis since 1900 and no member can be a member of a federally recognized tribe. These criteria demonstrate that this recognition is based on citizenship and a continuous form of self-government, not affinity or ethnicity.

Finally, there was a concern that a separate recognition process could deter or undermine the federal process and the Wabanaki Nations that have achieved recognition through it. So, for these reasons, the Committee; the majority of the Committee; voted Ought Not to Pass.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for letting me rise again. I just want to make a quick note that, though there are over 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States, 13 states do have state recognition, recognizing over 100 tribes. So, let's think about that, and I ask again, who are we to deny these people? Thank you.

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

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process for determining what comprises a tribe in this bill differs substantially from what both the federal government in the United States as well as the Canadian government consider a tribe or a First Nation. For anyone who thinks that doesn't matter, I'd encourage you to take a look at what's happened in Vermont. They've recognized several groups as tribes and two Abenaki tribes have virulently opposed that recognition to the point of saying that the recognition, that the State of Vermont by accepting and promoting those unfounded claims, Vermont authorities contribute to legitimizing cultural and identity fraud which harms the true descendants and guardians of this heritage. This is an active and contentious issue in the State of Vermont, one that has harmed the state's relationship with its federally recognized tribes.

I, like many of my colleagues across the aisle, am very interested in improving the State of Maine's relationship with our federally recognized tribes. Each of those tribes opposes this bill, I'll be joining them.

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. 113

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

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

ABSENT - Cooper, Doudera, Drinkwater, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Sachs, Simmons, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 82; No, 57; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

82 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, with 11 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**.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 77) (L.D. 141) Bill "An Act to Provide Limited Immunity to Maine Human Rights Commission Mediators" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 629) (L.D. 1545) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Maximum Value That a Small Estate May Be Under the Maine Uniform Probate Code to Permit Collection of Personal Property by Affidavit" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 45) (L.D. 28) Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-31)**

(S.P. 167) (L.D. 386) Bill "An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-33)**

(H.P. 75) (L.D. 110) Bill "An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-93)**

(H.P. 258) (L.D. 404) Bill "An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Lottery Winner Identities" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-89)**

(H.P. 302) (L.D. 448) Bill "An Act Regarding the Establishment of Fees and Fee Caps for Dental Provider Licensing and Permits" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-82)**

(H.P. 414) (L.D. 646) Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm Water Pollution (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-98)**

(H.P. 418) (L.D. 650) Bill "An Act to Support Municipal Public Health" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-92)**

(H.P. 536) (L.D. 850) Bill "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-85)**

(H.P. 610) (L.D. 945) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Powers and Responsibilities of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-83)**

(H.P. 627) (L.D. 967) Bill "An Act to Reinvigorate Maine's Workforce and Ensure Student Job Readiness by Providing Funds for the Career Exploration Program" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-84)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders

(H.P. 318) (L.D. 489)

(C. "A" H-74)

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. 109 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Allow Persons to Label Their Wild Animal Traps with Their Online Identification Number Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

(S.P. 18) (L.D. 6)

(C. "A" S-23)

An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination

(S.P. 66) (L.D. 130)

(C. "A" S-28)

An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws

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

(C. "A" H-75)

An Act to Make May Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month

(H.P. 221) (L.D. 321)

An Act to Require Positions Taken by the Public Advocate to Be Consistent with the Cost-effective Implementation of the State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Obligations

(S.P. 370) (L.D. 837)

(C. "A" S-29)

An Act Clarifying Exemptions from the Law Regulating Products Containing PFAS

(S.P. 419) (L.D. 987)

(C. "A" S-27)

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

(H.P. 758) (L.D. 1153)

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.

Resolves

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 201: Employer Reporting and Payments, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

(H.P. 53) (L.D. 89)
(C. "A" H-71)

Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal

(S.P. 212) (L.D. 472)
(C. "A" S-26)

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

An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services

(S.P. 16) (L.D. 117)
(C. "A" S-30)

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, 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 Chester, Representative JAVNER.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I am in complete support of this bill, LD 117. It is a vital funding piece for our front-line workers on the sexual assault front. As a mother who had to experience her child retelling her sexual assault story over and over again, I want to remind you that this funding would fund our children's advocacy centers, so that our children only have to tell their story once.

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. 114

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

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Cooper, Dill, Doudera, Drinkwater, Fredericks, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Sachs, Simmons, Supica, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 136; No, 0; Absent, 14; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

136 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **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**.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 713)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 1, 2025 AS PUREBRED DOG DAY

WHEREAS, purebred dogs are living legacies of the cultures that created them, and historically these dogs worked alongside their people and provided them companionship; and

WHEREAS, the service of these breeds continues today as they work alongside humans while serving as guide dogs, service dogs, conservation dogs, livestock guardians, search and rescue dogs, earthdogs, police dogs and canine soldiers serving alongside our military men and women; and

WHEREAS, purebred dogs also serve as avalanche dogs, trackers, trailers, herders, controllers of vermin, water rescuers, carting and sled dogs, retrievers, protectors, hunters and bird dogs; and

WHEREAS, purebred dogs have been of enormous help to medical science, serving as models for many heritable human diseases, playing a role in humanity's understanding of the human and canine genomes and benefiting pharmaceutical research and development; and

WHEREAS, purebred dogs are guardians of family, home and hearth, and always they are companions near and dear to humans; and

WHEREAS, each purebred breed is indelibly etched in the history of the culture that created it just as surely as are that culture's music, art and language; and

WHEREAS, all dogs should be valued, whatever their ancestry, but the purpose-bred dog and the predictability of its breed should be cherished and preserved; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no day set aside to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of the purebred dog; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize May 1, 2025 as Purebred Dog Day in celebration of purebred dogs and the many service and companion benefits they provide in Maine.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 726)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsection 1 to read:

1. Suggested Reference by Secretary and Clerk. At the direction of the presiding officers, ~~when the Legislature is in session~~, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall jointly suggest an appropriate committee reference for every bill, resolve and petition offered. In determining the appropriate committee reference, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall consider the request of the sponsor of the bill, resolve or petition, if that request has been made in writing to the Secretary or Clerk prior to the determination. The suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If ~~they~~ the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House are unable to agree, the question of reference must be referred to a conference of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Upon their agreement, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If they are unable to agree, the question of suggested reference must be referred to the Legislative Council for resolution. Upon the decision of the Legislative Council, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber.

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

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

; and be it further

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsection 2 to read:

2. Reference to Committee by Secretary and Clerk in Cases of Disagreement with Suggested Reference. ~~When the Legislature is not in session or is in recess, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House may refer the bills to the appropriate joint standing committee for public hearing and order printing, subject to the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.~~

Upon reference of a bill to a committee by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House pursuant to ~~this~~ subsection **1**, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is inappropriate, a communication must be sent to the Senate and House with a recommendation of "change of committee reference." Upon reference of a bill to a committee pursuant to this subsection, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is appropriate, that bill remains in that committee. If there is not a majority agreement among the chairs and leads regarding reference of that bill, the bill is designated for discussion by the committee for a possible committee report of "refer to another committee" under Joint Rule 310, subsection 2. Any bill that undergoes a reference determination pursuant to this subsection that is retained by the committee must be scheduled for a public hearing.

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

READ.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, the Joint Order and all accompanying papers were **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

**Pursuant to Joint Rule 205
Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory
Commission and approved for introduction by a majority
of the Legislative Council**

Report of the **Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council** pursuant to Joint Rule 205 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission Regarding Tier II Offenses" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 718) (L.D. 1836)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Came from the Senate, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1273)

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

May 1, 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 May 1, 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 May 1, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act Regarding Penalties for Violation of the Law Governing Distracted Driving When the Violation Results in the Death or Significant Injury of Another Person" (H.P. 1257) (L.D. 1886) (Sponsored by Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Rights of Parents of Minor Children in Education" (H.P. 1252) (L.D. 1881) (Sponsored by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, LIBBY of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin)

Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Newly Constructed Schools (H.P. 1258) (L.D. 1887) (Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CARLOW of Buxton, FOSTER of Dexter, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, SARGENT of York, Senators: LIBBY of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln)

Bill "An Act to Address the Dental Professional Workforce Shortage by Establishing Scholarship and Loan Programs and Updating the Dental Care Access Tax Credit" (H.P. 1262) (L.D. 1891) (Sponsored by Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRIFFIN of Levant, LEMELIN of Chelsea, Senator: MOORE of Washington)

Bill "An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects" (H.P. 1263) (L.D. 1892) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Conduct Rulemaking Regarding Significant Vernal Pools (H.P. 1253) (L.D. 1882) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BELL of Yarmouth, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DOUDERA of Camden, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services" (H.P. 1249) (L.D. 1878) (Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DUCHARME of Madison, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAVNER of Chester, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln)

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Development of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities by Exempting Certain Facilities from the Requirement to Obtain a Certificate of Need" (H.P. 1261) (L.D. 1890) (Sponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, OLSEN of Raymond, POIRIER of Skowhegan, POMERLEAU of Standish)

Bill "An Act to Establish an Independent Office of the Child Advocate" (H.P. 1264) (L.D. 1893) (Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRENNAN of Portland, LEE of Auburn, MATHIESON of Kittery, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SAYRE of Kennebunk, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Enact the All Maine Health Act" (H.P. 1254) (L.D. 1883) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Bill "An Act to Regulate Shared Appreciation Agreements Relating to Residential Property" (H.P. 1272) (L.D. 1901) (Sponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, PUGH of Portland, SATO of Gorham, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Address Consumer Grocery Pricing Fairness" (H.P. 1265) (L.D. 1894) (Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CROCKETT of Portland, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MATLACK of St. George, MOONEN of Portland, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, GROHOSKI of Hancock, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Require Age Verification for Online Obscene Matter" (H.P. 1244) (L.D. 1873) (Sponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, OLSEN of Raymond, PAUL of Winterport)

Bill "An Act to Increase Penalties for Human Trafficking Offenses" (H.P. 1248) (L.D. 1877) (Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, COLLINS of Sidney, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York)

Bill "An Act to Combat Organized Criminal Enterprises in Maine" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1259) (L.D. 1888) (Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LEE of Auburn, MCINTYRE of Lowell, POIRIER of Skowhegan, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

Resolve, to Support Pro Se Litigants Regarding the Return Receipt of Service (H.P. 1267) (L.D. 1896) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough)

Bill "An Act to Correct Outdated References Regarding the Maine Human Rights Act" (H.P. 1269) (L.D. 1898) (Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Bring Parity to the State's Recognition of the Wabanaki Nations' Authority to Provide Electric Power Districts and Child Support Enforcement" (H.P. 1271) (L.D. 1900) (Sponsored by Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Reinvest in the Pension Funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System" (H.P. 1243) (L.D. 1872) (Sponsored by Representative SKOLD of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, HASENFUS of Readfield, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor" (H.P. 1245) (L.D. 1874) (Sponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, MONTELL of Gardiner, PARRY of Arundel, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland)

State and Local Government

Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners (H.P. 1255) (L.D. 1884) (Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, HASENFUS of Readfield, NUTTING of Oakland, Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, FARRIN of Somerset)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Highway Funding by Imposing a Road Use Fee for Electric Vehicles" (H.P. 1246) (L.D. 1875) (Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello)

Bill "An Act to Increase Use of State Tax Credits" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1247) (L.D. 1876) (Sponsored by Representative DEBRITO of Waterville) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GATTINE of Westbrook, LEE of Auburn, MATLACK of St. George, RANA of Bangor, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BICKFORD of Androscoggin)

Bill "An Act to Support Maine's Agricultural Economy by Increasing Revenue from the Corporate Income Tax and Providing Property Tax Exemptions" (H.P. 1250) (L.D. 1879) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham)

Bill "An Act to Create a State Property Tax Directed Toward 2nd Homes for the Purposes of Funding Education, Early Childhood Programs and the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund" (H.P. 1256) (L.D. 1885) (Sponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DODGE of Belfast, MATLACK of St. George, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

Bill "An Act to Expand Tax Incentives for Certain Barn Renovations" (H.P. 1260) (L.D. 1889) (Sponsored by Representative BLIER of Buxton) (Cosponsored by Representative: ARATA of New Gloucester)

Bill "An Act to Require the Removal from a Property Tax Lien the Name of a Previous Owner Who Paid Prorated Property Taxes" (H.P. 1266) (L.D. 1895) (Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, DRINKWATER of Milford, FARRIN of Jefferson, FROST of Belgrade, LEE of Auburn, MORRIS of Turner, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Taxation on Health Care Spending" (H.P. 1270) (L.D. 1899) (Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require Photographic Identification for Voting" (H.P. 1251) (L.D. 1880) (Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, HYMES of Waldo)

Bill "An Act Regarding Sun-grown Cultivation in the Medical Use and Adult Use Cannabis Industries" (H.P. 1268) (L.D. 1897) (Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CHAPMAN of Auburn, DILL of Old Town, PLUECKER of Warren, SUPICA of Bangor, WARREN of Scarborough, Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin)

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. 152)

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

May 2, 2025
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am temporarily appointing Assistant Majority Leader, Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, as House Chair replacing Representative Victoria Doudera of Camden, effective May 5, 2025 through May 16, 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this temporary appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 156)

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

May 2, 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 26, Chapter 49, §3802, I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Flavia DeBrito of Waterville to the *Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee*, effective immediately.

Representative DeBrito will serve on this committee as a member of the House of Representatives.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, 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. 153)

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

May 6, 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. 1601 An Act to Create Parity in Poultry Processing and Farming Licenses and Inspections

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 217 An Act to Require Schools to Provide Access to Free Condoms for Students in Grades 9 to 12 in the School Nurse's Office

L.D. 776 An Act to Provide Free School Lunches to Special Purpose Private Schools That Receive Students from the Public School System

L.D. 1118 An Act to Establish a Permanent Free Community College Program for Maine

L.D. 1225 An Act to Amend the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program

L.D. 1256 An Act to Support Healthy Meal Programs in Maine Schools by Allowing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to Make Loans to Repair and Renovate School Kitchens and Cafeterias

L.D. 1271 An Act to Make Permanent the Law Allowing School Boards to Accept the Volunteer Services of Immediate Family Members of Superintendents or School Board Members

L.D. 1285 An Act to Prohibit the Consideration of Legacy Preferences or Donor Preferences in Postsecondary Educational Institution Admissions

Health and Human Services

L.D. 763 An Act to Improve Long-term Care by Providing Funding for Nursing Facilities

L.D. 1274 An Act to Cap State General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities

L.D. 1345 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Timely Provide Interim Settlement Payments to Long-term Care Facilities

L.D. 1447 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Expedite Reimbursement of All Vendors

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 1374 An Act to Establish Additional Requirements for Dentists to Administer Botulinum Toxin and Dermal Fillers

Housing and Economic Development

L.D. 659 An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes

Judiciary

L.D. 1399 An Act to Allow Action Against a Person Violating the Confidentiality of an Executive Session of a Public Body or Agency

Labor

L.D. 1267 Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Convene a Task Force to Examine and Study Issues Relating to the Gap Between the Economic Output and Wages of Workers in the State

Taxation

L.D. 203 An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Employer-supported Child Care

L.D. 1363 An Act to Exempt Resident Minors' Income from Income Tax

L.D. 1491 An Act to Provide a Tax Credit for New Attorneys Practicing in Underserved Areas

L.D. 1520 An Act to Reduce the Income Tax Paid by Volunteers for Mileage Reimbursements

L.D. 1602 An Act to Remove the Exemption from Sales and Use Tax for Automobiles Purchased for Use as Rentals

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 154)

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

May 6, 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 Taxation has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Foster of Dexter, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 614 An Act to Modify Current Property Tax Assessment Methods to Make Property Taxes Affordable for Longtime Property Owners

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Taxation has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Rana of Bangor, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1260 An Act to Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Chapman of Auburn, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1559 An Act to Authorize Medical Cannabis Farmers' Markets

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 155)

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

May 6, 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 30, 2025

Christian Bartholomew of Augusta, Jason Judd of Lewiston, Peter J. Parizo of Bangor, Michelle Anderson of Westbrook, Catherine P. MacLaren of Portland and Janet Kelle of Newport for appointment to the State Workforce Board.

Pursuant to Title 26 MRSA §2006, these appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

James I. Cohen of Portland and Carol Ann Murray of Sanford for reappointment to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority.

Pursuant to Title 23, MRSA §8112, these reappointments are contingent on the Confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 325)

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

April 30, 2025
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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 nomination:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, Kelly O'Connor of Camden for appointment to the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services.

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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. 1241) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, ARFORD of Brunswick, BRENNAN of Portland, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South Portland, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MEYER of Eliot, SACHS of Freeport)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of all children, youth, adults and families in the State are of fundamental importance to the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the national suicide rate has increased more than 36%, with more than 13.2 million individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts and 1.6 million individuals attempting suicide annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 49,000 people died by suicide in 2022, which is about one death every 11 minutes; and

WHEREAS, suicide, opioid misuse and addiction and children's mental health issues are areas of concern in the State; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 61,000 adults in the State who are living with a serious mental illness, including, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, severe depression and schizophrenia, and 14,000 children 12 to 17 years of age in the State have depression; and

WHEREAS, over 260,000 people in the State live in a community that does not have enough mental health professionals; and

WHEREAS, the effective treatment of mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families who find themselves in mental health crises, to breaking individual and generational cycles of mental illness and to promoting healing; and

WHEREAS, recovery from a mental illness requires access to professional services and involves families and caregivers as allies in recovery and as critical members of the care delivery team; and

WHEREAS, maintaining an open dialogue regarding mental health conditions encourages individuals struggling with mental illness to seek help and is an essential component to fighting the stigma associated with mental illness; 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 May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in order to raise awareness of mental health conditions and services and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness in the State.

READ.

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

Representative **GRAMLICH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. I rise today in strong support of the "Joint Resolution Recognizing May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month."

Mental health affects every community, every family and far too many of our constituents. It is no longer a silent issue, nor should it be. As we stand here today, more than 13 million Americans are grappling with serious thoughts of suicide. In 2022 alone, we lost over 49,000 lives to suicide. That's roughly one every 11 minutes. These are not just numbers, Mr. Speaker; these are our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers and children. In our State, the need is urgent. Sixty-one

thousand adults are living with a serious mental illness. Fourteen thousand young people between the ages of 12 and 17 are suffering from depression, and over a quarter of a million of our residents live in areas without adequate access to mental health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I'm a social worker with nearly four decades of experience working to ensure that all Mainers have access to the mental and behavioral health care that they need. I am proud and deeply grateful for the many advocates for mental health; who I have been honored to work with alongside over these years; as well as many of my colleagues within this Body. I also know that what progress we have made is simply not enough and Maine families deserve better. This Resolution is not just about one month on the calendar; it is about confronting the crisis of untreated mental illness. It is about reducing stigma, promoting recovery and ensuring that families and individuals know that they are not alone. It is about reminding ourselves that mental health is health, and mental health care is health care. This Resolution affirms that the people of our State deserve access to treatment, dignity in care and hope in recovery. It calls upon all of us, Mr. Speaker; legislators, families, educators, providers and community leaders; to open the door to wider compassion, to services and to action. By recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month, we take one small but meaningful step toward building a culture where it's okay to ask for help and where that help is truly available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative THORNE of Carmel, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1242) (Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, ARFORD of Brunswick, BECK of South Portland, BUNKER of Farmington, CARLOW of Buxton, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DEBRITO of Waterville, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, DUCHARME of Madison, EATON of Deer Isle, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FREDETTE of Newport, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, FROST of Belgrade, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HASENFUS of Readfield, HEPLER of Woolwich, KUHN of Falmouth, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LOOKNER of Portland, MALON of Biddeford, MASON of Lisbon, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATLACK of St. George, MCCABE of Lewiston, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MEYER of Eliot, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, PLUECKER of Warren, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SARGENT of York, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, SINCLAIR of Bath, STOVER of Boothbay, TERRY of Gorham, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, WARREN of Scarborough, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, FARRIN of Somerset, GUERIN of Penobscot, HAGGAN of Penobscot, LIBBY of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, STEWART of Aroostook)

**JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING
THE MEMORY OF POPE FRANCIS**

WHEREAS, the members of the 132nd Maine State Legislature were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Pope Francis on Monday, April 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis entered the Society of Jesus at age 21 and was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1969. He was appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires in 1992 by Saint John Paul II, became archbishop of the Argentine capital in 1998 and was created cardinal in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis ascended to the papacy on March 13, 2013, upon the retirement of his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI, becoming the first pontiff from Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis dedicated his entire life to the service of God and His Church and teaching the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially for the poorest and most marginalized; and

WHEREAS, during his almost 13-year pontificate, Pope Francis focused on mercy, care for creation and attention to those on the "peripheries of both the Church and society"; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis canonized 942 saints during his papacy; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis published 4 encyclicals, *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us"), *Fratelli Tutti* ("All Brothers"), *Laudato Si* ("Praise be to You") and *Lumen Fidei* ("The Light of Faith"), as well as 7 apostolic exhortations and 75 *motu proprio* documents; and

WHEREAS, just hours before his death, Pope Francis reminded the faithful of the dignity of all persons, but most especially the vulnerable, the marginalized and migrants, and encouraged all of us "to hope anew and revive our trust in others, including those who are different from ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas"; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis led a holy life focused on humility, simplicity, poverty of spirit and a radical devotion to Christ's call of charity to the least among us; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the abundant life of this human being and successor to Saint Peter; 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 honor the memory of Pope Francis, reflecting fondly upon his immense holiness and his legacy of service to those most in need.

READ.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It is with great respect and deep admiration that I rise today to introduce this Joint Resolution honoring His Holiness, Pope Francis. Not only is he the spiritual leader of millions across the world and a beacon of compassion, humility and peace, he's representative of Christianity throughout the world. Since his election as the 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 2013, Pope Francis has exemplified the values of service, love and unity up until hours of his passing, when he presented an Easter service on the balcony.

Mr. Speaker, there have been five popes in my lifetime, and today, on the eve of the conclave where 90 cardinals will gather in the Sistine Chapel to elect the next pope. Before this happens, I find it important that we recognize not only Pope Francis's remarkable leadership, but also reflect on the enduring legacy he continues to build through his actions, teachings and commitment to faith.

Many times, during eulogies and funerals, we've all experienced these words, and I'd like to share them with you today: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me into the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Mr. Speaker, I ask for your support in adopting this Resolution to honor Pope Francis for his lifetime of service to humanity, his commitment to peace, his tireless efforts to inspire and uplift us all and his dedication to our Lord and Savior. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Me pone un poco nerviosa de hablar en español en este piso pero aquí vamos.*

Hace dos semanas, el mundo perdió a un líder y a un hombre muy especial, el Papa Francisco. Dado que el Papa Francisco fue el primer Papa de las Américas, y específicamente de una nación hispanohablante, me parece apropiado ofrecer unas palabras en español y en el inglés.

Aunque no soy una católica, creo que el Papa Francisco fue un gran hombre. Él amaba a todas las personas del mundo. Él creó un espacio; un espacio real y significativo; para miembros de diferentes comunidades, incluyendo comunidades de inmigrantes, lésbianas, gays, transtérminos y bisexuales. Ese espacio estuvo en el corazón de la Iglesia católica donde por muchos años esos grupos no se sentían bienvenidos. No solamente los toleraba. Los acogía, con un corazón que entendía que el amor no puede ser condicional. Nos recordó que cada ser humano merece respeto y amor.

Él cuidaba a quienes no creían en Dios, incluyendo a los ateos como yo. No necesitaba que fuera católico ni cristiano. Solo necesitaba que fuera humano y que intentara hacer el bien. Que llevara amor y bondad en su corazón. Y si lo hacía, él vería a Dios en sí mismo.

Hay un video del Papa Francisco que nunca olvidaré. Un niño pequeño, tal vez de unos siete años, se acercó para hacerle una pregunta frente de una gran audiencia. El niño estaba llorando y no podía articular sus palabras. El Papa Francisco le pidió que se acercara. El niño lo abrazó, llorando fuertemente, el Papa lo calmó y le secó a sus lagrimeras y habló con él en voz muy baja.

Entonces el Papa Francisco se volvió al público. Explicó a ellos que el padre del niño murió recientemente. El padre había sido ateo, pero un hombre bueno. El Papa Francisco les dijo, "debía haber sido un hombre bueno para haber criado a un niño que pueda llorar delante de toda esta gente al hablar de la bondad de su padre. El corazón de un padre. Dios también tiene el corazón de un padre." Y luego preguntó al público, "¿Abandonaría Dios a un hombre bueno, a un buen papá?" La audiencia gritó, "¡No!" Y el Papa volvió al niño y le dijo, "Ahí tienes tu respuesta. Dios está orgulloso de tu padre."

Ese momento me tocó profundamente. Mi abuelo fue un pastor durante toda su carrera. Y aunque nunca compartí realmente su fe, el Dios del que me hablaba; el Dios de la justicia, de la misericordia, de la acogida; era el mismo Dios que vivía a través del Papa Francisco. A pesar de mi falta de creencia, ese Dios es el espíritu que intento llevar por toda mi vida

también: ver lo bueno en todas las personas, honrar a cada alma, y nunca permitir que una creencia, un crimen, una nacionalidad o un pecado sean barreras para la compasión.

El Papa Francisco vivió ese espíritu hasta sus últimos días. Incluso en sus últimos días, llamaba a las personas en Gaza para asegurarse de que estuvieran a salvo. Pero no solamente se preocupaba por los cristianos; sintió tristeza profundamente por el sufrimiento de toda la gente de Gaza. Yo comparto su dolor, tanto por los niños de Gaza como por las masas pobres y amontonadas gimiendo por respirar libre en este país. Como el Papa Francisco, sigo su ejemplo de tener un profundo amor y respeto por todos los inmigrantes aquí en El Estado de Maine. Descansa en paz, Papa Francisco.

Being that Pope Francis was the first pope from the Americas and specifically from a Spanish-speaking nation, it feels fitting that I provide my statements both in English and in Spanish.

I am not Catholic, but I believe Pope Francis was a great man. He loved all people. He made space; real, meaningful space; for members of the lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual communities in the heart of a church that had for a long time made many of them feel unwelcome. He didn't simply tolerate them; he welcomed them with a heart that understood that love cannot be conditional. He reminded us that every human being deserves respect and deserves love.

He even cared for those who did not believe in God at all, including atheists like myself. He didn't need you to be a Catholic or a Christian; he just needed you to be human and to try to do good, to carry love and kindness in your heart, and if you did, he saw God in you.

There is a video of Pope Francis that I will never forget; a little boy, maybe seven years old, came to him to ask a question in front of a big audience. The boy was crying and couldn't get his words out. Pope Francis asked the boy to come to him. The boy hugged him, weeping. Pope Francis calmed him, wiped his tears and spoke softly to him. Then Pope Francis turned to the audience. He explained that the boy's father had recently died. The father had been an atheist, but a good man, and Pope Francis said to the audience, 'He must have been a good man to raise a child who could cry in front of all of these people to speak of his father's goodness. The heart of a father. God also has the heart of a father.' And then he asked the audience, 'Would God abandon a good man, a good father?' The audience shouted, 'No!' He turned back to the boy, and he said, 'There's your answer. God is proud of your father.'

That moment touched me. My grandfather was a minister for his entire career, and though I never really shared his faith, the God that he taught me about; the God of justice, of mercy and of welcome; was the same God that lived through Pope Francis. Despite my lack of belief, this God is the spirit that I try to carry with me every day to see the good in all people, to honor every soul and to never let a belief system, a crime, a nationality or a sin be a barrier to compassion.

Pope Francis lived that spirit until his final days. Even in his final days, he was calling friends in Gaza to make sure that they were safe. But he didn't only care about Christians. He was deeply saddened by the suffering of all of the people of Gaza. And I share his sorrow, both for the people of Gaza, and for the poor, huddled masses yearning to be free in this nation. Like Pope Francis, I follow his example and care deeply and have profound love for every immigrant in this State and in this country. Rest in peace, Pope Francis. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pope Francis was a pope for everyone. I had the distinct honor and pleasure of having an audience with His Holiness, Pope Francis. In talking with the Holy Father, one thing I learned was that he was the most misinterpreted pope in my lifetime. An example is when President Obama visited with Pope Francis, he said, 'Your Holiness, you and I have a lot in common,' and Pope Francis responded, 'Mr. President, you and I have nothing in common.' Pope Francis wasn't being unkind or rude. He did this in private. He was just making it clear that President Obama's thinking is not in line with the Church and that President Obama, like many people, have misinterpreted his words.

Pope Francis was a man of humility, simplicity and poverty, and he did care deeply for every human being. He was a very devout man of God, and may he rest in peace. Amen.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our Lord descended from His throne and, concealing His deity, kingship and priesthood, He entered mortal time and space; appearing to us as an infant wrapped in swaddling cloth; sent with divine charge to reclaim humanity from the snares of Satan, to renew, to transform, to invite his faithful flock to life everlasting. Indeed, the humble, reckless, eternal love of God is the greatest mystery of the Christian religion. At the center of our souls, in the quiet of our hearts, we can never fully, never truly comprehend the profound and deeply personal romance between our Creator and His creation. We need a teacher. We need a friend. We need a counselor. We need a pope to unravel this great mystery of the faith.

On Saturday, April 26th, the Supreme Roman Pontiff was interred in the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major; the first of the Western churches devoted to the Blessed Virgin. And it strikes me that the Vicar of Christ, the *Episcopus Romanus*, the Servant of the Servants of God laying down his papal titles, refusing the fanfare, refusing to be grand, surrendered himself to the arms of our Mother in Christ, freely given to all at the foot of the Cross. This final act of humility is an extraordinary promise to the Church that the love and mercy of God is not for a powerful or privileged few, but are poured out ceaselessly, intentionally, recklessly, upon all those who dare to seek them. Pope Francis showed us in both word and deed that we are children of mercy, that we are, indeed, pilgrims of hope. Facing eternity with fear and trembling, with joy and gladness and with conviction, confidence and courage, we must truly know we are sons and daughters of a loving Father.

Francis dedicated his pontificate and his earthly mission to revealing the incomprehensible truth of God's love to a broken and restless world. With humility undaunted, he did battle with great forces of darkness that seek to engulf and destroy. He fulfilled his priestly vows until his last breath, given just a day; just a day; after he stood before the world and professed the resurrection of Christ one final time. Across leagues of oceans and continents, by the power and grace of God, he touched the lives of billions of people, not just the Catholic faithful, but all people, all creeds, all religions and all corners of this rock.

Mr. Speaker, that's the power of love. That is the power of service. That is the life and the legacy of Pope Francis, the Pope of the People. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." Amen.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Lutheran found a lot of inspiration in the late Pope's words on refugees, migrants and the incarcerated. I just want to share this with everyone: "The Church without frontiers, Mother to all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place or disposable." Thank you.

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

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:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Address Maine's Housing Shortage"

(S.P. 753) (L.D. 1912)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Provide a Comprehensive Analysis of Criminal Legal System Data

(S.P. 750) (L.D. 1909)

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 Conform the State's Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Laws to Federal Standards"

(S.P. 744) (L.D. 1903)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund"

(S.P. 745) (L.D. 1904)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Authority of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the Licensing Boards and Commissions Within That Office to Pursue Complaints"

(S.P. 746) (L.D. 1905)

Bill "An Act to Improve Accountability and Understanding of Data in Insurance Transactions"

(S.P. 747) (L.D. 1906)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers from Unfair Dynamic Pricing in Grocery Stores"

(S.P. 748) (L.D. 1907)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require the Cooperation of Original Manufacturers of Electronic Devices to Facilitate the Repair of Those Devices by Device Owners and Independent Repair Providers"

(S.P. 749) (L.D. 1908)

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

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE IN CONCURRENCE** and later today assigned.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Housing Stability Services by Increasing Support and Outreach"

(S.P. 751) (L.D. 1910)

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.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 743)

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

May 1, 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 May 1, 2025, 16 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 May 1, 2025, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools" (S.P. 728) (L.D. 1858) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Senators: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, INGWERSEN of York, DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain Distributed Energy Resources to Participate in the State's Net Energy Billing Program" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 730) (L.D. 1860) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Cosponsored by Representative GUERRETTE of Caribou and Representative: BABIN of Fort Fairfield)

Bill "An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws" (S.P. 738) (L.D. 1868) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters" (S.P. 740) (L.D. 1870) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, SATO of Gorham)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Child Care and Early Childhood Education by Establishing Regional Resource Hubs" (S.P. 729) (L.D. 1859) (Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the State-designated Agency Advocating for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness" (S.P. 736) (L.D. 1866) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: ZAGER of Portland, HENDERSON of Rumford, DEBRITO of Waterville, MCCABE of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Space Corporation" (S.P. 733) (L.D. 1863) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook, CURRY of Waldo, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, ARFORD of Brunswick)

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Reconstruction of Storm-damaged Commercial Fisheries Facilities and Infrastructure" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 734) (L.D. 1864) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Financial Institutions from Using Merchant Category Codes to Identify or Track Firearm Purchases or Disclose Firearm Purchase Records" (S.P. 737) (L.D. 1867) (Sponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HAGGAN of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Permit Sealing Criminal History Record Information of Victims of Sex Trafficking or Sexual Exploitation" (S.P. 741) (L.D. 1871) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BAILEY of York, CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, MATHIESON of Kittery, LEE of Auburn, BOYER of Poland, SINCLAIR of Bath)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Require Training on Textured Hair for Aestheticians, Barber Hair Stylists, Cosmetologists and Hair Designers" (S.P. 731) (L.D. 1861) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative DHALAC of South Portland and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, BAILEY of York, HAGGAN of Penobscot, Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, RANA of Bangor, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, HENDERSON of Rumford, SATO of Gorham)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors and to Modify Certain Corporate Tax Expenditures" (S.P. 727) (L.D. 1857) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Resolve, to Create a Tax Incentive Pilot Project to Encourage Businesses to Adopt a 4-day Workweek (S.P. 735) (L.D. 1865) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Lower Property Taxes by Allowing a Local Option Sales Tax on Recreational Cannabis Sales" (S.P. 739) (L.D. 1869) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Provide That Authority over In-person Sports Betting Resides Solely with the Gambling Control Board" (S.P. 732) (L.D. 1862) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games" (S.P. 742) (L.D. 1902) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn and Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, SUPICA of Bangor)

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.

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

On motion of Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, the House adjourned at 1:17 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 7, 2025.