

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
16th Legislative Day
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

Prayer by Raymond Vensel, Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Litchfield.

National Anthem by Nicole Hayward, Lisbon.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kimberly Boothby-Downing, MSN, ANP-BC, Gorham.

The Journal of Wednesday, May 7, 2025 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter"

(S.P. 766) (L.D. 1959)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure Due Process for Recipients of No Trespass Orders on Certain State Properties"

(S.P. 765) (L.D. 1958)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Exempt Electronic Smoking Devices or Other Tobacco Products Containing Ingestible Hemp from the Tax Imposed on Tobacco Products"

(S.P. 767) (L.D. 1960)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 159)

STATE OF MAINE

132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE

April 24, 2025

Chief Edward Peter-Paul

Mi'kmaq Nation

Chief Clarissa Sabattis

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Chief William J. Nicholas, Sr.

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk

Chief Pos Bassett

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

Chief Kirk Francis

Penobscot Nation

Dear Chiefs,

It is our pleasure to invite you to visit the Legislature on Wednesday, May 14, to attend a Joint Convention to be held in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 11:00 a.m. for the purposes of reporting on the State of the Tribes in Maine.

We look forward to hearing from you and understand that each of you will address the Joint Convention for 10 minutes or less.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your acceptance of this invitation.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 160)

STATE OF MAINE

132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE

April 24, 2025

Honorable Janet T. Mills

Governor

1 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills,

It is our pleasure to invite you to visit the Legislature on Wednesday, May 14, to attend a Joint Convention to be held in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 11:00 a.m. for the purposes of hearing about the State of the Tribes in Maine.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 161)

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

May 7, 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 1, MRSA, Ch. 13, Subchapter 1, §411.2-K, I am pleased to appoint Rachel Henderson of Rumford to the *Right to Know Advisory Committee*, effective immediately.

Representative Henderson will serve on this committee as a member of the House of Representatives who is a member of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

Should 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. 162)

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

May 13, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 1215 An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders

L.D. 1510 An Act to Establish Statutory Deadlines for Processing Applications for Emergency Medical Services Personnel

L.D. 1600 An Act to Provide Regional Support Funding for Municipal Police Departments to Support Special Response Teams

L.D. 1817 An Act to Implement the Recommendation of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Eliminate the Crime of Violation of Condition of Release

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 170 Resolve, Establishing a Pilot Program to Reduce Personal Electronic Device Distractions During the School Day

L.D. 322 An Act to Promote Student Attendance in Schools by Requiring the Commissioner of Education to Implement School Attendance Best Practices

L.D. 643 Resolve, to Study the Effects of Artificial Intelligence, Cellular Telephones and Social Media on Public Education

L.D. 854 An Act to Provide Equitable Capital Construction Funding for Maine's Charter Schools

L.D. 1495 An Act to Make the Professional Standards Board Responsible for the Educator Certification Process

L.D. 1533 An Act to Ensure the Retention of R1 Research Institution Status by the University of Maine

L.D. 1614 Resolve, to Facilitate the Ability of the Maine State Museum to Acquire and Preserve Special Collections Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 630 An Act to Implement Portions of the "Protecting Maine's Beaches for the Future: 2017 Update" Report Regarding Beach Nourishment and Dune Restoration Projects

L.D. 757 Resolve, to Study and Oversee Water in the State of Maine

L.D. 1633 An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials

Health and Human Services

L.D. 376 An Act to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes Through Doula Care

L.D. 1108 An Act Regarding the Reunification of Foster Children with Their Parents

L.D. 1367 Resolve, to Study Methods of Gradually Transitioning Individuals from Government Assistance Programs to the Workforce

L.D. 1409 An Act Regarding the Rights of Foster Parents

L.D. 1613 An Act to Establish Maine's Care Force to Address the State's Health Care Crisis (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 1634 An Act Regarding MaineCare Waiting Lists

Housing and Economic Development

L.D. 1465 An Act to Create the Office of Workforce Advancement Within the Department of Economic and Community Development and Establish Statewide Workforce Advancement Goals

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

L.D. 1565 An Act to Allow the Use of Certain All-terrain Vehicles on Snowmobile Trails

Judiciary

L.D. 990 Resolve, Requiring the Office of the Attorney General to Develop and Promote an Optional Online Registry Informing Landlords of Their Rights and Obligations

L.D. 1463 An Act to Prohibit the Auctioning of State Surplus or Forfeited Firearms

Labor

L.D. 833 An Act to Expand the Earned Paid Leave Exception

L.D. 1124 An Act Regarding Retirement Benefits and Salary Adjustments for Judicial Employees

L.D. 1670 An Act to Establish the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Home Repair and Energy Upgrade Loan Program and Fund

L.D. 1791 Resolve, to Direct State Agencies to Implement the Social Security Fairness Act (EMERGENCY)

Marine Resources

L.D. 1625 An Act Regarding the Preservation of Working Waterfronts

Transportation

L.D. 1480 An Act Regarding Exceptions for Persons Learning to Drive Who Have Not Yet Completed a Driver Education Course

L.D. 1531 An Act to Better Protect Animal-drawn Vehicles and Motorists on Public Roadways

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 347 An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue

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

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 163)

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

May 13, 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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Crafts of Newcastle, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1779 An Act to Make the Possession of Under 2 Grams of Certain Schedule W Drugs a Class D Crime

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Judiciary has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Boyer of Poland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 737 An Act Regarding a So-called Clean Slate Initiative for Arrest and Conviction Records

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Judiciary has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Stover of Boothbay, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1811 An Act Regarding the Submission of Documents for Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Cases

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Taxation has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Nangle of Cumberland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1641 An Act to Allow Municipalities to Implement a Local Option Sales Tax

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

L.D. 1885 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

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

L.D. 1354 An Act Regarding Liquor Licensing in Outdoor Stadiums and Exclusivity in Licensee Agreements

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

L.D. 1880 An Act to Require Photographic Identification for Voting

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

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State"

(H.P. 1310) (L.D. 1966)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Representative: KESSLER of South Portland.

Resolve, to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program

(H.P. 1311) (L.D. 1967)

Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the ConnectMaine Authority by Repealing the Advanced Technology Infrastructure Act"

(H.P. 1319) (L.D. 1975)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CROCKETT of Portland, GREENWOOD of Wales, ROLLINS of Augusta, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAYRE of Kennebunk, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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.

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Consent for HIV Testing and Disclosure of Related Medical Information for Insurance Purposes"

(H.P. 1314) (L.D. 1970)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FLYNN of Albion, MATHIESON of Kittery, MOONEN of Portland, RANA of Bangor, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Oversight and Funding Structures for Recovery Residences and Resident Protections (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1317) (L.D. 1973)

Sponsored by Representative ROLLINS of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, DHALAC of South Portland, HASENFUS of Readfield, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senators: RENY of Lincoln, TALBOT ROSS 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 Enhance Transparency and Value in Substantial Health Care Transactions by Changing the Review and Approval Process for Those Transactions"

(H.P. 1316) (L.D. 1972)

Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FOLEY of Wells, MORRIS of Turner.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested.

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities"

(H.P. 1315) (L.D. 1971)

Sponsored by Representative DHALAC of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, HASENFUS of Readfield, LEE of Auburn, MACIAS of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Affirm Parental Rights"

(H.P. 1318) (L.D. 1974)

Sponsored by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CHAPMAN of Auburn, FREDERICKS of Sanford, POIRIER of Skowhegan, Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act"

(H.P. 1313) (L.D. 1969)

Sponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.

Submitted by the Treasurer of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Legislative Reimbursement"

(H.P. 1312) (L.D. 1968)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

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.

Pursuant to Statute

Department of Environmental Protection

Representative GRAMLICH for the **Department of Environmental Protection** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 379: Compensation for Impacts to High-Value Agricultural Land from Solar Energy Development, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1320) (L.D. 1976)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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:

Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections to Convene a Working Group to Examine the Establishment of a Program to Award Earned Time Credit for Educational Achievement to Persons Who Are Incarcerated

(H.P. 1322) (L.D. 1979)

Sponsored by Representative SARGENT of York.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HASENFUS of Readfield, MURPHY of Scarborough.

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 Regarding Government Liability Related to Sexual Acts Toward Minors"

(H.P. 1321) (L.D. 1978)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** 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 items:

Recognizing:

Mike Estes, of York, on his retirement after many years of service to the Town of York, including service on the Selectboard from 2005 to 2011 and from 2016 to 2025, on the Parks and Recreation Board from 1998 to 2004, on the School Committee from 1992 to 1998, on the Finance Committee from 1989 to 1992 and on the Planning Board from 2002 to 2005. Mr. Estes also served on the town's Bog Road, Municipal Building, Capital Planning and Affordable Housing committees. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 231)

Presented by Representative SARGENT of York.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York, Representative RUNTE of York.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SARGENT of York, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Sargent.

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Fellow Members of the House, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mike Estes, on the occasion of his retirement from the Selectboard of York. As the Sentiment enumerates, Mr. Estes has served a combined total of nearly 40 years on various town boards and committees. From the Selectboard to the School Committee, Planning Committee and Finance Committee, Mike has left his mark on the town and built a legacy of service.

Not only a long-serving public servant, Mike has been a central figure in the York community for decades. He was born in Kittery, but graduated from York High School after playing on the YHS State Championship Boys' Basketball team in 1972. In 1987, he and his wife, Terry; who's also from York; purchased Estes Oil from Mike's father and began building the home heating oil and propane business into a regional leader. Over the decades, they have provided hundreds of good-paying jobs and generously supported local causes from peewee football and school athletic fields to projects at First Parish Church, the York Rotary, York Hospital and Ogunquit Playhouse.

Mike's leadership of his industry reached beyond York as he served as President of the New England Fuel Institute and as an active member of the Maine Energy Marketers Association. He was also a founder of the Maine Technical Education Center, a tech school in Brunswick to train HVAC technicians. In his industry roles, he traveled to Washington to lobby for Maine businesses and became a familiar face in the State House. His entrepreneurship has led him to buy additional oil companies across the State and to be an investor in biofuel projects at the University of Maine.

A lifelong Republican, Mike has served on local Republican committees and twice ran for the State Senate. Although we sometimes find ourselves on different sides of issues, we both have a strong belief in the importance of community and the honor of being a public servant. Whenever you need a hand, Mike is there to help. I'm proud to call him my friend and to know his and Terry's beautiful family of two daughters and five grandchildren. I'm honored to recognize him in this Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Michael Frederick Estrada, of Rome. Mr. Estrada launched his journalism career in Bennington, Vermont, covering sports for the local paper. He later moved to central Maine and began a career in radio broadcasting. In 1992, alongside fellow radio DJ "Tom O," he co-founded The Mountain Morning Show on WTOS, bringing humor, news and entertainment to listeners across Maine and beyond each morning. In recognition of their outstanding contributions during their 33-year partnership, Mr. Mike and Tom O were inducted into the Maine Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2018. In addition to the sports journalism of his early career, Mr. Estrada penned a weekly Mr. Mike's Musings column and was the mastermind behind The Mountain Morning Show's hilarious Wacky Zany Goofy Radio-type Quiz Shows. He lent his broadcast voice to hundreds of local football games, field hockey matchups and swim meets and was a fixture at annual state high school basketball tournaments. Mr. Estrada will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 236)

Presented by Representative FROST of Belgrade.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FROST of Belgrade, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belgrade, Representative Frost.

Representative **FROST**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Firstly, I have a confession. I am very sorry to admit that I am not a fan of hard rock, and therefore, not a regular listener of WTOS. But after reading about Mike and getting feedback from his many fans, I believe I have truly missed out on a legend.

However, I do have a short story to share. In my conversation with Mike's partner, Debbie, I mentioned that I was sad that I had never met Mike, because he seemed like such an amazing person. Her response was, 'but you did meet him, Sharon; you campaigned to our house on a night I wasn't home. We live across from Tim and Amy, you talked for a while with Mike. He told me about it, and we voted for you.' The minute she said that, I had perfect recollection. And here's the thing: as many people in this room know, campaigning can be tough. Not everyone you meet cares to hear what you have to say, and it shows in their body language, in their voice, you name it. Too many of these conversations and you start to ask yourself, why am I doing this? But then, you knock on the door of someone who really does want to hear your thoughts, your goals, the things you're passionate about and there's a connection, and you say to yourself, 'yes, this is why I'm doing it.'

So, that is my memory of Mr. Mike. He listened, we laughed, he gave me a little hope and I am very, very thankful.

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

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 HEPLER from the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor" (H.P. 1245) (L.D. 1874)

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

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

On motion of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and sent for concurrence.

Representative CLOUTIER from the Committee on **TAXATION** on 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)

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

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

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Westbrook, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and sent for concurrence.

Change of Committee

Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage" (S.P. 683) (L.D. 1737)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Representative CLOUTIER from the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Support Small Businesses by Providing a Refundable Tax Credit to Certain Businesses to Offset Credit and Debit Card Transaction Fees" (H.P. 988) (L.D. 1504)

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-47)** on Bill "An Act to Include Judicial Marshals in the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement" (S.P. 359) (L.D. 794)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
MACIAS of Topsham
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLINS of Sidney

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-47)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-47)** 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-47)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Records Belonging to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Related to the Bureau of Forestry" (H.P. 271) (L.D. 417)

Signed:

Senators:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland
BLACK of Franklin
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren
BUNKER of Farmington
COOPER of Windham
CRAY of Palmyra
DILL of Old Town
GUERRETTE of Caribou
HEPLER of Woolwich
JACKSON of Oxford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-114)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Representative:
FROST of Belgrade

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions"

(H.P. 275) (L.D. 421)

Signed:
Representatives:
HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
ARDELL of Monticello
LAJOIE of Lewiston
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:
Senators:
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo
Representatives:
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Refer to Another Committee** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement"

(H.P. 834) (L.D. 1259)

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 Not 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.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, the Majority **Refer to Another Committee** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-141)** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program"

(H.P. 419) (L.D. 651)

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.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-141)** 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-141)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-140)** on Bill "An Act to Fund an Administrative Structure of an Emergency Medical Services Education Program in the Community College System" (H.P. 461) (L.D. 722)

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
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-140)** 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-140)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-135)** on Bill "An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State" (H.P. 749) (L.D. 1130)

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.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-135)** 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-135)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Contracts (H.P. 826) (L.D. 1251)

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 to Pass** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **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 Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This Resolve as presented by the sponsor would basically direct the PUC to do a couple of things, working with other entities; the Governor's Energy Office and so

on; to look at the direction this State is taking and how we're going to get to fully doing away with natural gas, for the most part, in the State of Maine. The other important aspect of this is that can we do away with the use of natural gas for energy generation in the State of Maine, and this Resolve would've helped get us to gaining that knowledge.

The other part of this is that it would also direct the PUC to look at others in New England that are in the same situation as we are, having to use expensive natural gas, especially in the wintertime, to produce electricity. This in itself raises our cost in Maine and throughout New England greatly, as we've heard before, especially a couple years ago during the Ukrainian issue, it was very high. And at that time, in a two-week period, when we had a cold snap at the end of the year, we learned that the amount of money that was spent because of importing natural gas coming in by ship to Massachusetts versus accessing that which is available on the other side of New York from the Pennsylvania fields, that two-week period would've paid for another pipeline to get that gas to us at that time. And, as a matter of fact, I checked this last winter during a period. Natural gas on the other side of New York was three dollars and something a million Btus, and we were paying \$31 and something for using that to produce electricity. This bill would simply have looked at that and tried to work with others to ensure that while we need natural gas; which, by the way, when we hear from the State Governor's Energy Office that; how much we have reduced the CO₂ dispersal into the atmosphere, a lot of that, a very high percentage of that is because we have supplemented or displaced, if you will, heavy oil, number six oil, in industry, and number two heating oil into homes with natural gas, which has a much lower emission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While well intended, this bill does not meet the requirements that it sets out to do. In fact, it requires that the Public Utilities Commission contact, quote, "every single gas utility and natural gas pipeline utility in the State, as well as every state or province adjacent." During the course of the hearing, we heard that the Commission actually is in contact and does 60% of what the bill asks for. It also, though, requires the PUC to do a contract, which may or may not be in the right interests of the State, which as we have heard the national gas fluctuations in price, we want to make sure our ratepayers are protected and that the additional cost for this bill is not absorbed by ratepayers.

So, we hope in the future that there will be good energy savings, but just not through this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 120

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

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Bridgeo, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 67; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 8 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 **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Management of the Waste Components of a Solar Energy Development upon Decommissioning" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 57) (L.D. 92)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden
ANKELES of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
OSHER of Orono
RIELLY of Westbrook

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-133)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips
WOODSOME of Waterboro

READ.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington **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 Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: With the growing solar farms, this bill will limit the collection and storage of this product, which is hazardous. So, it's a good bill and I hope for the support.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the Member, I think in the future, when you get up to speak, because you have the earpiece, it's causing static in the mic. I mean, if you want to give the speech again.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise today in support of this legislation, which ensures that Maine's commitment to renewable energy does not end at the cost of our environmental integrity.

As solar energy developments continue to expand across our State, it is imperative that we have a clear and foreseeable process for the responsible decommissioning of these projects to protect Maine's pristine landscapes, natural resources and communities. Maine is defined by its unspoiled wilderness, vast forests and clean waterways, which serve as the foundation of our outdoor recreation industry, tourism economy and our way of life. As solar energy projects continue to rise in number, this bill ensures that they are decommissioned in a timely and environmentally responsible manner, preventing abandoned equipment, improper waste disposal and long-term contamination risks.

Under existing law, developers are required to restore disturbed land and properly recycle and dispose of solar components upon decommissioning. This bill strengthens those requirements by mandating that all waste materials, both recyclable and nonrecyclable, be processed within 90 days of removal, ensuring Maine does not become home to a stockpile of solar waste that could harm its fragile ecosystems.

Maine has experienced a rapid increase in solar energy developments across its towns and rural areas. While this is a positive step towards energy independence, we must also account for the long-term impacts these projects will have when they reach their end-of-lifespan. Without clear regulations, decommissioned solar panels and structural components could remain for months or even years before being properly disposed of, leading to contamination risks from lead, cadmium and other hazardous materials. By requiring recycling and disposal within 90 days, this legislation provides an essential safeguard for Maine's environment, ensuring that solar developments are not just beneficial in their operation, but also in their removal and reclamation. The urgency of this issue necessitates immediate action, which is why the emergency clause in this bill is both justified and necessary. This bill assigns reinforcement authority to the Department of Environmental Protection, ensuring that proper oversight is maintained through the decommissioning process. With Title 38 governing environment waste enforcement, this regulation works in alignment with existing waste management policies, strengthening Maine's ability to hold developers accountable for responsible disposal practices.

Mr. Speaker, Maine is a leader in renewable energy, but we must also be a leader in environmental responsibility. This bill ensures that solar energy developments do not leave behind harmful waste that could damage our forests, rivers and our communities. It establishes a structured and enforceable decommissioning process, ensuring that Maine's clean energy future is built on sustainability and accountability. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, reinforcing our commitment to renewable energy growth while safeguarding Maine's pristine landscapes and natural resources. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Rielly.

Representative **RIELLY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I appreciate the Sponsor's intent, LD 92 has numerous flaws.

One, it does not provide the flexibility necessary for recycling and disposal. We don't know what the market will look like in 20 to 40 years for recycling and waste disposal. If this bill passes, it will create issues not just in the present, but it will also create issues that future Legislatures will have to resolve.

Second, if components of the solar development are hazardous waste, this is already covered by the Maine Hazardous Waste Management Rules. So, I don't understand the necessity for this. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a great bill.

First, the Representative from Westbrook, one thing he said was about the recycling. Last Session, we already passed a bill that says solar panels must be recycled. The reason this bill was brought about; excuse me; is because I went to the new solar farm in Chelsea just to check on the progress, and I asked the gentleman about the recycling, and he said, and I quote, 'oh, we've figured out a way around that.' I said, 'really? Would you mind sharing?' And he goes, 'sure; we're just going to store the panels up in the County.' Well, this is not something that I wanted to hear, that they're trying to circumvent a bill that we passed unanimously to protect our State by having these solar panels recycled.

We're not trying to stop solar in any way, we're just trying to protect Maine and to make these people accountable for the decommissioning. These companies don't want to recycle. I'm not sure why. We, of course, do; we proved that through the original bill. So, what this bill does is it just says that if you're going to store them, we ask that you only store them for 90 days, and then you have to start the recycling process.

Now, the Department said that they already have provisions for this. Well, they do, and I asked the Commissioner about this, and I said, 'how will this be enforced, the rules that are already in place?' She goes, 'they're not going to be.' And I said, 'why not?' And she says, 'well, unless I have a complaint, we're not going to remove these solar panels and follow the rules of storing that are already in place, environmental storage.' So, I said, 'only if you have a complaint?' So, if I don't go to the County and catch these things in a storage place, you're not doing a thing about it?' She goes 'no, I can't.'

So, that is another reason why we need this bill is because now, this bill just makes it so that the Department has to enforce that. Now, they have to monitor when solar panels are decommissioned; all it means is the Department has to send one person out to make sure that if they do decide to store it, that they're following the Maine State Laws, and they'll have 90 days to store it before they recycle it. This is a no-brainer. We're not hurting solar farms, we're not hurting the solar companies; we're protecting our own State. Because still, to this day, some of these panels are toxic. We don't want that stored in a hangar in the County.

Now, I know a lot of the County Members in this Chamber are going to try to address this now, but that's how this bill came about. It's 100% good faith here, trying to protect the great State of Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would just like to add, Mr. Speaker, that the original thought on these panels were; they were going to last 25, 30 years, we're not going to have to worry about it, it'll be fine. But the new generation of panels are already out. They're much, much smaller, they're more powerful, they're

being tested now and it's not going to be long at all before all of these big, old, clumsy ones are stripped off in these racks and replaced by these smaller, more efficient ones and we're going to have a real mess on our hands. So, again, I ask your support on this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank my colleagues for bringing this forward. It was something that I was unaware of, and as a Representative from the County, I am very upset to think that it would be okay to, in advance, state on record that the County is an acceptable place to be the dumping ground for solar panels when we're asking for 90 days. I would appreciate colleagues in this Chamber for supporting this measure. Thank you.

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. 121

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

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Bridgeo, Doudera, Fredericks, Julia, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 68; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 68 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 **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-132)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station"

(H.P. 261) (L.D. 407)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Ankeles.

Representative **ANKELES**: Four and a half months without a floor speech, that's a good goal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Fellow Members of the House. I rise with a feeling of gratitude toward all 12 of my Colleagues on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee regardless of what Report they are on. All Committee Members showed great patience as we worked this Resolve and waded through important questions about requiring the removal of all remaining toxic firefighting foam from the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Since August 19th of 2024, hardly a day has gone by where our delegation hasn't put work into an entire suite of legislation, both to help Brunswick recover and, even more importantly, to make sure that what happened to us cannot happen anywhere else.

This particular Resolve directs the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority; the quasi-governmental entity that oversees certain properties on the former air base; to meet a series of benchmarks over the next year and a half. First, the Authority; which we refer to as MRRA; must shut down its foam-based fire suppression systems. Then, it must remove all remaining foam concentrate from its properties. And then, finally, it must purge its fire suppression systems of all remaining PFAS-containing residue. After working closely with MRRA's new Executive Director, I am convinced that this Resolve provides MRRA with a realistic, achievable goal. The Fiscal Note for us at the State level is zero, and MRRA and I are both

working hard to identify sources of funding that will help cover the costs of the final system purge.

Getting this Resolve to the Chief Executive's desk will help my constituents; and Representative Golek's constituents just a couple of streets over; rest a tiny bit easier knowing that the toxic AFFF will never again be deployed in our community. After this measure passes, Brunswick will still have plenty to reckon with, especially those on private wells. It's a stark reminder that they are called 'forever chemicals' for a very good reason. We must remain diligent in our efforts to protect them and to make them whole, an effort I acknowledge could take years.

In terms of the measure before us, I am especially grateful to our nonpartisan staff, whose research provided us with the assurance that moving forward will not have unintended fiscal consequences for State taxpayers. Those on the Majority Report concluded; correctly, I believe; that nothing about this Resolve sets any kind of dangerous precedent anywhere else in government, especially as our votes also included a clear rejection of any potential mandate argument. In short, this Resolve is indeed as simple as it seems. It tells those who were in charge when the toxic foam spilled last year to stop using it, to get rid of it and to clean out all their equipment.

This is an emotional moment for us. This entire Body knows how much I love my town and how much I care about my neighbors. This Resolve is for every resident in the path of the spill; every nearby business trying to grow and protect its reputation; every customer and visitor; every waterway, forest and mudflat; all the wildlife and everyone who appreciates them; everyone who makes their living on our working waterfront; everyone who walks, rolls, runs and bikes on the former air base trail system; every landing employee who came into contact with the foam and all the first responders who get it on their equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this Roll Call, because nobody deserves to be exposed to these poisons in Brunswick or anywhere else. That's what I hope that you'll be thinking about when you light the board up green. 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. 122

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

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Campbell, Collins, Drinkwater, Gifford, Griffin, Haggan, Lyman, Morris, Paul, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Soboleski.

ABSENT - Abdi, Bridgeo, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 128; No, 14; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

128 having voted in the affirmative and 14 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-132)** 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-132)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-131)** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Performance Standards for Quarries" (H.P. 443) (L.D. 704)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

The SPEAKER: 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. 123

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer M, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon,

Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, White R, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Brennan, Bridgeo, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 82; No, 59; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

82 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-131)** 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-131)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Representative **FROST**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I have another guest here today who needs to be recognized. Lilly Crockett of our good hometown of Belgrade won the gold medal in the computer programming competition at the 2025 State of Maine SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference, and I just want to make sure that we recognize her today as well. Thank you.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-128)** on Bill "An Act to Create the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program" (H.P. 911) (L.D. 1389)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-128)** 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-128)** 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 Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives and Nonprescription Emergency Contraceptives"

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-120)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative MATHIESON of Kittery moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative FOLEY of Wells **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **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 Wells, Representative Foley.

Representative **FOLEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion of accepting the Minority Report of the Committee.

Birth control medication is already covered by an insurance carrier. As long as the individual goes through the pharmacist, the process is already in place for those prescriptions to be covered through the insurance carrier. This bill seeks to expand coverage to over-the-counter birth control by allowing the consumer to file a claim directly with the insurance carrier without a prescription. This would require the insurance carrier to manually process the claim outside of the normal reimbursement process established with the pharmacy. This makes it difficult for the claim to be efficiently processed and to verify who the purchase was actually for. This also sets up the next request for all over-the-counter medications to be covered by insurance. Where will this request for insurance to cover everything end?

Health insurance is designed to cover costs that are outside the everyday health-related needs and unexpected health issues. Maine's health insurance premiums are among the highest in the country. Requiring more to be covered isn't going to help. I urge you to reject the pending motion. There is already a way for birth control to be covered by the insurance company. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we're not going to honor the work of the Committee and actually move forward the Majority Report, then why are we bothering to spend any time in Committees? Many of us over the next few weeks are going to be in Committees four, five days a week to do this, and if this is what's going to happen continuously, why are we bothering? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Arford.

Representative **ARFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, for listening to my comments this morning.

This is the second time this bill, or the previous bill; which was, with very minor changes; identical to what we're looking at today. We heard this bill in this room last Session. The bill went forward; it was passed by both Houses to the AFA Table and then it was funded and went to the Chief Executive's desk.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to the Point of Order from the Representative from Fairfield.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: The Representative is not addressing the Chair; she's addressing the rest of us.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield asked the Chair to remind Representative ARFORD of Brunswick to address the Speaker and not turn to the rest of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the Member to address her comments through the Chair.

The Chair reminded Representative ARFORD of Brunswick to address their comments toward the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ARFORD**: I apologize, and I want to thank my colleague for reminding me.

This bill went to the Governor's desk, and with –

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to why the Representative from Wales rises.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to remind the Member to refer to the Chief Executive as 'Chief Executive.'

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind the Member to refer to the Chief Executive as the Chief Executive. The Member may proceed.

Representative **ARFORD**: Again, I want to thank my colleague for correcting me.

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this bill; we've seen this bill before, we passed this bill before, the Chief Executive has seen it and the only reason it is not now law is because a law arrived in an untimely manner. If it is to go forward now, today, my sense is that it will arrive in a; that is my hope.

But before we go there to talk about what might happen next, I'd like to talk about what this bill will do in very straightforward, simple terms. If this bill is passed and becomes law, there are women and couples throughout the State of Maine who will, for the very first time, have access to oral hormonal; previously only available through a prescription; products and emergency contraceptive products currently only available with a prescription. They will have access without a prescription to these products. And if they find themselves in need, they will be able to go to their pharmacy, and if they are covered by a health plan that the State of Maine regulates, they will be able to use their insurance card and pay for these products with what we refer to as 'first-dollar coverage,' which means there will be no out-of-pocket cost. So, there will be no financial barrier.

So, access to the products that this bill will allow them is extremely important to the parts of our State that are lower income or traditionally have lower, much lower, access to health care providers who could write them a prescription, which would allow them to access these products with a prescription. I want people to think about the people in their communities; I'm just playing it straight with you all; especially the younger people who may find themselves in a situation where they have recently become sexually active, and they do not, they do not, want to become pregnant. And yet, they find themselves with many barriers between them and getting a prescription for these birth control products. This bill, if passed, will allow them to walk into their pharmacy, take the product off the shelf and pay for it; again, if they are insured by an insurer that we regulate in the State of Maine, they will be able to pay for that 100% with first-dollar coverage. And I think that the people of our State deserve this option. They deserve this opportunity. So, I'm going to ask us to transcend politics and anything else that may be in the way and say yes to this bill. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify a few things. Number one, there's already an avenue that through a law; in response to the Representative from Brunswick's comments; there's already an avenue for people to get birth control without a prescription. That law was passed last session. The drugs that we are talking about in this specific bill are already available without a prescription; they're over-the-counter medications. The question is whether or not we're going to require insurance to pay for over-the-counter medication. Nowhere else in the insurance code or in our insurance laws are we requiring them to pay for over-the-counter medications. Similar, this would be a precedent similar to if we started to require insurance companies to cover other over-the-counter medications that can be used. Nobody on the Committee; particularly if we're talking about people that are not able to afford, that don't have insurance, they're still able to access these products. So, I just want to clarify that.

This bill is really not needed, these products are already available, many are available over the counter. This is a question of whether or not we're going to mandate insurance companies to pay for an over-the-counter product, and I think that is a precedent that we should not set. No one is opposed to allowing access to birth control, but there are questions about if we're going to require this to be covered for something over the counter, about the chain of custody. Your insurance should be for the individual who is buying the product, and there is no way of being able to police whether or not someone is buying a product that is over the counter, if it is for the individual or if it is for somebody else. This is about ensuring that we keep costs down by not going down this road of covering over-the-counter products. So, I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we all have a basic understanding that when drugs become safe enough that they can be sold over the counter, then they move to the over-the-counter section, but you can also get those in prescription or over the counter. The over-the-counter option is there for a convenience, so that you can go in and grab something that's safe and get it at your convenience, without the prescription, and move on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we need to be in here trying to lower the cost of insurance, not make it increase. And I have a question, and if the answer to this question that I'm about to ask is no, then this bill will create an avenue for fraud and increased insurance rates. Does this bill limit the amount of purchases that can be made per month of these products? Because if there is not a limit, then you are creating an avenue where someone can go purchase this over the counter and charge it to their insurance company, which makes everybody's insurance rates go up, the cost of insurance go up.

Mr. Speaker, I pose a question through the Chair; does this bill cap the amount of purchases that can be made through this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FOLEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would answer the question. There is no limits in the bill.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 124

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall,

Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Walker, White J, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Bridgeo, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 69; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-120)** 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-120)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-136)** on Bill "An Act to Require Employers to Disclose Pay Ranges and Maintain Records of Employees' Pay Histories" (H.P. 18) (L.D. 54)

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

LIBBY of Auburn

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mandating disclosure of a set pay range limits an employer's ability to tailor compensation based on the applicant's skill, experience and market conditions. When I interviewed an applicant, my offer recognizes their education and experience.

Many businesses operate in dynamic environments where pay is influenced by various factors, including an applicant's unique qualifications and negotiation skills. Policies with arbitrary thresholds of 10 to 15 employees create confusion for small businesses. The ability to recruit and retain employees is already tight. This could open a door to unintended consequences of prospective workers just chasing a paycheck, as opposed to having a genuine passion for the job they seek.

A recent report from the Colorado Chamber of Commerce found that mandatory pay transparency laws cause companies to limit their hiring activities within the state, shifting opportunities to jurisdictions without such restrictive mandates. The best way to ensure fair pay is not through government mandates, but by fostering a competitive labor market where employers compete for talent. Workers in Maine deserve the opportunity to negotiate their compensation based on skills, experience and market conditions, not constrained by rigid government-imposed requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most of our neighbors in New England have pay transparency laws. And one of the things that we found after about 12 or 13 states and other municipalities have imposed these laws is that time has passed for us to do research on the efficacy. And what that found is that in those places where these laws are enacted, that employers themselves are facing much lower recruitment costs. It is costing them less to find employees for their vacant positions, specifically because an employee can look in that job posting and understand what the range of pay is. I can't tell you the number of times I've applied for a job and then when it comes down to it, it's about \$20,000 less than a similar position would pay. It saves time for the employee, it saves time and money for the employer. And we heard a lot about recordkeeping and how that would be onerous, but the records that we're asking employers to keep are records they have to keep anyway, per Maine law. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 125

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

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Bridgeo, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 69; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1. 73 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-136)** 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-136)** 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 Allow a Qualifying Religious Organization to Self-insure for Automobile Insurance"

(H.P. 583) (L.D. 918)

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-124)** 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 FOSTER of Dexter **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 Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I, for the third and final time, am standing in opposition to a pending Ought Not to Pass motion for a bill that I again submitted during this legislative term to try to help the Mennonites, a group of Christians, remain in the State of Maine and practice their faith.

Mr. Speaker, I believe you and I both, I think, as admitted Christians would say that the tenets of our particular faith are different, as are theirs. Mennonites; and for those who weren't here before past Legislatures; Mennonites are of a group of people that believe very strongly that they are to take care of themselves and to provide for their own. And one of the tenets of their faith is that they do not participate in insurance. They feel very strongly that if they do, they are relying on you and I; as we do with each when we buy our insurance; to help take care of their folks. This is also true of automobile insurance, a requirement we have here in the State of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, following the defeat of the Ought Not to Pass vote for LD 1004 two years ago, a working group to consider possible accommodations for these Mennonites was put together by Secretary Bellows and the then-Representative from Calais, the Honorable Anne Perry, as an amended version of LD 1004. Following the first three meetings of the working group and during communications I had with the Secretary or her Deputy, Joann Bautista, through to the closure of the 131st Legislature on May 10, 2024; as a matter of fact, just back here behind the glass; I had a conversation and was told that a next meeting was being considered, but heard nothing further throughout the summer. On June 17th of 2024, as a matter of fact, in the *Bangor Daily News*, there was an article regarding a CMP vehicle accident. During the conversation with the reporter, the Secretary was quoted as saying that a working group was discussing the Mennonites' self-insurance issue. CMP, as a matter of fact, as a utility, are self-insured.

During this bill's hearing, LD 918, I learned for the first time that the conclusion reached by, quote, 'those members charged with protecting the public interest, was that adoption of such an exemption would be unwise,' unquote. I also saw for the first time the report summarizing the working group's activities. Neither the Mennonite representatives, the citizen representative, Thomas Record, or I, who were members of the working group, had been informed of any of this until the hearing for this bill.

Often, Mr. Speaker, Committees rely on Departments and their representatives of the State; when they come to testify to a bill, they rely on their recommendation and quite often follow it. During the Secretary of State's testimony, she raised concern about the Bureau's inability to set criteria for demonstrating this religious belief. But Mr. Speaker, this is already done by the federal government, and she knew that. IRS Form 4029; which they file; requires this as per their instructions, the IRS instruction. "A recognized religious group must meet all the following requirements: It is conscientiously opposed to accepting benefits or any private or public insurance that makes payments in the event of death, disability, old age, or retirement; makes payments for the costs of medical care or provides services for medical care (including Social Security and Medicare benefits); It has provided a reasonable level of living for its dependent members;" and "it has existed continuously since December 31, 1950." Mr. Speaker, the Mennonites file these forms, and in order to be a member, an adult member, they have to be approved by the federal government. And therefore, they agree that they will not take part in insurance, Social Security or Medicare, for that matter.

Also, Mr. Speaker, in the Secretary's testimony, she stated it was unclear which individuals or vehicles would be exempted. The bill clarifies that an owner must have met that IRS criteria for qualification as a religious organization member opposed to private or public insurance as stated by the applicant on Form 4020. Further in the Secretary's testimony, she stated the Bureau does not have the resources to judge solvency or

evaluate fiscal financial fitness and questioned how funds set aside would be replenished when settlements are made. Again, this was discussed in the working group and was taken care of. But after confirming; after I confirmed with the State Treasurer's office that they had the resources to administer the financial aspects of the obligation of qualifying and securing funds required by the bill, this change is made and follows how; in the bill; and follows how this is managed in other states. There's no payments for settlements out of these obligated funds, as they are held by the State should the organization fail to pay settlements as stated in the bill, which is within 30 days of any formal judgment or an agreement with the other party that's involved in any automobile accident.

Mr. Speaker, that amount of money that was required of them was \$250,000 for up to 10 vehicles and an additional \$5,000 per vehicle over 10, which would require, if they ever got to 20 vehicles; and my understanding is they have a dozen or so; it would require \$300,000 to be set aside, and they do this with either a note of credit or by setting aside lands and putting that up for collateral. This would be the highest amount for so few vehicles among other states requiring some type of collateral or credit for Mennonites to do this. There are many states that accommodate their beliefs.

In the Secretary's testimony, she also stated the Bureau doesn't have the policy framework or resources to administer this proposal. The Secretary's Office already implements the self-insurance program for Central Maine Power and has for several years. In the case of Central Maine Power, a letter is sent annually to the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles acknowledging its responsibilities and evidence of its financial resources. In return, they have provided a motor vehicle identification card, similar to what we get from our insurance companies, and that's issued by the Secretary of State. The card containing a unique control number is then duplicated by CMP for each of its self-insured vehicles.

This bill lays out a method similar to that used in Kentucky for Mennonites; which would be applied to Maine; to manage self-insurance card systems for the Mennonites' vehicles covered by this legislation. A Mennonite designee in Kentucky used a simple spreadsheet to track information required by the Kentucky Office of Insurance for over 90 Mennonite vehicles for several years. During the third and last working group meeting held on January 2, 2024, presentations were made by state officials from Vermont, Iowa and Kentucky regarding their laws, policies and procedures for administering their self-insurance programs. One of our State officials attending asked what extra resources were required to manage their programs for the Mennonites. Although I never received the minutes from that meeting, as I recall, the answer was none. In some states, the departments responsible differ, but each manage the limited amount of paperwork and recordkeeping with the staff already in their departments.

The Fiscal Note attached to LD 918 by the Secretary of State is similar to the one for LD 1004 in the 131st. The idea that five new hires, or even five current employees would be required to implement and manage this self-insurance program, for such a small number of vehicles, is contrary to what was learned from other states and contrast greatly with what's required to manage CMP's very large fleet. Utilizing current staff and the expertise of the Division of Motor Vehicles, the State Treasurer's Office, the Bureau of Insurance or the Attorney General's Office, if needed, would allow this to be done within the current budget and staffing of State government.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on regarding the many misleading statements provided in opposition to LD 918, but I'll address two concerns I think are most relevant to this issue. First is the issue of the Secretary's Office not having the resources or ability to act as an insurance entity. This would not be required here any more than it is with CMP. Should a Mennonite be involved in an accident, the situation is handled much the same as if it were you or I, with the caveat that the insurance carrier of the other party involved would handle the claims process. As has been the case throughout the years in other states, the Mennonites will settle with the other party based on their claims, both for the vehicle damage and any personal injury. Although there may be some negotiation, there will not be an issue with two insurance companies determining which will pay. The information provided by the Mennonites and discussions with other states during the working group meetings supported this history.

Second is the issue of the amount of security held for multiple vehicles covered being inadequate. Besides the funds set aside as collateral, the Mennonites, through their support for each other, have the ability to raise larger amounts to settle claims than you or I might. Should our liability for an accident go above our insurance coverage of \$127,000 or even one million dollars, they, like us, put their net worth at stake every time they leave their driveway or we leave ours, should we be involved in an accident such as those described in testimony against the bill. It should be noted that at-fault insurance states like Maine, Vermont and North Carolina have the same commercial insurance requirements, including uninsured motorist coverage. Our insurance would cover us if involved in an accident with an uninsured vehicle, or when our claims exceed the coverage of the other vehicle's insurance.

In the many states, and for the many years, Mennonites have been self-insured; they have not lost the privilege, because they meet their obligation to settle claims without lawsuits, defaults or help from any outside their own faith. This bill allows them to do the same in Maine by making it affordable to do so. In my opinion, placing a financial requirement to self-insure their motor vehicles too high for them to meet is, in effect, denying them the ability to practice their most genuine and longstanding religious beliefs in our State of Maine.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that; under the Maine and United States Constitutions; we are required to allow them the freedom to practice their religion, which includes the tenet of self-insuring themselves, not only for automobiles, but for medical, for homeowners and the like. They do so; the funds are provided not only for Mennonites in Maine, but from all over the eastern seaboard when necessary. I also believe that offering the right to self-insure one vehicle at \$127,000, as we do already have here in the State of Maine, is unaffordable; probably for me, and certainly for the Mennonites; to do the same for every vehicle that they own or that I own. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, things like the poll tax when I was a kid, things like making something so expensive that it can't be afforded; although it may afford the opportunity to maintain your religious beliefs and tenets, is in fact going against what the Constitution requires us to do. I ask everyone that you think about this, that you oppose the pending motion and support the Mennonites before they leave the State of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

This bill is one of the most compassionate and common-sense bills I've seen in my time in the Legislature, and I'm going to explain. First, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, all too often, many of these floor speeches that we give are for the cameras and not for the people in the Chamber. I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to the people in this Chamber, and I hope they will pause whatever they're doing for a moment and just listen and hear what I have to say.

There are places in our laws for people with deeply held religious beliefs. And Mr. Speaker, this is one of them. These people, the Mennonites, have deeply held religious beliefs. They are not trying to skirt our laws. They're not trying to dodge insurance. This bill will allow them to self-insure. And these are some of the most honest and reliable people on the planet. This is not a skirting of the law, Mr. Speaker. This can be done, as the speaker from Dexter explained in great length the details of this bill. Those of you that served before will remember LD 1004 and how that moved forward with the support of Representative Perry from the other side.

Mr. Speaker, this law is so compassionate, not just because of the simple act or tweak in the law of what it's doing with the insurance, but that it's allowing these people to stay in our State. We know that we're looking for new Mainers. These are great contributing members of society that we should all welcome into our communities and denying them the ability to transit on our roads is effectively kicking them out of the State. Mr. Speaker, we have a solution here. We have a way to allow these people to abide by our laws in another way; they're not skirting the system, and this is one of those moments where we need to acknowledge that people have deeply held religious beliefs, and we need to allow them to honor those, but also have a solution for this insurance problem.

I urge the Members to please dig deep and vote no on the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I don't have much to add other than what's been already said, but I would only add as a practicing attorney, the perspective of this on the other side is actually the injured person. And, you know, I think the people of Maine send us here to try to provide solutions to a situation like this, because the situation here is, if somebody gets hurt in an accident, the thought process usually is you contact the insurance companies, insurance companies will either figure it out or they'll go to trial. The issue here becomes, is that you have a group of people who are essentially saying, you know, I'm not going to play by those rules. And by not passing this bill, we're essentially saying to injured parties, you're not going to have that remedy available, I hope you have in your own policy some sort of coverage which allows for recovery from your own insurance company in the event that somebody doesn't have insurance.

So, I would only say, Mr. Speaker, that while I understand it from the perspective of the people that we're trying to address here, the reality is, is that the people that actually get injured; which is important as the people that are seeking to be self-insured; are just as important, and we're not really addressing what will functionally be a crisis in their life as well. And so, with that, I would ask that we not support the motion Ought Not to Pass.

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

Representative **MATHIESON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Good Representative from Dexter has brought this bill to my Committee three times, and it does attempt to address this very real dilemma of the Mennonite Church, who have religious objections to purchasing insurance. But we are all subject to the State's financial responsibility laws in Title 29, and we meet these requirements by purchasing and maintaining car insurance.

Last Session, we did have a stakeholder group that met with the Secretary of State and the Bureau of Insurance, and the conclusion of that stakeholder group was that a person sustaining personal injury or property damages in an accident with someone covered by this type of exemption would have significantly fewer protections as compared to the same accident with a person covered with traditional insurance. Under this bill, there are no formal claims processing, no adjustor to assess damages, to work with medical providers and body shops to arrange payment and no dispute resolution process except to file a lawsuit. Unlike insurers, these organizations would not be subject to any rigorous solvency requirements, and the amount required to be deposited with the State Treasurer for assurance that claims would be paid is \$250,000 for up to 10 vehicles. This is a very low threshold. An insurance policy must cover at least \$125,000 in liability for just one vehicle, for each accident. Under law, there is an opportunity for self-insurance with the deposit of cash or securities with the Treasurer of State.

Unfortunately, I would ask you to follow my light on this. I wish that there was a better solution for the Mennonites. My heart goes out to them, I've listened to this bill three times now, but the Secretary of State and the Bureau of Insurance are fully against passing this bill, and I support them. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just would like to address a couple of items.

First of all, what brought this to my door a few years ago? One young man was involved in an accident. It was a fender-bender, a few thousand dollars of damage to the vehicle. The other person; like I would have if I had been involved in that vehicle; had insurance, has an insurance adjustor, had a lawyer to represent them as we all would if we have insurance. It's not that there's got to be somebody else there; the Mennonites will handle their side of it. And in that case, the Mennonites paid what was due for repairs to the vehicle, but the gentleman involved in this fender-bender claimed that he also had some injuries. The Mennonites asked what it would take to settle what he needed to take care of his issues, and it took quite a while before they were finally able to get an answer. The answer was \$90,000, as I recall. It may have been a little higher. They gathered resources from others in their faith, and they paid that without question.

I think we underestimate what they have been able to do outside of this State and other states that allow this, and we also underestimate the strength of their faith and, more importantly, their conviction to follow that. I'm not concerned at all should I have one of them run into me; although I don't expect that will happen, it's more likely I might back into one of them, because they obey the speed limit; when I go home today, that they would take care of the issue, even if it were my fault. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 126

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

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Lavigne, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 72; No, 70; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Minors Under 16 Years of Age to Work Until 9 p.m. During the School Year and Until 10 p.m. During Summer Vacation"

(H.P. 386) (L.D. 618)

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 to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Employment Opportunities for Minor Students by Eliminating Certain Work Limitations"

(H.P. 412) (L.D. 644)

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 to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

Representative ROEDER of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill would repeal child labor laws for children who are 16 to 17 years old, meaning that there would be no restrictions on the amount of time a 16- or 17-year-old child; who is presumably still in school; could work during the school week, during the summer. They could work any number of hours at any hour of the day if this bill passes. We put these laws into effect to protect children, to protect their education, but we're also seeing that in states and in places where children are allowed to work unlimited hours in that 16-to-17 range, that workplace safety is an issue as well, and children get hurt more often when we don't have these protections in place. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sidney, Representative Collins.

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen and Ladies of the House. Lately, we can't seem to keep young people engaged in the workforce. Is it because they haven't been exposed to work? At a time, right now, Maine's truancy rate is 9.5%. Working gives students an opportunity to be off the street, not getting into trouble and obviously not getting involved in illegal activities.

Recognize that Senator Margaret Chase Smith started her working career at age 12. We're not asking for that in this bill. According to the Department of Labor website, DOL.gov, "Fact Sheet No. 43," the basic minimum age for employment is 16. "16- and 17-year-olds may be employed for unlimited hours in any occupation not declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor." Again, we're not asking for students to work at 2:00 a.m., but if they're on a bus traveling back from a sporting event at 11:00 at night, couldn't they be in Shaw's bagging groceries or stocking shelves at the same time, trying to develop themselves? So, again, we just want to recognize that working gives youth a chance to earn, learn and succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time today.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Macias.

Representative **MACIAS**: Mr. Speaker, back in 2019, I met a young man named Enrique. He told me how he had trekked from central Mexico to find his father in New England. He hadn't seen him in eight years. He found him on a dairy farm in Vermont. He was greeted by his father that evening, who then went to bed to get up early to work the farm. The next morning, Enrique was driven to another dairy farm 90 minutes away. He worked there for the next six weeks, with others who only spoke English or Portuguese. When he received his pay, it amounted to \$3.50 an hour. Because he was 16, he was paid less than minimum wage with no overtime for the long hours he had worked. He complained to no one. 'If you complain,' he told me, 'you will find yourself in custody and deported.'

If you believe this bill is about providing opportunities and teaching a good work ethic to our children, you're wrong. This bill removes any protection, such as limitations on hours that other people's children can work. We should not vote for this bill and the others like it that work children longer and pays them less. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, if the bill's intent was to not allow 16- and 17-year-olds to go to work at two in the morning, the bill's writing does not reflect that. It would, in fact, repeal any of the laws that would mandate when a 16- or 17-year-old could work. Thank you.

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. 127

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre,

Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Arata, Campbell, Crockett, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Lavigne, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 65; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 65 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.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality"

(H.P. 276) (L.D. 422)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-139)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

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

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **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 East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. Coming from a small town in rural Maine where communities have limited resources to raise taxes and provide services, this bill would give our small towns

flexibility in such a law, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage everyone to follow my light and vote red on the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and in strong support of this bill, which protects the historical integrity, local sovereignty and self-determination of Maine's municipalities.

For centuries, Maine has governed its communities through local decision making, municipal autonomy and respect for people who built and sustain our towns and cities. This bill upholds that tradition by ensuring that State-directed placement of noncitizens could not occur without the consent of local governments, reaffirming our commitment to Maine's longstanding principles of responsible governance. Maine's towns and cities were founded on values of local governance and community-driven decision making. From our earliest settlements to our industrial expansion, Maine municipalities have always had the authority to shape their own policies, economies and demographic compositions. This bill maintains that tradition. It prevents the State government from unilaterally placing noncitizens into municipalities without that municipality's express authorization, ensuring that local leaders; the closest to the needs of their communities; retain the right to determine what is best for their own towns.

Additionally, Maine has a deep cultural history tied to our industries, workforce and small-town economies. Fishing villages, farming communities and mill towns have thrived for generations because they have had the ability to control their own population growth, plan resources accordingly and welcome newcomers at a manageable and sustainable pace. This bill ensures that State-directed placements do not disrupt the historical balance of Maine's local economies or place undue strain on already limited services. This bill respects municipality authority, reinforcing the fundamental right of Maine's cities and towns to determine their own future. It does not prevent noncitizens from settling in Maine; it simply ensures that local governments are consulted before each placement occurs. That is not an unreasonable request. It is a matter of basic governance, transparency and fairness. Consider the existing legal precedent: Under Maine's home rule provisions, municipalities are granted sufficient autonomy over local matters, including zoning, development and municipal services. State-directed placement of noncitizens without municipal approval contradicts the very principles outlined in Maine's Constitution that allow localities to govern their own affairs. Federal law 8 U.S.C. reinforces State discretion in immigration cooperation. This bill simply ensures that localities also retain their authority to regulate population placement within their borders.

Let us defend municipal authority, uphold Maine's history of strong local governance and ensure that all decisions affecting our communities are made in partnership with the people and the leaders of Maine's towns and cities, not dictated from above. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Houlton, Representative Swallow.

Representative **SWALLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, municipalities and residents in my district and other Aroostook communities are feeling the financial strains of ever-increasing public education costs, heightened costs of housing in both rentals and purchases, spiraling property taxes and escalating electric bills. Furthermore, our communities have an elderly demographic that is struggling financially under limited

resources and static incomes. Coupled with these burdens, the State continues to add further weight onto local taxpayers. This bill primarily seeks to address both local control and cost to local taxpayers. It allows municipalities to have some say in the placement of noncitizens in their communities by the State or an agent of the State.

Maine, by law, is a Home Rule state, and this bill is in line with the municipality's authority over local governance. Municipalities under the Maine Constitution are granted the power to amend their charters on matters that are municipal and local in nature, as long as they do not contradict either general or constitutional law. Therefore, requiring local approval prior to State placing noncitizens within their municipality is in accordance with our constitutional principles. It's important that decisions that affect local jurisdictions remain with that populace. Furthermore, municipalities may develop local ordinances barring the State from resettling noncitizens in their jurisdictions. Therefore, LD 422 simply avoids municipalities having to draft ordinances to accomplish what this bill achieves.

Currently, Maine's cost of elementary and secondary education has increased exponentially in the last three to four decades, which, among other issues, has resulted in already elevated property taxes. Maine's public schools as compared to other states and nations are already performing poorly, while at the same time remaining one of the highest-cost states on a per-pupil basis in the United States. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Education Opportunities Act mandate translation and interpretation services must be provided to families cost-free. It's further required that schools have a language access plan for all communications. The cost of multilingual services would be an additional expenditure onto an already high-cost school system that is faltering severely.

In my district, I represent five communities. In those five communities, the students go to three different school systems, and I've had the opportunity to speak to one of those school systems as to what would happen if several noncitizens were moved in that did not speak English. They said, quote, 'they have studied this, and this would cost several hundred thousand dollars to their small local school system.' We cannot afford this. Furthermore, the time that would be drawn away from traditional students who are already falling further behind on the part of teachers and staff would be detrimental. This would prove an inordinate burden for our already-struggling school systems.

In this session, I've served on the Taxation Committee, and I've been listening to an unending chorus of how great a burden the property tax has become throughout our State, especially for the elderly. We have reviewed myriads of legislation attempting to mitigate the weight property taxes are having on our populace. However, to date, what legislation which has been proposed to that end will be completely insignificant when contrasted with the potential cost that an inordinate influx of people directed by the State could have on our local communities.

Another issue to consider is the housing crisis. This matter is serious. The cost of homes and rental units would be further driven up due to increased competition for limited housing. Unhindered placement of noncitizens will amplify the housing shortage by increasing the demand of a limited supply. Furthermore, this legislation takes into account the involvement and consideration of local residents. The sudden shock of a significant population surge thrust on small communities that feel out of the decision-making process will only serve to increase tensions.

Local municipalities are in the best position to determine their capabilities and resources in dealing with this issue.

Certainly, the local citizenry possesses greater knowledge than the State in assessing the impact such a direct placement of people would have on their local schools, health care systems, public services and other resources. It's appropriate for municipalities to have involvement in determining noncitizen placement in their communities, since they are tasked with providing General Assistance and other services which are only partially reimbursed by the State. Undoubtedly, local jurisdictions and citizens are best suited to make the determination on this subject.

This legislation is simply about local control in both decision making and cost control and will result in the best outcome for all involved. As with all elected legislators, my duty is to represent the people of my district and according them the opportunity to be heard. And to that extent, the freedom to determine their own future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the crux of this bill is that the State may not place a noncitizen within a municipality. And what we did not hear at any time during the work session or the public hearing is the State placing people in municipalities. We know that people that are coming to our State to live are coming to work, they're coming to be with family, they're coming to be with friends, other people from their home countries. The State is not placing new Mainers in communities. It was just unclear where that sort of understanding came from.

The other thing is that this bill mirrors a presidential policy that the courts have struck down in the past, as far back as 2019. Back at that time, President Trump signed an Executive Order entitled "Enhancing the State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement." That Order, which is very similar, as I mentioned, to this bill; which would give state and local governments the power to reject refugee resettlement was blocked at the federal court, and then that block was upheld. So, again, it goes back to the feeling that somewhere there's an understanding that the State is having a hand in placing noncitizens into municipalities, which is just not happening.

The other concerning part that we heard during testimony said that it specifically targeted toward the purposeful importation of illegal aliens who are being brought to Maine by the Executive Branch and then left to be a burden at the local level. There is no indication that this is happening. This is just a problem that is not happening, and this is a bill that we feel very strongly should be Ought Not to Pass. Please follow my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Houlton, Representative Swallow.

Representative **SWALLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2019, an Executive Order was signed by President Trump, and it was called the "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement." The purpose of the Order was to assist both state and local governments in their ability to refuse refugee resettlement in their jurisdiction. This order was blocked by a federal court and upheld. The case is *HIAS, Inc. v. Trump*. However, there are many differences and not that many similarities between the two cases.

First of all, the Executive Order, in addition to halting refugee resettlement; and I want to express refugee, not illegal, not just anyone, but refugee; banned people from seven majority-Muslim countries but included an exception for non-Muslim religious minorities. This bill does not single out refugees from particular countries or religions, which was the case and why the Executive Order was overruled. No one

religion is favored over another, which was a major concern of the Court. In that case, the Plaintiff's attorney stated the Order violates the Constitution's explicit prohibition on establishing a preferred religion. Our government cannot select one religion over another, and the Order carves out an exception to the ban for religious minorities while barring those refugees from countries where Muslims are a majority. So, this is far different than what's been the case.

The second concern of the Court was the impact that an Executive Order would have on refugees and the chaos that would be thrust onto vulnerable refugees who were already set to be resettled to the U.S. And I want to express: already set to be resettled to the U.S. On this issue, the Plaintiff's attorney argued many of our refugee clients have been specifically impacted by this Order. Refugee clients sold their possessions, left their jobs and did not renew their visas after being notified of their approval as refugees; approval as refugees; leaving them in a precarious situation. Which was the other concern of the Court, which is not part of this bill or is any way connected.

This bill deals with Home Rule and a relationship between the State and its communities. That case dealt with the federal government and the Refugee Act and its duties, obligations and expectations under the Act. And I do want to stress that the definition of a refugee is far different than an asylum seeker and others. A refugee is a separate group from others entering our country, because it's someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence and has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Furthermore, a refugee has been recognized under international law as needing protection, either by a host country or through international agencies like the United Nations Commission for Refugees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. If I may read a quote from the newspaper, it refers to the Chief Executive, not the Chief Executive Officer, but I would like to read it as it's written: "Maine Governor Janet Mills signed an executive order Wednesday intending to establish a new migrant resettlement office. The Governor announced the goal as part of the press strategy for rolling out an executive order that will eventually create the 'Office of New Americans,' a state office that will assist in migrant resettlement and integration throughout the state."

It's a problem, and if we're not seeing it right now, we are going to be seeing it, and Home Rule is important. We saw it a few years back when there was an effort to resettle 600 in Unity alone, a community of 2,100. They wanted to put them in the college there. We had some Representatives that went and spoke with them about it. This is not a good idea. Putting that many people into a community of that size, the strain it was going to be on all the services, let alone the \$17,000 per child going to school, on medical services, on even the stores and the gas stations, what it was going to do.

So, there is a plan in place, it's called the Office of New Americans. The intent is to resettle 75,000 people in the State of Maine, regardless of where they're coming from. And I went to the Department of Health and Human Services a couple of weeks ago, to the first meeting of the Office of New Americans, and it's ramping up and it's going to be happening soon. So, it is real. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEE**: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LEE**: I've still heard no evidence that the State takes any role in placing anyone in any municipality. I'm curious, since there's no definition of the word 'place' in this bill, what State action this is actually intended to preclude?

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to answer the question from the Good Representative from Auburn.

The State has designated and authorized agents to accept these. And the intent of the bill was to incorporate that it's the State or its agents; the State has assigned its agents. One of the agents of the largest magnitude that is bringing migrants into the State is Catholic Charities of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And they are agents of the State.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to confirm, in the public hearing and the work session, we talked about two of the agencies that were mentioned were Catholic Charities, and another organization, but there was no indication that they have any contracts with the State to place noncitizens in any of the communities.

And just to follow up on the article that was read by the Representative regarding the Office of New Americans, the Office of New Americans does not place noncitizens in municipalities. Instead, they work with noncitizens and new citizens to help them with workforce pathways, entrepreneurship, any supports that they need now that they are living in these municipalities, but they do not place noncitizens in municipalities. That is not true. They do help with English language acquisitions, coordination among organizations that do already support immigration, they help to strengthen, they help to work with school departments, so that they can best provide services for new Mainers, but they do not place citizens in municipalities.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I agree with the Good Representative from Phillips, and I think he's right as far as what the full purpose of this bill is. The main purpose of this bill is to resettle incoming; maybe I like to use the term 'illegals' or some people, other people have different terms for people coming in the State; and this Office of New Americans has not written any rules or regulations regarding its behavior. So, it basically can do what it wants. And my opinion, if a red district is currently red, this is a good way to turn it blue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I'm deeply disappointed that a bill like this would even be before us and before us for discussion.

When I was Mayor of Portland, we used to work not only with the State, but with other parts of the U.S. government to have people come to Portland and welcome them to come to Portland. I have a neighbor down the street, she's a Canadian; or citizenship; not citizenship; but she's Canadian. She lives in

Portland. I have another neighbor from Ireland, who is an Ireland citizen. I also have a neighbor from Sudan. When State government starts to pick and choose who can live in different municipalities within the State of Maine, I would say that is antithetical to Maine values. We should be thinking and looking at legislation that allows us to welcome people to come live in our communities, not to pick and choose who should be able to live in their community. If we start with a bill like this and start to decide who can live in our community, where does it then stop? Who do we go to next? What's the next group of people that we decide should have State approval or municipal approval to live in our communities?

So, I hope that everybody soundly rejects this legislation, because it stands against Maine values.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Houlton, Representative Swallow, having spoken twice requests unanimous consent to address the House for a third time. Hearing no objection, the Representative may proceed.

Representative **SWALLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate you allowing me to rise for a third time. Just clarification: this bill in no way impedes any one individual's movement. This deals with the State and the municipality. As far as anyone moving anywhere in this State of Maine, this bill has nothing to do with that issue. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a cosponsor of this bill, because I have great concerns.

I represent 47 communities who are all very small. And when we're talking about people moving into communities, that can be a great strain. We have to be very careful that the people already living in those communities aren't going to be taxed out and will have to leave, because others are coming in who have not lived here their whole lives.

We are a welcoming state and as the Good Representative who just spoke; I'm sorry, I cannot remember the town that he's from; when we're looking at this, you can be very welcoming, but if you're so welcoming that you're using between 80 and 90 percent of the General Assistance in the entire State because you're doing so, there is a concern. It affects everyone.

This bill merely asks that, as we're bringing in 75,000 new people per the Chief Executive's order that she put in, that municipalities are informed. I recall last; I believe it was just last year, it may have been earlier; where Sanford had many people that showed up suddenly; they were not prepared for them. This is making sure that municipalities are aware before people are brought into their communities and that they are able to absorb the number of people that are being brought in. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CIMINO**: My question is, I heard a comment at length about the people that are coming in, like, for instance, to Portland, and the Representative from; I guess he's from Portland; had mentioned that he had somebody who was in from Ireland and somebody who was in from other countries. My question would be that, if his neighbor from Ireland was; if he were here illegally, or if his neighbor who's here from Ireland were legal? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Roeder.

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ROEDER**: In reviewing the wording of this bill, the 'State;' I'm using air quotes, I apologize; is not defined, and it seems to be quite broad. So, my question is whether or not the State extends to the University of Maine and the number of international students that they would be bringing in, which I recognize is probably an overwhelming number for a town as small as Orono. Thank you.

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

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. 128

YEA - 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, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Abdi, Arata, Campbell, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Lavigne, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 65; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 65 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.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-111)** on Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program (H.P. 392) (L.D. 624)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias

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

Signed:

Representative:

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

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

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

Representative TUELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to pose a series of questions through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative TUELL: My questions are: How many studies are being proposed this year? How many will come off the Study Table, and do you have guidance as to how Committees should prioritize those studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-111)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-111)** 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-138)** on Bill "An Act to Designate January 6th as A Day to Remember and to Preserve the Accounts of Witnesses to the Events of January 6, 2021" (H.P. 441) (L.D. 702)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Macias.

Representative **MACIAS**: Mr. Speaker, I've been waiting for years to talk about this. I'm grateful to be able to do that today.

When I was young, I spent a lot of time confined to my room until it was cleaned up. Luckily, there was an old volume of *Encyclopedia Britannica* on the shelf, and I would lose myself in its pages. I read about world history, science and other events, such as the World Wars and the weapons, ships and aircraft we used to fight them. My father was a Cold War submariner. He often hinted at stories he couldn't tell me, things he said would be declassified someday. I joined the U.S. Navy at 17, following in his footsteps. Like him, I became an Electronic Technician and went to Nuclear Power School. I even had orders to a submarine.

In 2006, I was serving in Afghanistan, just outside Kabul, when I got word that my father had passed away. I never did get to hear his stories. He never wrote them down. Now those stories are gone, like they never happened. That experience taught me a truth I've never forgotten; if we don't write history down, we risk losing it forever. There's a phrase from history that comes to mind, 'to the victor belong the spoils.' I always thought it came from some victorious General, but it was actually a U.S. Senator, William Marcy of New York, defending President Andrew Jackson's partisan appointments in 1832. He said, "they see nothing wrong in the rule that to the victor belong the spoils of the enemy." Today, we're seeing something even more

troubling, when history itself becomes one of those spoils. Government websites quietly remove images and documents, stories of heroism, brutality, courage and failure, erased or rewritten to match the language or politics of the moment. And if it's not written down somewhere, it didn't happen.

The final printed volume of *Encyclopedia Britannica* was 12 years ago. That matters. We are losing our commitment to documentation, to fact and to how our history is remembered. This bill was written to record the events as remembered by our Congressional delegation on that day. It has now been amended to commemorate, but not document, those events. I will now document what I saw and felt that day.

For most of my life, I've carried a military ID. I've driven on and off the bases around the world. That ID got me through the gates of the Pentagon, the Capitol and even the White House. I always felt welcome wherever I've been in this country. I've always been afforded a level of safety as a service member. I knew I would not be left behind. I knew that safety for myself and my family was assured. On January 6, 2021, I watched a mob, draped in American flags and tactical gear, smash their way into the United States Capitol. I saw them shove past police, break windows and storm the Chambers where I'd once visited as a service member. They weren't waving the Constitution; they were calling for Congresspeople's heads. They came with zip ties and a gallows. I remember feeling something, an unfamiliar buzz, through my body; dread. I was realizing that safety I'd always believed in provided by our Constitution was conditional.

There are those who don't believe an insurrection really happened that day, and even brought up Black Lives Matter riots as some weird justification for their anger and decision to take back their country. The murder of George Floyd wasn't just a tragedy, it was a nine-minute broadcast of pain; of injustice so obvious, even a nation numb to violence couldn't look away. In response, people marched peaceably in cities across this country, and they were met with military-grade force, tear gas, flashbangs, rubber bullets. I saw peaceful protestors kettled and arrested, and I saw that kind of unrest called un-American. And yet, on January 6th, armed Americans broke into our Capitol building, injured Capitol Police officers, ransacked the halls and Chambers and then were shown the door, orderly, when it was time to leave.

That was my moment of disillusion with America and who we deemed to be safe and sound. I've met the people who marched after George Floyd's murder, I've marched alongside the veterans, the teachers, the parents, clergy. I've listened to Americans who are afraid every time they get pulled over, not because they were speeding, but because they know that a broken tail light might end their life. I've learned how parents give their sons 'the talk,' not about the birds and the bees, but how to stay alive during a traffic stop. Black lives matter, and anyone who says otherwise either doesn't understand or doesn't want to. We've created a system where fear is color-coded, where law and order depend on how you look, where you live and who you're marching for. And now, in this moment, we're watching people, many of them neighbors, coworkers, classmates, being rounded up based on their skin color, their accent or their opinion on injustice. That's how it starts. That's how fascism begins; slowly, then all at once. If we're not willing to name it, we're helping it.

So, I'll say this clearly; if this country continues sliding in that direction, my loyalty to its founding ideals will be on full display. I will protest, I will organize and I will fight not against America, but for it. I've sworn the oath five times in my life to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States

against all enemies, foreign and domestic." That oath doesn't expire.

January 6, 2021, is a day I will never forget. I'm so glad it will be remembered for what it was; a rebuffed coup attempt that was completed four years later. We should write down how it really happened, or else it will be remembered how they want our descendants to believe it. Mr. Speaker, this bill puts that day on the record. Thank you for letting me get it there.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Palermo, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

I am deeply troubled that we are wasting time speaking about January 6th. The people of Maine are focused on the future; trying to pay their electric bills and figure out how to fund their children's education; not dwelling on the past. Yet here we are, reopening wounds from a divisive moment in our nation's history.

For four years, many American people have endured slander, politically motivated court cases and fabricated narratives aimed at tearing our country apart. The November election where voters overwhelmingly chose Donald Trump as our 47th President was a clear mandate to move forward with governance, not divisive rhetoric. On January 6th, hundreds of thousands of good, American patriots gathered in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the final days of President Trump's first term. They came with no ill intent, no plans for violence, but out of patriotism, love for their country and support for our President. I cannot stand by while this bill passes with only one side of the story looking to be told and memorializing claims that January 6th was a premeditated attack or that only members of Congress suffered on that day. Good Americans lost their lives on that day as well. Ashli Babbitt was murdered that day. Video shows she was not an aggressor when she was shot point blank. Roseanne Boyland was shot in the face by a police projectile and then pushed down and smothered to death. Others were physically harmed and received no special investigation or even acknowledgment of the pain they endured.

Also, in the aftermath of that day, patriotic citizens who caused no injury were imprisoned without due process. Over 1,500 individuals faced charges in what can only be described as a witch hunt led by the Biden Administration and a corrupt FBI. Many of those convicted endured solitary confinement and mental anguish in conditions resembling a *gulag* on American soil. They received punishments far disproportionate to their actions. Have you ever heard the recording of those imprisoned singing the National Anthem together for 700 straight nights? It will send shivers through your spine to hear the fathers and the sons of our country sing in harmony, still with deep love for our country.

This bill will only further divide our State and our nation. When Americans cast their vote in November for President Trump, they stated they wanted to move on from the political corruption and bad actors within our republic. Yet some in this Legislature will now push an alienating, one-sided narrative by supporting this bill. LD 702 should never have reached the floor when we still have victims in this State, our neighbors, those in Lewiston that were murdered with no mention of a bill to create a day of remembrance for them.

I urge all to oppose this bill, that we reject memorializing political division and instead work on fostering unity that our country desperately needs.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sidney, Representative Collins.

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because I sense that this bill will come down party lines, I would like to remember a few names from January 6th. Matthew Perna, 37, he died by suicide in February of 2022 while waiting for sentencing. All he did was walk inside the Capitol. Nejorde Meacham, 22, of Utah, died by suicide while waiting for trial. He, too, just stepped inside the Capitol. Christopher Stanton, Georgia, 53, died by suicide, January 2021, shortly after being charged for standing outside of the Capitol grounds the night of January 6th. And finally, Mark Aungst, 47, died by suicide in July of '22, after pleading guilty to simply parading outside the Capitol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack.

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to read what this day of remembrance is: "A Day to Remember. January 6th of each year is designated as A Day to Remember, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation honoring the resilience of democracy during the events of January 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C., encouraging the people of the State to use the day as an opportunity for reflection on the values of democracy, civic responsibility and the importance of protecting constitutional governance and encouraging educational institutions, civic organizations and public libraries to observe the day with discussions, events and programming to educate citizens about the importance of civic engagement and the rule of law." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise today because facts matter.

I went to hear a historic speech by the President at that time, because we as American citizens are allowed to petition our government. On that day, at the end of the speech, Trump came late, an hour late, he stayed long and then he said, 'let's peacefully and patriotically walk down to the Capitol and make our voice heard.' I don't condone violence, I did not that day; I still do not now. But when I was running for reelection, the Majority party put out a statement that I was an insurrectionist, a rioter. Facts matter, Mr. Speaker. I went to hear a speech. I walked down to the Capitol, and there was a police officer in riot gear standing on the building, waving an American flag, saying, 'come on in, this is our house. Come on in, this is our house.' They were trying to incite violence. I didn't go in, I didn't cause any violence, but I was dragged through the mud when I ran for reelection. People calling me a rioter, an insurrectionist. Facts matter. I was hearing a speech. I was making my voice heard. I didn't cause any violence, but that didn't seem to matter to the newspapers or the television. If we have media, they should speak the truth.

While I was down at January 6th, people were texting me, 'oh, my gosh, are you okay? Are you okay?' I'm thinking people are having barbecues, people are singing, it was peaceful. And then people were; there were weapons put out on the steps, there were pitchforks, people were trying to cause violence. These were not the Trump supporters that were there. The doors; you can see videos now; the doors were opened, the magnetic doors opened, let people in, you could see people walking around, taking pictures between the velvet ropes. The AP reached out to me, the *Portland Press Herald* reached out to me, *BDN*, Channel 6, Channel 13. I sent; I put a statement on my page; I sent my response to the media outlets, they chose to

pretend I did not send one. And they said, 'oh, she didn't respond, she's an insurrectionist, she's running for reelection, this is dangerous to democracy, blah-blah-blah.'

Facts matter, Mr. Speaker. I put a timestamp on when I sent the *Portland Press Herald* my statement. They said I didn't; I said I did. They say, 'oh, that was a mistake, it must've gone through my spam filter,' after the piece went out. People were on the news station saying, 'why didn't you, responding to it, why didn't you post Representative Bagshaw's statement?' They chose not to. And I knocked on every door in my district, and I met people face to face, and they said 'oh, you're an insurrectionist.' I said, 'no, I went to go hear an historic speech by the President of the United States,' and I explained myself.

But again, facts matter, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to educate the Body that an insurrection is against a sitting president. On January 6th, who was the sitting president? That was Donald John Trump. So, he didn't make an insurrection against himself. And, you know, this paperwork for this LD says they want to hear from people to memorialize what happened that day; they want to hear from me. So, I went to hear a speech. I was dragged through the mud. We're trying to cause further division, and I don't think we should lie about our political opponents; I don't think we should turn this into something bigger. I mean, unless we're going to memorialize the fact that the people from January 6th who were imprisoned without due process, you know, they were pardoned, okay? So, I don't think, unless we're going to put facts down and state the truth, we shouldn't waste taxpayer dollars with this nonsense. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise today in resolute opposition to this bill, a bill that seeks to redefine the way we commemorate history, yet does so through government-mandated narratives rather than through the free will of independent reflection of the people.

The resiliency of democracy should never be in question, but how we choose to honor it must be deliberate, principled and free from political entanglements. Let me be clear: this legislation does not merely designate a day of remembrance, it actively shapes historical interpretation by tasking the State archivist and the Maine Historical Society with collecting firsthand accounts of January 6, 2021. This is no benign effort to document history. It is a State-sponsored framework for curating the voices that will define the narrative. Who will decide which accounts are preserved? Who will be omitted? What unforeseen forces may guide which testimonies are deemed worthy of inclusion? History must be allowed to develop organically, through the free exchange of ideas, through independent scholarship, and through the voices of those who choose to speak, not through legislative decree.

Furthermore, this bill takes an unprecedented step in making January 6th an annual observance in Maine, a state that was not the epicenter of the event that day. This Act politicizes remembrance, setting a precedent where select events from outside our State could be transformed into statewide commemorations based on shifting political tides. Are we prepared to designate official observances for other controversial moments in our history, dictated not by the wisdom of time, but by emotions of the moment? Even more troubling, this bill directs educational institutions, civic organizations and public libraries to create programming around this event. Our educators should have the autonomy to determine how historical events are taught, not be bound by mandates that preserve them to engage in political framed observances.

Public institutions exist to foster discourse, not to enforce singular interpretations. Mr. Speaker, democracy prevails not because we legislate memorials, but because we trust the people to reflect, to engage and to remember in their own way. January 6th was a day of many meanings for many people. Some saw it as an assault on democratic institutions, others saw it as an expression of political outrage. Historians will study, debate and analyze it for decades. That process should be allowed to unfold without government interference. We must resist the temptation to legislate historical perspective. We must safeguard the principle that remembrance is best left to the people and not dictated by the State.

There was a lot of angst that day and a lot of pressure. Why? Because Joe Biden had received 11 million votes more than the most charismatic and popular president in history, Barack Obama. That caused a lot of angst. What happened? Why? And then you move to 2024, where Kamala Harris received 6.2 million votes less than Joe Biden. Did 6.2 million Democrats walk away from the Democrat Party and refuse to vote in 2024, or were those votes manufactured? The people felt they were duped. We've listened to a lot of conversation about there's doors being opened, things that we've seen already that are debunking this and there are still a lot of questions. But only time will answer those questions, not a legislative decree.

And in closing, I'd just like to say, listening to my colleague earlier say that January 6th was a coup that was completed four years later is; in this sacred hall? Without any proof or any facts to make that kind of a statement? That's unacceptable and I'm disgusted by it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Malon.

The Member will defer. When a Member rises to speak, if that Member is near the other Member, the Member should defer from leaving the Chamber until the Member has an opportunity to speak. The Member may proceed.

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Facts do matter, and I, too, am disgusted.

Here are some facts which matter, Mr. Speaker. Donald Trump did win the 2024 election. It was a free and fair election in which the votes were cast by Americans, they are counted and he was the winner. I don't like it, but I accept it, because it's a fact. Joe Biden won the 2020 election for the same reasons. The American people voted, because they had the freedom to vote, their votes were counted and the results were what they were. That is also a fact. Why were the results between the parties in 2020 and 2024 different? Because things change. Political opinions change. Voters change. Voting behavior changes. Who turns out changes. This is something that happens and that is a fact as well. And the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the indisputable fact was that people rioted and attacked the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, because they couldn't accept the fact that Donald Trump lost and Joe Biden won. Members of Congress –

Representative **THORNE**: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to the Representative from Carmel's Point of Order.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Representative does not speak for the factual intellect of every person that was there that day. For him to assume and speak for everyone as to their motives is no better than if he spoke to our motives here in the Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member's remarks are in order. The Member may proceed.

Representative **MALON**: You're right, I do not know the mindset of every single person who attacked the Capitol on January 6, 2021, but many still did. And if we're going to put names into the record, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to put the name of Officer Brian Sicknick of the United States Capitol Police, who died of a stroke after having been assaulted by two individuals who were charged for their crimes; I do not know if they were among the individuals who this current president pardoned; but it does not change the fact that they did what they did.

History matters. How we speak to our history matters, Mr. Speaker. Simply remembering that this happened, without casting aspersions on individuals and whatever might have motivated them that day, does not threaten us and it is not an attack on any Member of this institution, nor an attack on anybody who voted for someone who I did not vote for. The fact of the matter is, sometimes we win elections, and sometimes we lose elections and I accept that fact. I believe it's important to remember what happened that day, because we all saw it with our own eyes. Members of Congress who supported Donald Trump condemned it that day, because they saw it with their own eyes and many of them feared for their lives as well. There were chants of 'hang Mike Pence,' the Vice President of the United States. This happened, and it was an assault on our democracy, in my opinion.

It's important that we remember, because facts do matter, and the idea, the very notion as was expressed earlier that the police officers of the United States Capitol Police provoked their own attack? It's just more evidence to me that facts matter and that they should be remembered. I support the pending motion.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this debate has just gotten out of control. We're not debating; we're just trading barbs at each other. No matter what side of this you're on, there's not an area in the country that probably has more cameras and more documented evidence of what happened that day on January 6th.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever truly a debate where we're not changing a vote or convincing each other, it's this one. We're just; it's becoming just mean and nasty at each other. And I would just encourage the Members in here to end this debate, take it to social media, take it outside, take it wherever you need to take it to go with this, but we're not convincing each other in here, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage the Members that feel heated and feel the need to speak to just press their button and let it end and let your vote do your talking for you. And let's end this debate and move on to; not the work of three years ago in the District of Columbia, but the work that we need to do today, Mr. Speaker, because we have public hearings and work sessions and real work that we need to get to, Mr. Speaker, both sides. So, I would encourage; certainly, the members of my caucus if they're up there lit up on your screen; please press your button and end this debate and move on with you; let your vote do your talking for you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **MOVED THE PREVIOUS QUESTION**.

More than one-third of the members present expressed a desire that the **MAIN QUESTION BE PUT NOW**.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION**.

A vote of the House was taken. 100 voted in favor of the same and 4 against, and accordingly **THE PREVIOUS QUESTION** was **MOVED**.

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. 129

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, 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, Walker, White J, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Caruso, Crockett, Doudera, Fredericks, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 65; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-138)** 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-138)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal Certain Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements"

(H.P. 220) (L.D. 320)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
BISHOP of Bucksport
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
MONTELL of Gardiner
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-118)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

WHITE of Guilford

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 316) (L.D. 487)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
BISHOP of Bucksport
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-117)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Representative:

MONTELL of Gardiner

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas"

(H.P. 817) (L.D. 1242)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
BISHOP of Bucksport
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-116)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

MONTELL of Gardiner
RAY of Lincolnville

READ.

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

Six Members of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-115)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits"

(H.P. 361) (L.D. 542)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias

READ.

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: I reluctantly rise and ask for a Roll Call, and I will promise that I've only asked one Member from my side to speak.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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 New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as I knocked on doors last summer to talk to voters, their number one concern; which even brought some people to tears; was property taxes.

We need to pass this bill and restore the property tax limit. Taxes should not increase faster than incomes do. The original tax limit was a miracle of bipartisanship. In 2005, a bipartisan working group was established to address the problem of unaffordable tax growth. After dozens of meetings, the group presented LD 1 to the Legislature, which included many compromises to accomplish the shared goals of efficient, affordable and effective government at the State and local levels. And one of these compromises was the property tax levy limit. This bill was supported by all but two Democrats in both Chambers, so, they must have had a good deal. If you look up the Roll Call for LD 1 in the 122nd Legislature, you'll see many familiar names, including our current State Treasurer Perry, then-Representative Troy Jackson, Senator Rotundo and then-Representative Janet Mills.

The property tax levy limit was a very reasonable, bipartisan law that limited property tax growth to the percentage of average personal income growth plus the percentage of new property in the municipality. This makes sense, because taxes should not increase faster than your income does. There are reasonable exceptions to the limit for emergencies such as natural disorders and fluctuations in State or federal funding, and the voters can vote to exceed the limit, which they often do. And this particular bill defers from the original limit in that it excludes assessments for schools and counties, which a municipality can't control.

So, this bill would give power back to the local voters who trusted us enough to send us here, and I ask that you oppose this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Hepler.

Representative **HEPLER**: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in support of the pending motion on LD 542.

I'm in my 14th year on the Woolwich Select Board and have created and helped manage 14 budgets. While I had attended Town Meetings prior to my election, it was in 2012 when I first encountered what was fondly known as LD 1. It was mystifying to me that there was a mysterious State formula that told Woolwich how much we could raise and appropriate. To exceed that required a written ballot of approval from all Town Meeting participants. It has always passed. Always. Townspeople were persuaded that the Select Board had created a budget that was reasonable and what our town needed. There's always debate, and there's always questions about our warrant articles, our votes are not always unanimous, but Town Meeting always votes overwhelmingly to exceed the tax levy.

Here's at least one problem with a levy limit formula. We always use money from our undesignated fund balance to help reduce our taxes. We seek advice from our auditor every year for a prudent amount. That money is not part of the funding formula for LD 1, so, it is a seriously flawed number, in my opinion.

There are other shortcomings as well, including the fact that the growth factor is a statewide number and not tailored to each region of the State. When I got elected to this Body, the Select Board asked me to find out more about LD 1. I was told something about how LD 1 keeps towns from being wild over-spenders. Keep in mind that by this time, the State Planning Office had been abolished, so, there was literally nowhere to report our vote on this. Sometime during my time here, the Legislature did away with the written ballot requirement, but it is hard to defend continuing to explain why we go through this process when there is still nowhere to report the outcome of this vote. Frankly, I'm not even sure to whom the consequences of a no vote would be reported.

What bothers me the most about this requirement is the assumption that towns, if left to their own devices, are wild over-spenders. First, we are not. I'm proud to say that in Woolwich, our mill rate was flat for three years in a row, and this mill rate included increases in the county and school budgets over which towns have no control. And second, if we do start acting like wild over-spenders, there are a couple of significant checks on our behavior. One, our townspeople will amend and reduce the warrant amounts and vote for those reduced amounts at Town Meeting. Two, our residents will vote one or several of us out. That's how democracy in our Town Meetings works.

Finally, some have said that last year's elimination of LD 1 caused tax increases in many municipalities. This is not true, because municipal budgets last year were finalized before we passed the repeal. LD 1 is an unnecessary step for towns that will make no difference in how we run our government. Please support this motion. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 130

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, 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, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Doudera, Fredericks, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 79; No, 62; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.
79 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** 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. 51) (L.D. 33) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Fantasy Contests" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-50)**

(S.P. 80) (L.D. 144) Bill "An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-46)**

(S.P. 118) (L.D. 251) Bill "An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Information of Individual Customers of a Public Utility" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-49)**

(S.P. 396) (L.D. 907) Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-51)**

(H.P. 985) (L.D. 1501) Bill "An Act to Extend the Time Frame for a Chiropractic Intern License" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1121) (L.D. 1686) Bill "An Act to Clarify, Align and Amend Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 3) (L.D. 39) Bill "An Act to Require Forest Landowners to Report the Registration or Sale of Their Forest Carbon Credits" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-125)**

(H.P. 19) (L.D. 55) Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Accrual of Earned Paid Leave" Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-137)**

(H.P. 42) (L.D. 78) Bill "An Act to Require Elementary School Students to Learn Cursive Writing" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-113)**

(H.P. 46) (L.D. 82) Bill "An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely the Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder" Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-134)**

(H.P. 102) (L.D. 169) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Estate Recovery and Planning for Long-term Care" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-129)**

(H.P. 186) (L.D. 286) Bill "An Act to Allow County Commissioners Greater Flexibility When Establishing a Payment Schedule for Municipalities to Pay County Tax Bills" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-112)**

(H.P. 433) (L.D. 665) Bill "An Act Regarding the Use of Military Protective Orders in Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Proceedings" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-130)**

(H.P. 502) (L.D. 777) Bill "An Act to Standardize the Muzzle-loading Season Statewide" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-109)**

(H.P. 513) (L.D. 806) Bill "An Act to Amend the Scope of Practice for Expanded Function Dental Assistants" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-119)**

(H.P. 560) (L.D. 874) Bill "An Act to Provide Relief to Federal or State Employees Affected by a Federal Government or State Government Shutdown" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-121)**

(H.P. 574) (L.D. 888) Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Survivors of Veterans" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-143)**

(H.P. 839) (L.D. 1264) Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-110)**

(H.P. 851) (L.D. 1276) Bill "An Act to Align Intrastate Commercial Motor Vehicle Insurance Requirements with Federal Standards" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-122)**

(H.P. 1092) (L.D. 1651) Bill "An Act to Remove the Term 'Alleged' When Referring to Victims of Sexual Assault in the Maine Revised Statutes" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-142)**

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

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

(H.P. 173) (L.D. 270) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 850: Health Plan Accountability, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)**

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

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

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The board doesn't necessarily reflect 7-12, I don't think.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues of the House, I rise today to request a Roll Call.

Representative **CLUCHEY** of Bowdoinham **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous 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 Member may proceed.

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues of the House, I rise today in support of LD 270, a straightforward but important bill that protects individuals engaged in the legal and often difficult work of reviewing health insurance claims.

This legislation was brought forward by the Bureau of Insurance in response to a horrifying and tragic event: the murder of a United Healthcare executive. That act of violence underscored the real and growing threat to people who are simply doing their jobs, within the bounds of the law and often under intense public scrutiny. Under current law, health insurance reviewers can be identified by name and title, which leaves them vulnerable to harassment, intimidation and, in the worst cases, violence. This bill would change that, ensuring that the name and title of the reviewer are not disclosed while still allowing claimants to verify that the review was conducted by a peer with the appropriate level of training and education.

Mr. Speaker, this is about protecting people who are participating in a lawful, regulated process, people who are increasingly at risk simply for doing their jobs. As online threats and extremist behavior escalate, it is our responsibility as legislators to protect the safety of Mainers, even when the work they do might be unpopular or misunderstood. Passing this bill is one small but meaningful step we can take to ensure that no one fears for their life for following the law and fulfilling their professional duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to support this bill.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this unanimous Committee Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I rise also in support of this unanimous Committee Report.

I think we all were horrified when we watched the events back in December and the ensuing, what seems to be hero status assigned to Luigi Mangione for cowardly murdering a health care executive. This bill is in place; this was brought forward to maintain the confidentiality of those that choose to deny; those that end up issuing a denial in a health insurance situation. There are processes for appeal and so forth, but I think we all can agree that violence is not the answer, and this bill was brought forward, this rule was brought forward, to address that issue. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 131

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

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Abdi, Bishop, Doudera, Eder, Fredericks, Hall, Hymes, Jackson, Lanigan, Lookner, Mason, Skold, Wadsworth, Wood P.

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 **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)** and sent for concurrence.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act Regarding the Establishment of Fees and Fee Caps for Dental Provider Licensing and Permits

(H.P. 302) (L.D. 448)

(C. "A" H-82)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 111 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution

(H.P. 414) (L.D. 646)

(C. "A" H-98)

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. 94 voted in favor of the same and 39 against, and accordingly the Resolve **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products

(S.P. 527) (L.D. 1297)

(C. "A" S-42)

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. 84 voted in favor of the same and 51 against, and accordingly the Resolve **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act Regarding School Enrollment for Military-connected Students

(S.P. 48) (L.D. 31)

(C. "A" S-36)

An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments

(H.P. 75) (L.D. 110)

(C. "A" H-93)

An Act to Expand the Definition of "Terrorism" in the Laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency

(H.P. 147) (L.D. 224)

(C. "A" H-97)

An Act to Employ Mental Health Personnel Within the Maine State Police

(H.P. 198) (L.D. 298)

(C. "A" H-94)

An Act Regarding Confidential Information Gathered for Forest Fire Emergency Response and Planning

(S.P. 138) (L.D. 379)

An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Lottery Winner Identities

(H.P. 258) (L.D. 404)

(C. "A" H-89)

An Act to Support Municipal Public Health

(H.P. 418) (L.D. 650)

(C. "A" H-92)

An Act to Support the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

(S.P. 310) (L.D. 693)

(C. "A" S-39)

An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center

(S.P. 341) (L.D. 783)

(C. "A" S-34)

An Act to Establish a Waiver Process from the Permit Requirements for the Use of Explosives in Recreational or Hobby Mining Activities

(S.P. 360) (L.D. 795)
(C. "A" S-38)

An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

(H.P. 536) (L.D. 850)
(C. "A" H-85)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Powers and Responsibilities of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority

(H.P. 610) (L.D. 945)
(C. "A" H-83)

An Act to Reinvigorate Maine's Workforce and Ensure Student Job Readiness by Providing Funds for the Career Exploration Program

(H.P. 627) (L.D. 967)
(C. "A" H-84)

An Act to Authorize the Display of an Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal Decal on a Special Veterans License Plate and Authorize Certain Other Service Members to Receive Special Commemorative Decals

(S.P. 545) (L.D. 1315)
(C. "A" S-43)

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.

Resolve

Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Nonconforming Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways

(S.P. 498) (L.D. 1209)
(C. "A" S-41)

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

The Speaker inquired if there was objection to sending all matters having been acted upon **FORTHWITH**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **OBJECTED** to sending all matters **FORTHWITH**.

On motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 527) (L.D. 1297)
(C. "A" S-42)

FAILED FINAL PASSAGE.

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

Representative FAULKINGHAM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand for a minute to speak in favor of the pending motion and give some recognition to the Committee work. We say that a lot, I hear that especially from my side of the aisle; we don't like to see Committee work be thrown to the wayside. That's what our Committees are there for, to iron these bills out and do that work for us.

This bill has a unanimous Report, Mr. Speaker. A unanimous Report. I encourage Members to take a look at the bill and the work of the Committee and support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative FREDETTE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I voted in the negative on the previous vote, I appreciate the opportunity to reconsider that. I'll be voting in the affirmative this time around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 98 voted in favor of the same and 40 against, and accordingly the Resolve **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Establish the Corrections Ombudsman"
(S.P. 769) (L.D. 1962)

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 Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 770) (L.D. 1963)

Bill "An Act to Require the Development of a Standard Written Disclosure for Sellers and Installers of Distributed Generation Resources, to Make Changes to Other Standard Disclosures and to Make Misrepresentation in the Sale of Electricity Products an Unfair Trade Practice"

(S.P. 771) (L.D. 1964)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to the Licensure of Certain Facilities by the Department of Health and Human Services"

(S.P. 768) (L.D. 1961)

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

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

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 772) (L.D. 1965)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections"

(S.P. 773) (L.D. 1977)

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

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

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

On motion of Representative FROST of Belgrade, the House adjourned at 2:33 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Michael Frederick Estrada of Rome.