

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
19th Legislative Day
Thursday, May 22, 2025

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

Prayer by Honorable Anne P. Graham, North Yarmouth.

National Anthem by Greely High School Madrigals, Cumberland.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, May 20, 2025 was read and approved.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR
First Day

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

(S.P. 718) (L.D. 1836) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission Regarding Tier II Offenses" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 20) (L.D. 8) Bill "An Act Regarding the Term of Appointment of Judicial Officers" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-106)**

(S.P. 33) (L.D. 20) Bill "An Act Regarding the First Judicial District and the District Court Locations in the Judicial Divisions of Androscoggin and Western Aroostook" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-105)**

(S.P. 37) (L.D. 23) Bill "An Act to Extend the Period of Time a Dentist May Operate the Practice of a Deceased or Incapacitated Dentist" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-87)**

(S.P. 42) (L.D. 27) Bill "An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Licensing and Permitting Laws" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-108)**

(S.P. 84) (L.D. 197) Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-126)**

(S.P. 89) (L.D. 202) Bill "An Act to Increase the Number of Children a Family Child Care Provider May Care for Without Having to Be Licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-101)**

(S.P. 105) (L.D. 239) Bill "An Act to Allow Retail Pharmacies to Operate Remote Dispensing Sites in Rural Areas" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-85)**

(S.P. 142) (L.D. 356) Bill "An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-88)**

(S.P. 162) (L.D. 370) Bill "An Act to Raise the Minimum State Standard for Mathematics Education for a High School Diploma" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-109)**

(S.P. 176) (L.D. 390) Bill "An Act to Raise the Contribution Cap for Unenrolled Candidates" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-117)**

(S.P. 191) (L.D. 458) Bill "An Act to Improve Court Procedure and Update Family Law" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-104)**

(S.P. 221) (L.D. 503) Bill "An Act Regarding the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-110)**

(S.P. 202) (L.D. 550) Bill "An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands-on Experiential Learning in Public Schools" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-91)**

(S.P. 241) (L.D. 562) Bill "An Act to Update Reimbursement Rates for Transportation of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes When the Transport is at the Request of the Chief Medical Examiner" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-103)**

(S.P. 277) (L.D. 593) Bill "An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-83)**

(S.P. 291) (L.D. 758) Resolve, to Update Flood Mapping in the Sandy River Watershed to Federal Emergency Management Agency Standards Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-89)**

(S.P. 348) (L.D. 788) Bill "An Act to Promote an Innovation-driven Economy by Increasing Research and Development Spending" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-120)**

(S.P. 487) (L.D. 1198) Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-90)**

(S.P. 536) (L.D. 1306) Bill "An Act to Continue the Exemption for Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Containers Repackaged at Wholesale" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-92)**

(S.P. 555) (L.D. 1340) Bill "An Act to Establish the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-116)**

(S.P. 556) (L.D. 1341) Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobsters or Scallops from a Single Vessel Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-115)**

(S.P. 552) (L.D. 1413) Bill "An Act to Amend Laws Governing Hearing Aid Dealers and Health Insurance to Allow an Exception to Certain Hearing Examination Requirements" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-86)**

(S.P. 612) (L.D. 1528) Bill "An Act to Support Farmland Conservation" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-84)**

(S.P. 634) (L.D. 1550) Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules to Protect Water Quality by Reducing Nutrient Pollution from Septic Systems Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-102)**

(H.P. 15) (L.D. 51) Bill "An Act to Increase Oversight of Fatalities of and Serious Injuries to Adults Subject to Public Guardianship" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-208)**

(H.P. 66) (L.D. 101) Bill "An Act Regarding Public Records and Fees for Requesting Public Records from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-231)**

(H.P. 90) (L.D. 157) Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-232)**

(H.P. 200) (L.D. 300) Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-201)**

(H.P. 266) (L.D. 412) Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale or Provision of Self-administered Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Kits" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-246)**

(H.P. 347) (L.D. 528) Bill "An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-250)**

(H.P. 365) (L.D. 546) Resolve, to Require the Preparation of Preapproved Building Types Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-235)**

(H.P. 372) (L.D. 604) Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Concurrent Methadone Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-239)**

(H.P. 449) (L.D. 710) Bill "An Act to Expand Access and Reduce Barriers to Access to Naloxone Hydrochloride and Other Opioid Overdose-reversing Medications" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-207)**

(H.P. 475) (L.D. 733) Bill "An Act to Make Changes to the Law Based on a Pilot Project Conducted by the Maine State Housing Authority Regarding Efforts to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Renters" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-236)**

(H.P. 534) (L.D. 848) Bill "An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program" Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-216)**

(H.P. 546) (L.D. 860) Bill "An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide Certain Information to the Public Advocate" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-204)**

(H.P. 671) (L.D. 1042) Bill "An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Passengers Under 13 Years of Age Wear Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-233)**

(H.P. 748) (L.D. 1129) Bill "An Act to Clarify Standards for Defendants' Post-judgment Motions for Relief from Protection from Abuse Orders" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-245)**

(H.P. 782) (L.D. 1177) Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-240)**

(H.P. 827) (L.D. 1252) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-249)**

(H.P. 828) (L.D. 1253) Bill "An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-219)**

(H.P. 857) (L.D. 1322) Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Enhance Youth Hunting Participation Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-202)**

(H.P. 871) (L.D. 1336) Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-234)**

(H.P. 935) (L.D. 1426) Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-206)**

(H.P. 945) (L.D. 1436) Bill "An Act to Update and Clarify Provisions Related to 9-1-1 Services" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-203)**

(H.P. 987) (L.D. 1503) Bill "An Act to Create a Green Crab Only Wholesale Dealer License" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-221)**

(H.P. 1010) (L.D. 1525) Bill "An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-248)**

(H.P. 1222) (L.D. 1827) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Requests" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-244)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes

(S.P. 470) (L.D. 1139)
(C. "A" S-80)

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. 107 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Expand the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses a Liquor Manufacturer May Be Issued

(S.P. 597) (L.D. 1456)
(C. "A" S-77)

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

Acts

An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Education
(H.P. 50) (L.D. 86)

An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws
(H.P. 188) (L.D. 288)
(C. "A" H-147)

An Act to Improve Family Court Procedure
(S.P. 222) (L.D. 504)
(C. "A" S-79)

An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Elections
(H.P. 368) (L.D. 600)
(C. "A" H-145)

An Act to Provide Funding to Reduce Stigma for Parents Seeking Support
(H.P. 689) (L.D. 1060)
(C. "A" H-149)

An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income
(H.P. 702) (L.D. 1080)
(C. "A" H-86)

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, Directing the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Distance Learning Programs at the University of Maine School of Law

(S.P. 170) (L.D. 375)
(C. "A" S-78)

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Change of Committee

Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund"

(S.P. 542) (L.D. 1312)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs"

(S.P. 631) (L.D. 1547)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, we're working on week nine now, folks. Still no emergency other than feeling like this is completely political and passing of a bad budget. So, once again, I'm going to ask if somebody could ask the Chief Executive what the actual emergency that we are back here for. Thank you.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Be Designated as School Health Advisors"

(S.P. 352) (L.D. 828)

Majority (10) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 14, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (3) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-74)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker **FECTEAU** of Biddeford moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 to Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 163

YEA - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout,

Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

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

ABSENT - Collamore, Griffin, Lanigan, Mingo, Osher, Rana, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 66; No, 77; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

66 having voted in the affirmative and 77 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant Municipal Debt"

(S.P. 430) (L.D. 1013)

Minority (6) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 14, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-72)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Improve Training Opportunities for Law Enforcement Officers"

(H.P. 407) (L.D. 639)

Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 20, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-162)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker **FECTEAU** of Biddeford moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative **NUTTING** of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 to Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 164

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Sachs, Salisbury, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Collamore, Griffin, Mingo, Osher, Rana, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 76; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire how the Representative from Wales would like to be recorded.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Mr. Speaker, I rise with a question, and the Good Representative from Oakland was standing, trying to explain the Recede and Concur motion. He was denied the opportunity to speak, but I need to follow the steps of the bill here. Mr. Speaker --

The SPEAKER: The Representative will defer. The vote had been open; the Member requested a Roll Call, the Member did not request to speak, the Member was not back in queue, so, the vote was opened. Unfortunately, if I had known he wanted to speak, I would have provided him the opportunity, obviously.

The Member did not record their vote, they're in the Chamber, the Member must record their vote, so, I'm inquiring as to how you would like to be recorded on this Roll Call.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: To Recede and Concur would put it in the posture of where the Other Body left it; is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. The Other Body accepted the Ought to Pass as Amended Report.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: I will vote no.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Wales will be recorded as no. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oakland, Representative Nutting.

Representative **NUTTING**: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said just now.

The SPEAKER: The Chair informed the Body that on Roll Call No. 164, Recede and Concur on LD 639, the motion of Recede and Concur prevailed 76 to 68. The Representative was in queue to speak.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oakland, Representative Nutting.

Representative **NUTTING**: Do you mean after the fact? You're inviting me to speak on the vote that's already on?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that the Member was lit up in queue just now.

Representative **NUTTING**: The story is that I tried to press my button. I realize that you didn't see it. I had --

The SPEAKER: The Representative will defer. The Representative may proceed.

Representative **NUTTING**: I understand that although I pressed my button after I asked for a Roll Call, perhaps I didn't register or you didn't see it, I don't have a problem with that. My speech no longer matters, because it's a moot issue that Recede and Concur has succeeded. So, I'm fine. If you're fine, I'm fine.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In deference to my Colleague, I'd like to move to Reconsider.

Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECONSIDER** the House's action whereby the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Reconsider whereby the House voted to Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 165

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Salisbury, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, 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, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Collamore, Griffin, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 78; No, 67; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Oakland, Representative Nutting.

Representative **NUTTING**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day in this Chamber, the House by a slim majority, a bipartisan majority, voted Ought Not to Pass this bill. My goal today was to get a Roll Call and make an ever-so-brief speech. There were no speeches made a couple of days ago in this Chamber. After we defeated the bill, it went to the Other Body, and it was passed. So, we are in Non-concurrence. I don't think this is a good bill, and I was going to speak very briefly on it. Now, having gone through that and given the opportunity to speak, I feel compelled to make the speech of my life. But because of the Calendar and the time, I won't. I will make this a one-minute speech.

If you're voting in this Chamber this morning on this bill, your sheriff is opposed to this bill. The Criminal Justice Academy staff and the Director in Vassalboro are opposed to this bill.

The Basic Law Enforcement Training Program at the Criminal Justice Academy has been going on for a little over 20 years, I believe. In the most recent four sessions, there were less than a dozen people who would've liked to get in, but couldn't. At one time, my son-in-law; who has now passed away; went through the Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro, and if he were here today, he would ask me to tell you that the training they receive in that facility is educational, it is physical and it is one that builds an *esprit de corps*, if you will, or a 'brotherhood,' so that all the law enforcement officers in the State of Maine have the same exact training. They eat together, they exercise together, they learn together and at the end of the day, they stay on campus. It's different than this bill seeks to allow remote learning or different learning abilities throughout the State with the idea of making it easier for someone to get the training to be a law enforcement officer. But I submit to you that it is different. Going to a classroom in Millinocket or Lewiston or Calais is different, because you go to the training, and no matter what the training is, at the end of the day, you get in your car and you go home. The Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro is different; it breeds a team. It makes a group of people who respect one another, and throughout the State of Maine, our law enforcement officers; I believe, and I hope you believe; are in a class by themselves.

I urge you to vote against the Recede and Concur motion, so that we can get to the Insist motion, and I encourage you to vote in a bipartisan fashion, as you did just the other day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Oftentimes when I'm confused on a bill, I go to the bill text, and this one is remarkably simple. All it does is it crosses out the word "residential." This, at its core, really is the difference between a 'must' and a 'may'.

This bill gives the full discretion to the Criminal Justice Academy, the Board of Directors that design the criteria for training police officers in Maine. It puts the ability on them to say, 'what should we do? Should we have a residential or non-residential training option?' Currently, the board has zero discretion to authorize a non-residential training option, as it is the Legislature that must permit the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to allow for such a training. Currently, they do not

want to permit such a training, they do not see that there is a need for it, they do not see that that is proper procedure. To that, I take no position. I take no position as far as whether there is an option or an opportunity where a non-residential training regimen could be completed to provide quality law enforcement training that upholds the very standards set by this Legislature and set by the board.

However, I do not feel that, sitting in these seats, I am the best judgement of whether or not a non-residential training program could be implemented. We have heard from many municipal police departments, including, you know, Auburn and the community college, that say that there are certainly opportunities out there and ways that there could be a non-residential training program that may allow for people with young families that don't have to stay overnight for 18 weeks Monday to Friday. To that, I say I am not the one who needs to make this decision. I believe that it is the Board of Directors of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that has the full understanding and full authority to make that decision, and I feel that the Legislature should delegate that authority to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and let the experts decide if and when there is an alternative method for training police officers in the State of Maine that does not require a full 18-weeks residential facility. I have the trust that the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and their excellent leadership will be able to make that determination and will only do so if they genuinely believe that they can provide the same level of education in a non-residential setting. I don't feel that the Criminal Justice Academy should have to come back to the Legislature to say, 'we now think it's acceptable, we now think we have a good program and let us implement it.' I think the Legislature saying to the Academy, 'you know what, you are the experts, I trust you, I have faith that you will only do what is best for all of the officers in the State of Maine.' And that's why, with my vote, I am saying we can remove the requirement that it must be residential and turn that 'must' into a 'may.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bucksport, Representative Bishop.

Representative **BISHOP**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy; in 2010, I graduated the 18th BLETP, the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program, and I can personally attest to the quality that the Maine Criminal Justice Academy produces for us and the State of Maine. This bill would weaken the quality that we are producing currently and have in the past. The residential portion, hours put in and quality of training received during that time is crucial to the successful training of our police officers, and I would encourage this Body to not discount that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. The last job I had was 24 years as City Manager of Augusta. Under the City Charter, part of my responsibilities included the sworn Director of Public Safety, which put me in the position of responsibility for approving the hiring of God knows how many police officers over that 24 years, and general oversight through the Chief of Police of the department. I, on countless occasions, have been a guest of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for graduation ceremonies, to observe trainings and even, on rare occasion, to conduct a class in the Council-Manager form of government and how it relates to departments like the police department.

I'm a strong believer in the importance of the residential component of the Criminal Justice Academy 18-week training

program. I believe there's already flexibility when it comes to officers or officer candidates who have some serious situation arise. Weekends, typically, people are free to be home, and as a colleague mentioned in earlier discussion about this, men and women committing themselves to a career in law enforcement have to reconcile themselves to the idea that there are going to be extraordinary demands on their time and their ability to spend time with their families. I know there's been a lot of talk over the years about whether it makes sense to modify the requirements and typically good arguments both ways on that, but I think you lose something important when you forego the requirement that comes with the residential component of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. So, I urge my colleagues to take that into consideration as we vote on this matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my Friends and Colleagues in the House. I appreciate the comments of the Representative from Oakland and Augusta and Bucksport and to support them, and I would remind the Body that, you know, it wasn't until 2001 that we had a residential program, that there were non-residential programs prior to that and we unified that under the Maine Criminal Justice Academy BLETP program now, in order to offer the best possible training in the most efficient way and at the best cost, and to make sure that all of our law enforcement officers in the State were trained on the same quality of instruction.

I would also remind the Body that currently, the Maine Criminal Justice Academy relies on volunteer instructors, people like myself that went through the instructor course, and if we start splitting these academies out into different locations, that's going to create quite a strain on the Academy and we're not going to get the same level of expertise as we get now.

I would also, in response to my Good Friend from Readfield there, I would remind him that in 2022, the Board of Directors of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy voluntarily undertook a feasibility study when asked by the Maine Chiefs of Police Association to see if they could offer the same level of training at the same cost with the same efficiency in a non-residential setting, and they determined that it actually would not be feasible. So, to go against his argument that this is simply a 'shall' or 'may' kind of thing, I think the over quarter-million-dollar Fiscal Note attached to this bill would argue against that, and I would ask the Body to Insist on our previous position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LEE**: Mr. Speaker, my city's Chief of Police supports this bill, my city's Manager who used to be our Chief of Police supports this bill. They do so because they're struggling to recruit and retain good candidates to our police department. It's very difficult to staff city police departments in this State right now. They're also well aware of the resources that we have at Central Maine Community College and many other places in this State to provide this service. Please, let's support our cities' police staff and do this thing that almost every other state in the country has done, which is to make these programs non-residential.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as one of probably the two people that helped get this over the line of the Ought Not to Pass the last time we voted for it, I felt I needed to speak. I voted against this measure last Session when I was on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and

I just want to point out, as mentioned earlier and one of the speakers mentioned that we're going to leave this up to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to decide if this was something that was needed or possible, the Maine Criminal Justice Academy provided testimony in opposition to this measure, as they did last Session. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 166

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Salisbury, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Eder, Fredette, Griffin, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 66; No, 78; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

66 having voted in the affirmative and 78 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-97)** on Bill "An Act to Support Informed Community Self-determination in Emergency Medical Services Planning"

(S.P. 266) (L.D. 583)

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

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-97)**.

READ.

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

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-97)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-111)** on Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing Education in the Unorganized Territory"

(S.P. 35) (L.D. 22)

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

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

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

Signed:
Representatives:
BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden

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-111)**.

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" (S-111)** 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-111)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-107)** on Bill "An Act to Increase Support for Statewide Emergency Broadcast Messaging"

(S.P. 309) (L.D. 692)

Signed:
Senators: RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
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:
Representatives:
BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

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-107)**.

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" (S-107)** 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-107)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-96)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds" (S.P. 510) (L.D. 1282)

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

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-96)**.

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" (S-96)** 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-96)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-82)** on Bill "An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers" (S.P. 107) (L.D. 241)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
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:

Representatives:

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

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-82)**.

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" (S-82)** 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-82)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-128)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate" (S.P. 641) (L.D. 1604)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
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

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-128)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-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" (S-128)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-94)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Financial Institutions from Charging Multiple Fees for Attempted Withdrawals Involving Insufficient Funds"

(S.P. 78) (L.D. 142)

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 Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

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-94)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-94)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-94)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-122)** on Bill "An Act Establishing the Maine Common Interest Ownership Act" (S.P. 301) (L.D. 760)

Signed:
Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-123)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
EDER of Waterboro

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-122)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-122)** 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-122)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers from Hidden Fees and Ensure Transparent Pricing for Live Event Tickets and Short-term Lodging"

(S.P. 426) (L.D. 992)

Signed:
Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

CURRY of Waldo

Representative:

JULIA of Waterville

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-98)** on Bill "An Act to Update Certain Medical Examiner Fees" (S.P. 116) (L.D. 249)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

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-98)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-98)** 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-98)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-113)** on Bill "An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Part B Premiums for Certain Retired State Employees" (S.P. 205) (L.D. 467)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot

RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

ARCHER of Saco

BECK of South Portland

MACIAS of Topsham

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-113)**.

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-113)** 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-113)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Children to Participate in Beano Games Conducted by Nonprofit Charitable Organizations" (S.P. 368) (L.D. 835)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec

DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor

FAIRCLOTH of Bangor

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MALON of Biddeford

TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-93)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
HYMES of Waldo

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Make Student Transfer Agreements Renew Automatically Except in Certain Circumstances"

(H.P. 141) (L.D. 218)

Signed:
Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
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 to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)** on Bill "An Act to Fund Staff Support for the State Board of Education"

(H.P. 223) (L.D. 323)

Signed:
Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:
Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden

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-209)** 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-209)** 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-210)** on Resolve, to Create a Working Group on the Status of School Libraries and on Public Libraries in Maine

(H.P. 926) (L.D. 1404)

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 Resolve.

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 Resolve was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-210)** 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-210)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Ownership of 6 Percent or More or Control of a Public Utility by an Entity Providing Aid to a Foreign Terrorist Organization" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 765) (L.D. 1160)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
FOSTER of Dexter
GEIGER of Rockland
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
RUNTE of York
WADSWORTH of Hiram
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-247)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representative:

KESSLER of South Portland

READ.

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

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

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the enemies of America are growing in wealth and in power, and the shadow of their misdeeds are descending upon the present era like a poisonous fog, seeping into every crack and every crevice of the global order, weakening democracy's hegemony and wreaking havoc in almost every quarter of American life.

These threats are no longer speculative. Powerful regimes are actively deploying instruments of subversion. Russia, China, Iran, North Korea are all at the digital gate, not with armies, but with cunning and elaborate sabotage. In 2022, Chinese companies were caught purchasing land near U.S. military installations. Not for any legitimate enterprising, but for surveillance; strategic proximity. These weren't isolated incidents, but part of a coordinated campaign of encroachment. At the same time, Russian and Iranian-backed hackers have probed and penetrated power grids, water systems and communications infrastructure all over the country. These are not acts of aggression in any contemporary sense, but a new form of warfare where the battlefield is digital and the targets are you, me and seemingly everybody else.

And meanwhile, foreign propaganda machines are polluting the minds of a whole generation of American kids on apps like TikTok, undermining democratic values, eroding the truth and fueling political tensions in the entire Western world. Thanks to stalwart reporting from the *Maine Wire*, we now know about hundreds of illegal marijuana grow operations scattered across rural Maine, bankrolled by Chinese criminal syndicates and mob-backed money. These people are well organized, they're well-funded and they're smart.

Mr. Speaker, that's why this bill matters. Because while the State does not possess the power to dictate the affairs of nations, we do get to decide who runs our utilities. We bear a solemn responsibility to protect our people and to act prudently, justly and with foresight in defending the vital systems instituted for the common good. This legislation sends a clear message to America's enemies, wherever they may be, that those systems are not for sale and they never will be. For these reasons, I oppose the motion, I urge the Body to do so likewise, and I respectfully request a division of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative CARLOW of Buxton **REQUESTED** a division on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to support the Majority Report that is put forward before this Body.

This bill, while perhaps well intentioned, in its operation is not feasible. What qualifies as a terrorist organization; and indeed, what constitutes giving aid; is properly a question of federal law. The bill requires that our own Public Utilities Commission here in Maine; while well suited, Mr. Speaker, to doing many investigations, making determinations about whether an entity or an individual investor has provided material aid to a foreign terrorist organization; they believed was beyond their scope, as did the majority of the Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand in support of the motion and agree with my Good Friend from Freeport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

A vote of the House was taken. 97 voted in favor of the same and 18 against, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-241)** on Bill "An Act to Create a Direct Investment Pilot Project Under the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator"

(H.P. 1135) (L.D. 1700)

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-241)** 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-241)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-237)** on Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing"

(H.P. 72) (L.D. 107)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CIMINO of Bridgton
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
OLSEN of Raymond

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

Signed:

Representative:

MORRIS of Turner

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-237)** 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-237)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-227)** on Bill "An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine"

(H.P. 409) (L.D. 641)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
ROBERTS of South Berwick

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-227)** 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-227)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-228)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce Student Homelessness" (H.P. 489) (L.D. 747)

Signed:
Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:
Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-228)** 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-228)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-229)** on Bill "An Act to Increase Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Voucher Funding to Reduce the Current Partial Waiting List and Increase Housing Vouchers for Persons Living with Mental Health Challenges" (H.P. 490) (L.D. 748)

Signed:
Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:
Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
EDER of Waterboro

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-229)** 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-229)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-230)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funds for the Redevelopment of the Island Nursing Home in Hancock County into Affordable Senior Housing" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 725) (L.D. 1106)

Signed:
Senators:

BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
EDER of Waterboro
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:
Senator:

CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-230)** 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-230)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-220)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the State Workforce Board" (H.P. 51) (L.D. 87)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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" (H-220)** 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-220)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-217)** on Bill "An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport" (H.P. 811) (L.D. 1236)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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" (H-217)** 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-217)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-214)** on Bill "An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry" (H.P. 137) (L.D. 214)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
MOORE of Washington
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

HEPLER of Woolwich
EATON of Deer Isle
FARRIN of Jefferson
GIFFORD of Lincoln
RIELLY of Westbrook
SIMMONS of Waldoboro
STROUT of Harrington
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Norway

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-215)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

GOLEK of Harpswell

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-214)** 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-214)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-226)** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Internet Raffles Conducted by Certain Organizations with Prizes of \$2,500 or Less from Registration and Licensing Requirements"

(H.P. 549) (L.D. 863)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Representative:

HYMES of Waldo

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-226)** 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-226)** and sent for concurrence.

Eight Members of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-222)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Businesses from Refusing to Accept Cash for In-person Payments"

(H.P. 764) (L.D. 1159)

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MINGO of Calais
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
MALON of Biddeford

Two Members of the same Committee report in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-223)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

READ.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-222)** 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-222)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate REAL ID Requirements in Maine"

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

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
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-224)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

MASON of Lisbon
WHITE of Guilford

READ.

Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 167

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lee, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Eder, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Milliken, Paul, Quint, Schmersal-Burgess, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, White J, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Fredette, Griffin, Lanigan, Mingo, Osher, Perkins, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 109; No, 34; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

109 having voted in the affirmative and 34 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Protect Minors from Intoxicating Hemp-derived Products by Regulating Those Products Under the Adult Use Cannabis Laws"

(S.P. 783) (L.D. 1983)

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.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Change of Committee**

Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Resolve, to Create a Tax Incentive Pilot Project to Encourage Businesses to Adopt a 4-day Workweek

(S.P. 735) (L.D. 1865)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

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

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Include Possession of Compounds, Mixtures or Substances Containing a Detectable Amount of Certain Scheduled Drugs to Prove the Offense of Unlawful Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs" (S.P. 329) (L.D. 771)

Signed:
Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ARDELL of Monticello

LAJOIE of Lewiston

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

ABDI of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I; unsurprisingly, probably; rise in opposition to the pending motion.

As someone in recovery from substance use disorder, I've seen the blurring lines between drug possession crimes and drug trafficking crimes has caused immense harm to individuals, families and communities across our State. LD 771 proposes to redefine amphetamine and methamphetamine to include any mixture containing substances, no matter how small the amount. It would allow convictions based on the total weight of the drug mixture rather than the actual amount of the controlled substance. It's a one drop law. One drop of amphetamine in a pound of sugar would be a pound of amphetamine. So, even if added fillers make the drug quantity less lethal, a person is charged based solely on the weight rather than on the potential harm.

Our thresholds for trafficking are already notably lower than other states, which only shows us that our current drug laws do not accurately distinguish possession from personal use and possession with the intent to sell. Maine's threshold for trafficking methamphetamine can be inferred when the total

weight is 14 grams or more. Compare that to the state of Vermont, where the threshold for trafficking methamphetamine is 300 grams, or New Hampshire and Rhode Island, where trafficking starts at an ounce or about 28 grams. In fact, many states use one ounce as their threshold; Maine's is less than half of that.

If LD 771 passes, we will see more people with substance use disorder who have meth for personal use charged as traffickers, more criminal records making it harder for folks to find stable housing and employment if and when they find recovery, which impacts families and communities just as much as it impacts the individual. I agree that we should be holding drug traffickers accountable for distributing drugs for profit. However, we should not be making it easier to charge people who use drugs, which is a symptom of a disease, with a Class B crime, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$20,000. I urge my Colleagues to join me in opposing the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with everything that the Good Representative from Blue Hill said. I thought we recognized that the war on drugs has been an abject failure, and I don't think this will do anything to help anybody get into recovery. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 168

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rudnicki, Runte, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Chapman, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Fredette, Griffin, Lanigan, Mingo, Mitchell, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Update the Provision of Law Concerning Student Codes of Conduct in Order to Reflect Best Practices Regarding Behavioral Threat Assessment and Response"

(S.P. 34) (L.D. 21)

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
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

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

READ.

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

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise in respectful opposition to the pending motion.

As a retired educator, I am deeply concerned about the unintended harm this bill could inflict on the very students it intends to protect. While I fully support the goal of maintaining safe and supportive schools, this bill, by requiring school boards to establish policies for identifying and intervening with students who may pose a threat, risks shifting our schools from environments of care to climates of suspicion. The danger lies in misidentification. Once the label of, quote, 'one who may pose a threat,' is applied, it sticks. It shapes how peers perceive them, how teachers respond to them and perhaps, most damagingly, how they come to see themselves.

It's important to note that Maine law already requires school boards to adopt student codes of conduct aligned with statewide behavior standards. This bill goes further, introducing mandates that may lead to stigmatization, not support; punishment, not prevention. Let us not confuse proactive safety with overreach that can harm vulnerable students. I urge you,

please vote against this mandate. Our students deserve policies rooted in trust, not fear. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly agree with my Colleague from Livermore Falls that schools should be places of learning.

However, this is a Department bill that was brought to us to have student codes of conduct reflect best practices, and we heard from Dr. James Babcock of the Maine School Safety Center at the Department of Education speaking about behavioral threat assessment, and he says, "it provides a balanced and proactive approach to school safety that prioritizes both safety and student well-being." This is very different from profiling. It focuses on "preventative and supportive interventions, behavioral threat assessment that helps schools address the root causes of concerning behavior before they escalate into serious incidents. By implementing behavioral threat assessments, schools can reduce these negative outcomes while maintaining a secure and supportive environment conducive to the learning of all students." This allows people that are known to the student to assess the credibility of threats and respond accordingly. "A key feature is a team-based collaboration, where school-based teams of administrators, mental health specialists," and other school staff work with law enforcement together "to evaluate and respond to the threats of violence. According to the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, most school shootings are preventable through proactive measures such as threat assessment. Schools implementing threat assessment report fewer instances of severe disciplinary actions and increase the ability to intervene before situations escalate." I'd also like to mention, Mr. Speaker, that training and support is provided to districts at no cost. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 169

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

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

ABSENT - Fredette, Griffin, Mingo, Moonen, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 79; No, 65; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland assumed the Chair. The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-112)** on Bill "An Act to Bolster the Maine Teacher Residency Program" (S.P. 313) (L.D. 696)

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

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-112)**.

READ.

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

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **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 PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and People of the House. I rise to speak with appreciation for the intent behind this bill. As a supporter of strong teacher preparation, I recognize the value this program offers in recruiting and retaining high quality educators in our schools. But good intentions must be balanced with fiscal responsibility.

This program was initially launched with a \$1 million federal grant. Those funds have now expired, and we're being asked to commit \$500,000 annually from the State budget.

Indefinitely. At a time when we face significant fiscal challenges and competing priorities, I question whether the ongoing cost of this program should fall to the Maine Department of Education. The University of Maine System already receiving increased funding through the Chief Executive's budget and other pending legislation has the infrastructure and resources to sustain a program it helped develop. If the university sees the value in this initiative, then it should share in the responsibility to fund it.

Let's support our teachers, and let's do so wisely. I urge caution before adding another permanent line to the State's obligations. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair would remind all Members to refer to the Chief Executive as 'the Chief Executive.' The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. It should be no surprise to anybody in this room that Maine is experiencing a critical shortage of professional teachers. This program was originally a pilot that was approved and paid for by the 130th Legislature. It was a pilot program that was originally just for USM to work with Biddeford Public Schools. It was so successful that an additional \$1 million was appropriated and secured by the congressionally directed spending from Senators Collins and King. This is now the premiere educator training program in the State, and it pairs students enrolled in USM educator training programs with mentor teachers in local districts, providing both parties with stipends. Almost 100 teachers have successfully completed this program in 34 districts across the State. Right now, there are 23 residents completing their residencies and teaching right alongside their mentors.

This is for ongoing appropriation of \$500,000, which will make a huge dent in our shortage of professional educators. It makes it possible for more students to pursue careers in education. The residents receive \$3,500 in stipends to defray the costs of their teacher prep tuition, and the mentor teachers; who are doing a lot of work above and beyond their contracted work as professional educators; they receive a \$3,000 stipend that defrays some of their time, and there are things like cohort mentorship workshops that take place for the professional teachers to get together to talk about how they can support their student teachers in the best way possible. This is a very successful program, and we hope; I hope that the Body will follow my light and continue to support it.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: 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. 170

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford,

Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Crockett, Fredette, Griffin, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-122)** 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-122)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Regarding Renewable Electricity Generation by Hydropower Projects"

(S.P. 499) (L.D. 1210)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-127)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

READ.

Representative DOUDERA of Camden 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 PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is a hydroelectric dam bill.

We're facing some interesting directions with our laws that mandate renewables. Hydro is nothing but water over the dam, and this can easily participate. And though this came to the Committee expecting it was simply a Sappi bill, it isn't, it's affecting all hydro dams. So, I would appreciate voting against the measure and go on to pass this measure. Thank you.

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

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

These hydro dams are extremely important to the State of Maine for a variety of reasons. Probably the most important of which, in my opinion, is they keep viable industries alive with supply of water that's held back by them. And that does include the Sappi Mill in Skowhegan, it includes Huhtamaki in Waterville, the mill in Madison is depending on that as well. These facilities; the two that are still running; support hundreds of union jobs and dozens of salaried positions. Many of those salary folks are chemical engineers, marine engineers, mechanical engineers, civil engineers from University of Maine at Orono, other colleges and Maine Maritime Academy.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, these dams offer; and dams, as the previous speaker said, around the State; offer the opportunity for low-cost hydro electricity generated 24/7, 365, and it serves as a base-load source of energy for the grid the State of Maine relies on. Unlike wind and solar, dependent on seasonal water availability in some of the smaller dams, they supply power that will back us up on cloudy, wind-free days and during the wind-free nights. It's important that we secure these dams.

One other factor we have begun to realize with the removal of some of the dams that has occurred; not only do we see an occasional salmon that's able to return from the sea, but we're seeing the fish that have been introduced illegally in the State of Maine, such as northern pike, traverse up these rivers beyond these dams that are no longer there to stop them, and they are now affecting native fish populations such as trout and salmon in the State of Maine that attract game fishermen from around the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we vote and oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. Many years ago, the State of Maine relied on hydropower to provide the economic engine that helped the State of Maine grow. Now, in 2025, we don't seem to want to consider the economic impact of these power generation sources. I would urge this Body to reject this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to stand and speak on this today, but I feel that I have to, because this issue is of tremendous importance to my community, Skowhegan.

We have a lot of projects going on that have been years in the works that are strictly dependent on the dams being there for us. Without that, our economy in Skowhegan will plummet. If we lose Sappi, half our town's going to have to move away. Taxes are already crazy in my town, and Sappi is one of the largest contributors to our tax base. So, this is something my community needs for protection, to make sure that we can all still live in our homes.

So, I'm asking everybody, including you, Mr. Speaker, to think of the considerations that need to be made for people to stay in Maine and live here. The dams are essential. And there may be some concerns with environmental issues, and I understand that, but entities are working to help make that a workable thing and to have the protections, but still be able to continue business. And if we want Maine to stay viable, we need to consider these communities that would be so greatly affected. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to first just kind of explain what this bill does. This bill amends the laws regulating the DEP's process for approving or disapproving a permit for a hydropower project and for issuing or denying a water quality certification for a project as required under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. And our DEP testified that this bill will conflict with the State's water quality standards and the Clean Water Act, because it places economic considerations above environmental considerations. The Department of Marine Resources also is opposed to this bill, because it would disregard the effects on wildlife and aquatic life.

Now, there is no question, and I hear what my Good Colleagues are saying; there needs to be a balance between the economic and the environmental importance of hydropower projects. Certain businesses and industries, as we know, are depending on the continued existence of some of these dams, and their removal could significantly impact operations. There needs to be a balance, but that balance already exists. The Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act already requires all projects involving changes to hydropower dams; that's construction, reconstruction or removal; to meet criteria for approval. These criteria include: public safety, public benefits related to economic impacts and job creation, environmental mitigation and the project's overall balance between environmental and energy considerations.

LD 1210 duplicates parts of this review when a dam owner undergoes relicensing, and this review is already in place as well for dam removals. Concerns about impacts to infrastructure, assets and jobs are already addressed for dam removals and major alterations during the State's process. So, additional review isn't needed when dam owners want to keep their dam as is.

So, we don't need to complicate DEP's review of hydropower dams in the federal licensing process, nor should we add uncertainty for dam owners, nor should we risk future legal challenges against the State. So, for all those reasons, I ask folks to vote not to pass on this measure. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: 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. 171

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, 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, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Griffin, Hall, Mingo, Osher, Skold, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 76; No, 65; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-121)** on Bill "An Act to Support Mobile Home Residents in Purchasing Their Mobile Home Parks"

(S.P. 122) (L.D. 255)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
ROBERTS of South Berwick
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
MINGO of Calais
WALKER of Naples

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-121)**.

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Member from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. Mr. Speaker, in Maine, 45,000 residents live in mobile home parks where they often own their own home, but rent their spot in the park. There are many mobile home parks in Maine that are managed by dedicated local businesses and owners who care about their communities and residents and maintain high

standards. But unfortunately, mobile home parks are increasingly the targets of private equity investors. These entities buy parks and relentlessly increase lot rents on residents, many of whom are elderly, have limited incomes and would have difficulty moving their mobile home or finding a new place to go.

In the 131st Legislature, we passed legislation that created an option to purchase for park residents. It provides for notification to the residents and Maine Housing from a park owner if the owner has an offer to purchase. It then gives the residents 60 days to decide whether to form a co-op and make an offer on the park, and if accepted, they then have 90 days to secure the financing. To date, two parks have successfully completed this process; Blueberry Fields in Brunswick and Cedar Falls in Bangor; saving the homes of 500 households and creating opportunities for expansion of the parks.

These deals involve multiple financial partners. The Genesis Fund works with the Cooperative Development Institute to structure these deals, which usually involve financing from regional banks, the Genesis Fund, municipalities, local funders and donors and Maine Housing. The State funds through Maine Housing are the last dollars, used to fill the gap to complete the financing deal. And the ROI is solid. We preserve housing at an affordable rent for residents and at a low cost per unit. The deals are complicated, but are key to preserving this form of affordable housing and preserving it in the future. This bill replenishes a fund that we created that started with \$5 million. Those funds have been almost depleted, and this bill would replenish some of that funding with \$3 million. And I urge my colleagues to support this motion so that we can continue the good work of preserving the homes of Maine residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. Simply put, this bill takes money from taxpayers struggling to get by to put it into a fund that helps mobile home owners living in mobile home parks buy their park from the property owner.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, I cannot on good faith support the use of taxpayer dollars in this way when senior citizens needing nursing facilities cannot get it because Maine can't afford to pay for it. When, Mr. Speaker, citizen taxpayers in our State can't get access to health care services they need because Maine isn't paying its bills. Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, I ask that you follow my light. Show Mainers we are not picking favorites with our taxpayers' money. Thank you.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I rise today to share the story of Cedar Falls Mobile Home Park. And I think something that's really important to remember is what it actually looks like, what we are about to vote on would actually look like. And for that mobile home park in my district, it looked like everyone coming together in the park to rally as many resources and supports as they could. Democrat, Republican, senior citizen, young person, coming together to try their best to purchase the park so they all wouldn't become evicted.

When we talk about helping seniors and low-income people, this will have a huge impact on that, and I can't overstate it enough. And as much as I would like to give the Legislature full credit, what we are doing is just creating an opportunity, the people in the parks still have to work hard; I won't use a special language there; but still will have to hustle to get this done. This

isn't just free money that's raining down above, going to privileged people to just buy the park willy-nilly. This is people who are at risk of losing their homes, homes that they have been in for a long time. I can't tell you how grateful I am for this program and how I am enthusiastically going to vote for this. Thank you.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. Just a quick question. Five million dollars; which obviously came from the taxpayers; and now it's no longer. It's been used. My question is, we had two mobile park homes; I think is what was said; that were saved for \$5 million. I'd like to know where that \$5 million went, exactly how it was spent?

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who cares to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Supica.

Representative **SUPICA**: I'm more than happy to invite the Good Representative to Bangor and go on a tour to show exactly how that has been spent. It has been spent in saving so many homes in my community and helping so many people stay with; their lot fees will still go up a little bit, but not at the same amount that it would've gone up if it had gone to a private company. So, I'm happy to take the Good Representative on a tour and show her exactly where it's going.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to add a little bit of a different perspective on why this bill is so important.

Our State has over 600 parks in it, and right now, we have an insurgence coming in of out-of-state corporate equities that are buying them up at a rapid pace. So, this is the last, really, of our affordable housing, and these are housings that people own, and if they do not have the support they need when the opportunity comes to purchase it, they lose their homes, and what's happening is they're getting priced out of their homes by these corporate equities and being forced to abandon them. So, this is also a preservation bill for affordability in a State that needs over 88,000 units of housing right now. We cannot afford to lose more affordable housing, so, I ask that people support this bill.

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

Representative **ARFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I find that I must stand to share this story; very briefly; of the mobile home park very similar to Bangor, the first mobile home park to take advantage of the law that we passed in the 131st allowing mobile home park owners; well, requiring them to be notified when their park goes on the market and allowing them 60 days to put an offer in.

This park of up to 300 units of affordable ownership of their own homes. The majority of people who live in my park; which is now called Blueberry Fields Cooperative; are below 70% of AMI. There is literally no other place that I know of in the State of Maine; certainly not anywhere close to my community; where someone at less than 70% of AMI can own their own home. So, what's at question here is their lot fees. And what's happening is, when parks are being purchased by investors, those lot fees are being increased to the point where people who own their own homes that sit on these lots can no longer afford to keep them there. And that's what this bill is going to be a critical part to prevent going forward. Because my park got a significant contribution from the State; also from the town of Brunswick; that

allowed them to fund their mortgage and purchase their park. Without that, without that contribution; which came from the fund that we're talking about right now; they would absolutely not have been successful in purchasing their park. And it's very likely, because that park sits on extremely valuable land in Brunswick, within a five-year time period, it's not even a stretch of the imagination to think that that area, that those homes, that land would've been repurposed. All the owners of all the mobile homes, the manufactured housing, would've been asked to vacate the --

Representative **LANIGAN**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Member will defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford and inquires as to his Point of Order.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Yes, the Member should be directing her comments to the Speaker Pro Tem and not directly to our side of the aisle.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative LANIGAN of Sanford asked the Chair to remind Representative ARFORD of Brunswick to address the Speaker Pro Tem and not turn to the rest of the House.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair would remind all Members to direct their comments to the Chair.

The Chair reminded Representative ARFORD of Brunswick to address her comments toward the Speaker Pro Tem.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ARFORD**: I'll thank the Member for his comments, because it's something I clearly need to work on.

So, the last thing I want to say about this is that, without the funding that came from the fund that we now are going to put more money into, there would be up to 300 families; older people, a lot of single moms, a lot of retirees at 70% or lower of AMA; homeless. And imagine the burden on our tax dollars that we would've; in many GA, subsidized housing, all sorts of services that they will require. These are people that have worked their entire lives in Maine, have paid taxes, they just don't happen to at this point in time have a lot of money to use to move from their mobile home into another form of safe and stable housing.

And this fund is going to be; again, come to Brunswick. I am; they would love to have any legislator come tour their park. I'm; open invitation. We can have a tour from Brunswick to Bangor, and we'll even throw in lunch. But seriously, I don't want to; it is so critically important. Please vote in favor of this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I just want to ensure that it's clear what this bill does and what it doesn't do. First of all, this bill isn't about an appropriation of \$3 million of taxpayer funds when everybody is struggling to stay in their homes and does not change the mobile home park owners and their residents' ability to purchase their parks. I think it's also important to remember, since it was brought up about the change of use of property, that a property owner must give 12 months' notice before they can change that use of property. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I would like to suggest that, maybe, if we didn't tax the taxpayers the way that we do; and that includes the elderly who live in mobile homes; that maybe they would be able to afford to live in their mobile homes. And secondly, I don't know why the

taxpayers from all over the State should have to support mobile homes in certain parts of the State. Thank you.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. And I find it ironic that the policies passed by the Democrat majority have helped create the affordable housing crisis, and now, we are being asked to further burden taxpayers with a government solution to fix a government problem.

I urge all Members to vote against the pending motion on behalf of Representative Libby.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: 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. 172

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

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

ABSENT - Copeland, Fredericks, Fredette, Griffin, Hall, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 78; No, 64; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-121) 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-121)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-124)** on Bill "An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine" (S.P. 315) (L.D. 698)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
YUSUF of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-125)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples

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-124).**

READ.

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

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **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 PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I hadn't planned to speak on this bill, but since we have a Roll Call before us, I will.

Mr. Speaker, the motion before us is to spend \$5 million to help emergency homeless shelters. This is a cost that's too high, even if it's for a good cause. By voting against this motion and supporting another motion, emergency shelters will still receive help, and we will have funds to support other important programs like ensuring our seniors have access to nursing facilities or receive care services in their own home. For that reason, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, I ask that you please follow my light and support the Minority Report. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. In Maine, there are 34 non-low barrier emergency shelters around the State. These shelters serve people during times of crisis in their lives, keep roofs over peoples' heads and play a key role in helping people move as quickly as possible back into permanent housing.

Funding for the shelter operating fund is administered by Maine Housing and has been flat at \$2.5 million since 2016, at the same time that the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased in the midst of the housing

shortage. A 2024 Maine Housing study found that the average cost to operate a single shelter bed is \$102 per night. The current subsidy covers just 7.6% of that cost. So, shelters already do a great deal of private fundraising to support their operations that are vital to our communities around the State. LD 698 would increase the subsidy and help to ensure that our shelters can continue to operate, and I urge others to follow my light on this motion. Thank you.

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

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

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Out of honest inquiry, I know that we're adding; but this would be adding \$5 million, what is the budget currently funding for these homeless shelters, if there's a baseline amount? If someone could answer, that'd be nice.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who cares to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you. I'm rising to respond to the question. The current funding is \$2.5 million in the shelter operating fund.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: 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. 173

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

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

ABSENT - Fredericks, Fredette, Griffin, Hall, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 85; No, 58; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

85 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-124) 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-124)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine"

(S.P. 63) (L.D. 16)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-81)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-81)** Report.

Came from the Senate with the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-81).**

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to respectfully express my opposition to the pending motion on LD 16.

If this issue sounds familiar, it's because it is. I've had the opportunity to bring this bill forward in the 129th and 130th Legislatures, and here we are again in the 132nd. Pushing for it is a bipartisan, bi-county coalition of Hancock and Washington County lawmakers. Perhaps the third time really will be the charm, and we can, once and for all, put this issue to rest.

LD 16 proposes a straightforward idea with meaningful impact: the creation of separate prosecutorial districts for Hancock and Washington Counties. At its core, this bill is about something we can all support: fairness, equality and meaningful representation. For more than 40 years, our two counties have shared a District Attorney, and while sharing can be a beautiful thing, like splitting a fried clam dinner at Tracy's in Sullivan or a

blueberry pie at Helen's in Machias, I'm not so sure that concept fits quite so well when it comes to our top law enforcement official. The reality is that this quote-unquote 'shared arrangement' has often meant that Hancock County, with nearly twice the population, effectively determines who sits in the DA's seat. Washington County, meanwhile, is left; if I may borrow a verse from country singer Little Jimmy Dickens, his song "Country Boy;" with "the gizzard and the north end of a chicken flying south." After four decades, that can leave you feeling like you were bouncing down a pockmarked Route 1 on the back of a pickup truck, hanging on for dear life, or riding home with the Representative from Harrington.

Now, I want to take a moment to be clear. This isn't about personalities; and I certainly don't mean any offense to the Representative from Harrington; and certainly not about our current DA. Bob Granger is a hardworking, honorable man who I proudly campaigned for. We may disagree on this bill, but I value and respect his input in the process and the dramatic increase in professionalism he has brought to the office in the four years he's held it. It also isn't about our friends and neighbors in Hancock County, many of whom signed onto this bill and made compelling cases why they see this as a good move for their county as well.

I would encourage you to read their plea to the Judiciary Committee while I'm blithering on. They provide very sincere, heartfelt testimony for this bill, testimony which should not be dismissed out of hand. For me, this bill is about structure, it's about fairness, it's about whether our system truly reflects the communities it serves. We revisit our legislative districts every 10 years to ensure they have a fair and equal voice, but when it comes to our prosecutorial structure, we've held onto a one-size-fits-all model that no longer fits. Two counties with different populations, different geographies, different needs, each deserving of their own voice in the justice system. We would never ask one Sheriff to cover two counties. We wouldn't expect a single board of County Commissioners to represent both. Yet somehow, when it comes to the District Attorney, a position that carries tremendous weight in our legal system, we expect that arrangement to work seamlessly. But it doesn't always work that way. In Washington County, for example, our Sheriff can't simply stop by the DA's office and have a chat with the top prosecutor on any random Monday. He's got to hit the aforementioned pockmarked Route 1 and travel 60 miles to Ellsworth. That kind of distance can lead to delays, miscommunication, increased cost; both logistical and human; as real-time justice becomes harder to achieve. More than that, it impacts how connected our people feel to their justice system. Most Washington County residents have never met their DA. Not at the local Hannaford, not at a ballgame, not even at the baked bean supper at West Lubec Methodist Church on Saturday nights. That's more than just a missed handshake; it's a missed opportunity for public trust and community connection.

Now, I know LD 16 isn't a flashy bill; it won't lead the evening news or light up social media; but if we believe in local voices and local accountability, not just here in Augusta but in every corner of the State, then this bill matters. And for those who might question whether Washington County is big enough, I gently point to our neighbors in Aroostook. They've had their own DA for years, and with all due respect, we're not exactly talking about Times Square up there. We're talking about potato fields, oversized ATVs and some of the finest bird hunting Maine has to offer. If they can make it work, so can we.

This isn't about undoing something that's working, it's about correcting a structure that no longer serves both counties equally. It's about giving each the ability to chart its own course,

to serve its own people and to elect its own DA. And while my focus has been on Washington County, I want to again sincerely thank my colleagues from Hancock County who also see the wisdom in this approach and have supported this bill. If it were an episode of *Divorce Court*, I would say this would be of the peaceful kind. A thoughtful, mutual decision to go our own ways so both sides can thrive.

So, I respectfully ask my colleagues let's not pass on this opportunity just because the Majority Report says 'ought not to.' Let's be a Chamber that listens to all voices, especially rural ones. Let's stop asking Washington County to wait its turn when it's clear the line isn't moving. Vote against the pending motion. Let's give Washington County a meaningful seat at the table. After 40 years, I believe we've more than earned it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I had some very thoughtful notes written out, but the Representative from East Machias took the words out of my mouth.

I rise in opposition to the pending motion. I think that Washington County deserves some more nuance than they're getting with our current structure, and because the Representative from East Machias did such a good job, I'll just say that whenever he's ready to get that clam dinner, I'll show up any time.

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

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition of the pending motion, and I agree with most of the information provided by my Good Colleague, Representative Tuell of East Machias. But what's really; I wanted to share is the uniqueness that Washington County has.

We have an article that was written in February '22 in *Maine Public*: "Violence is the 'tip of the iceberg' of Washington County's drug problem." The article lists and breaks out many of those factors and how awful it was for that time period, and the thing I wanted to read is: "'The drug trade is violent. There's nothing rosy about it at all,' said Roy McKinney, director of Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. 'There is an issue in Washington County. It does have challenges that are unique.'" I think another thing that's unique is the delegation of Washington County all come together irregardless of party, and we look to work on ways that we can best provide for our communities when we're here. We come together to work on issues that range from this to our shelters and education, and I think it's a great opportunity to allow the people that live and work in their communities to have an opportunity to help make the county a better place and a safer place for all of its residents. I think this is one step that could help in a multifaceted way, and I would ask you to oppose this motion and support the other. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I first just want to express respect and appreciation for the previous speakers, and you know, that's what we all do when we come here, is stand up and advocate for our communities and how special and how unique every one of them are and try to bring them tailored solutions. But unfortunately, in this case, the Judiciary Committee was not presented with really a factual foundation to support a separation.

We had the opportunity to compare every one of the eight current prosecutorial districts by geography, by population, by staffing and by pending cases in order to assess where each of the districts stand. This district, Prosecutorial District 7; which is Hancock and Washington Counties; was in about the middle in terms of geographic area, it was the second-lowest in terms of population and it was the lowest in terms of pending cases. These data indicate that the district is, in fact, adequately resourced. And by comparison, I would direct you to District 3; which is Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin Counties; three counties obviously containing very different communities, think of the difference as from downtown Lewiston to Dallas Plantation, just vastly different needs and cultural communities. This district has a similar square miles as Prosecutorial District 7, but it has twice the population and four times the caseload, and they are not asking for a separation.

Put simply, there is really no data to support this and, in fact, to do so and separate them in the absence of any basis would pave the way to make every county its own prosecutorial district. That, in the end, would double the prosecutorial capacity of our State and dramatically change our criminal justice system. Not to mention run up a huge tab unnecessarily. So, I would ask my colleagues to support the motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: 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. 174

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

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

ABSENT - Chapman, Fredericks, Fredette, Griffin, Hall, Lanigan, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 76; No, 65; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.
The House was called to order by the Speaker.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-99)** on Bill "An Act to Protect and Increase Access to Justice in Civil Legal Matters for Persons with Low Incomes" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 440) (L.D. 1022)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

HENDERSON of Rumford

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-99)** Report.

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-99)**.

READ.

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

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **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. 175

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

NAY - Adams, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Eder, Foley, Foster, Greenwood, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P.

ABSENT - Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Griffin, Hall, Mingo, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 96; No, 46; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

96 having voted in the affirmative and 46 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-99)** 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-99)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Businesses by Eliminating the Automatic Cost-of-living Adjustment to the Minimum Hourly Wage"

(S.P. 93) (L.D. 206)

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-48)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

READ.

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

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

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

While I recognize that the people of Maine did vote to include an automatic increase in the minimum wage adjusted every year for inflation, what we have seen is businesses struggling to keep their doors open, in part because of rising costs, and one of those rising costs is the cost of labor. And it

should be noted that much of what has happened, of what drives that cost is not just the increased cost for the wage, but the increased other costs that go along with that as well, such as increased cost for payroll taxes, and particularly since the State this year has just added a new payroll tax, the increased minimum wage every year takes on even more of a burden for Maine businesses. It also increases unemployment taxes as well as taxes to deal with Workers' Comp.

This is really; this does not lower the minimum wage at all, all this does is it freezes it at where it is right now; which is \$14.65; which is one of the highest in the nation. Many of our businesses; particularly those that employ just seasonal employees in the summer; that are hiring high school kids are particularly struggling to continue to pay those wages, particularly when you consider the fact that in many cases, those high school kids don't have as much work experience.

So, this is really about trying to help our small businesses, trying to stop the increased costs that continue to pile on and add up. So, I would encourage this Body to reject this motion, and I would furthermore request a Roll Call.

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

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

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we hear these kinds of laws come forward, we often hear that the minimum wage was only supposed to be a starting wage, only for high school kids, not intended to be a living wage, but I want to remind everybody that the person who helped create this minimum wage, Franklin D. Roosevelt, said; "it seems to me to be equally plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By 'business' I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by 'workers' I mean all workers, the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by 'living wages' I mean more than the bare subsistence level, I mean the wages of decent living." And if we are to freeze our State minimum wage at \$14.65, that falls below the poverty wage right now for a two-adult household with two children, with one of those adults working. A living wage for one adult with no dependents is \$23.22, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator. So, I strongly urge the Body to vote **Ought Not to Pass**. 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. 176

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

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

ABSENT - Caruso, Fredette, Gifford, Griffin, Hall, Mingo, O'Halloran, Osher, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 75; No, 66; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-114)** on Bill "An Act to Codify the Federal Salary Threshold for Overtime Pay"

(S.P. 283) (L.D. 599)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-114)**.

READ.

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

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

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition and request a Roll Call and like to speak to my motion.

Representative COLLINS of Sidney **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 Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this bill deals with increasing the overtime threshold for salaried employees from \$43,951 to \$58,656 per year. Yes, that's right, a 33% increase. The unintended consequences of this bill are threefold; causing issues for small businesses, employees and consumers.

Maine is home to thousands of small businesses, many are operating on thin profit margins, averaging between three and five percent. The increase in labor cost has been cited as a primary factor for restaurant closures in Maine this past year. This bill is another increase in labor costs, setting up the potential for more business closings.

Salaried positions are often entry-level management positions. As these changes go into effect, fewer businesses will offer these opportunities because of the new cost implications. This bill will create yet another decrease in job growth, setting up the potential for a shrinking workforce.

Consumers will feel the cost of this bill due to property tax increases. Steven Bailey, the Executive Director of Maine School Management Association, testified against this bill. He said, and I quote, "local school budgets are already rising due to new mandates and higher costs for insurance and special education, and our members are concerned that incorporating the changes this bill would have would only push school budgets even higher. This would result in higher property taxes; something our local residents have told us they cannot support," unquote. This bill is yet another increase Maine property owners cannot afford.

Remember, the unintended consequences of this bill are threefold: to our businesses, employees and consumers. As I think about the unintended consequences, I think that there are Members in this Body that will term out, they won't be around for when the consequences come about; when the businesses are closing their doors, when employees lose promotional opportunities and as the property taxes go up. There are some Members in this Body that will be up for reelection, and the public will remember who voted in favor of this bill. There is a Fiscal Note attached to this bill, which is \$5 million for the first year, and after that, it goes up to \$10 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reason this bill was introduced was because the federal threshold was raised to \$58,656. It was introduced to bring Maine into alignment with that federal threshold. The federal threshold is currently suspended because of a judicial order, and if we look at the average salary in Maine right now, the average salary is \$58,279 as of May of 2025. So, when we're talking about \$58,656, we're talking about an average salary which is kind of on the low end. It means that an assistant manager for a Dollar General that's maybe making \$44,000 a year and has to work additional time over that 40 hours; perhaps 50 hours; would not be able to earn overtime for those additional hours. Again, when we're talking about living wage, that \$58,656 number at the federal level is kind of average, and we just want to bring the State in alignment with this federal requirement. 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. 177

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

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

ABSENT - Ardell, Fredette, Gifford, Griffin, Hall, McIntyre, Mingo, O'Halloran, Osher, Perkins, Smith, Underwood, Walker. Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 13; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-114)** 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-114)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Educational Opportunities and Broaden Educational Services for Students Enrolled in Equivalent Instruction Programs"

(H.P. 311) (L.D. 482)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-205)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise today in opposition to this motion.

As hardworking as we are in the Legislature, Maine families need more education options now. Every child is different, and families deserve the agency to shape that learning. Imagine a child who attends a private school, a micro school, a home-school co-op or other equivalent instruction program. Mostly satisfied with their programming, but local public schools offer a science lab, a shop class, an advanced algebra class that could help her. Why should bureaucracy get in the way of furthering her education?

Today, there are two different sets of rules for students opting out of the local public schools. Home-schoolers can access extracurricular and cocurricular activities, academic classes offered by an SAU, while private school students can only access extracurricular and cocurricular activities. The law should treat every child the same to ensure access to public education. LD 482 designates one set of guidelines for all non-public school students to participate in their local district's classes, activities, services if they wish, instead of treating students differently based on educational models they choose. By removing the superintendent approval requirement to audit classes, it cuts red tape and trusts families to place their kids into educational programming that works best for them.

Public schools also benefit as well. Each of these students would be funded by the State subsidy of between 0.25 and 1 full-time enrollment status, depending on how much time they spend in the school. Furthermore, the addition of Section 6-A would expand the opportunities by helping small-scale private educators more easily host programs in the community buildings and other spaces across the State, especially in rural areas. Building space is hard to come by, even though in nearly every town, there's a church or community center that exists which is empty several days a week. These buildings may be used for children's programming already, so, there's no reason to limit educators from contracting for that space as well.

I'm grateful for the Co-Sponsors from both sides of the aisle and recognize the need for more educational options for Maine families. This isn't red or blue, this is just common sense. LD 482 is a win for kids, for local schools and a win for public education overall. I urge you to vote against this motion.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a few things that are objectionable about this legislation, including removing the requirement of written approval of the superintendent for a student to enroll or participate in a class. This takes away the teachers' and the administrators' ability to plan for who will be there from day to day. The biggest exception that we have to this is that it would allow; it does treat, exactly as the Good Representative from Windham said, private school and home-school students exactly the same. And in this case, this is a problem, because home-school students are allowed to receive special education services in public schools, but that is not the case for private schools, and allowing this legislation to go forward could result in private schools shirking their responsibility to provide special education services for students enrolled at their schools. 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. 178

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Ardell, Fredette, Gifford, Griffin, Hall, Hepler, Lanigan, McIntyre, Mingo, Osher, Smith, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 79; No, 59; Absent, 13; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-243)** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any Proceeding"

(H.P. 201) (L.D. 301)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **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 Scarborough, Representative Warren.

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you. I rise to speak in respectful opposition to LD 301 for the Public Utilities Commission to implement performance-based ratemaking in rate cases.

While I understand intuitively the idea of supporting performance ratemaking by incentivizing utility companies to improve performance and efficiency, I have several serious concerns that have led me to oppose this bill. First, this is not an evidence-based policy to do the great things that the proponents want to see. Bottom line, this proposal in other states, even historically here in Maine, does lead to utilities gaming the system to receive even more ratepayer money than they already do to do the things opponents like myself believe they ought to do already. I am deeply committed to ensuring fairness in our regulatory framework, particularly for consumers who may be disproportionately impacted by changes in our utility rates. I am worried that PBR could result in higher rates for certain groups without sufficient safeguards to protect vulnerable communities who are already facing disproportionately energy burden of our record high and growing utility costs.

There's also the question of regulatory capture. There's a real risk that utility companies can influence metrics used in PBR to their advantage, potentially leading to regulatory capture and prioritization of metrics that serve their interests rather than those of the public. Our own Public Utilities Commissioners

have previously ended the practice of using performance metrics to financially incentivize certain behaviors, because it was found our investor-owned utilities were literally gaming the system. I'm not concerned about what may happen; I am concerned about what has happened here in our State.

There's another broader question of underinvestment with this structure. I am concerned that PBR could incentivize utility companies to prioritize short-term cost savings over long-term investments in critical infrastructure reliability, resilience, innovation. This could compromise service quality and reliability over time that is hard to immediately track. There is a reason that historically our Commission has valued performance metrics in multi-year rate cases, but not annual rate cases. The timeline we're talking about is suitable for fines; as has been done and is done already for years by our Commission; but not to incentivize performance, which is predicated on planning and structural changes.

There's another broader question of transparency here. I believe in the importance of transparency in our regulatory process. I am worried that PBR can cause an even greater lack of transparency and clarity in how and why our rates are rising and by how much, making it even more difficult for consumers and watchdog groups to assess whether utilities are meeting performance targets and whether rate adjustments are justified to lead to that. More broadly in implementation, this looks like a simple, straightforward bill, but implementing PBR can be complex and resource-intensive, with potential costs and challenges that just are hard to justify related to potential benefits. I believe that alternative regulatory approaches with stronger safeguards against potential drawbacks may be better served in the interests of consumers and the public, and we have those options before us this Session.

Again, we have seen gaming at this programmatic design, and we do not have evidence-based examples of a deregulated utility using PBR in rate cases producing material changes in performance. Where it has been successful, in places like Hawaii, there have been many material differences between that state and ours. Just to name one, Hawaii has a regulated utility, which means; as I'm sure many know; that they both generate their energy and distribute it. Very different than our utility here in Maine, which is just that transmission and distribution. PBR metrics related to generation of renewable energy makes sense there, especially where there's actually a history of much stronger performance, public trust and a more effective regulatory framework. What I mean to say is that a good utility system was improved by this process there. Maine is not in that situation at all. Versant has recently threatened to sue the State just for the PUC doing its job and fulfilling the will of this Legislative Body. The response by our Legislature being to entertain that threat seriously is one I would seriously caution us in taking this step forward. I don't believe it's a productive way to address powerful private interests.

More broadly, we have very low public trust of our utilities. We have some of the worst performance of any utility nationwide, and we have the third-highest rising electric rates in the country. There are essential reforms we need to make in a clear and evidence-based way to affect those metrics, which are extremely problematic, and I think about every day in this role and as part of our Energy Committee. But this just isn't one. Maybe one day, maybe soon, we will see other states adopt this model with a similar structure to ours and prove the efficacy, but we have some compelling evidence to the contrary and today, this choice is undoubtedly a genuine risk.

PBR in its modern context has been broadly acknowledged by both supporters and critics as relatively new policy. I remain absolutely committed to finding solutions that balance the needs of consumers, hold utility companies accountable and are based in the public good, but this, I strongly believe, Mr. Speaker, is not that bill, and I respectfully hope that you will consider following my light against this current motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **RUNTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Men and Women of the House, in 2022, this Body directed the PUC to develop and implement basic utility service performance standards that deal with reliability, customer service, billing performance and customer satisfaction. The authority of the Commission to implement those standards was challenged, and this bill simply reaffirms their authority and nothing more.

Failing to pass this bill jeopardizes the basic performance standards that have been developed and enacted, potentially eliminating a key element of the ways by which we assure utility accountability. But the fact is, what we have is basic and a more comprehensive program is warranted to get the full benefit of these kinds of rate regulatory reform. Last month, the PUC opened a proceeding with the intent to develop new standards that go beyond what we have now and add a greater level of accountability to rate regulation with considerable participation and input from stakeholders. It's this process that will determine the standards and metrics, a process that will not happen overnight. Failing to pass this bill could also hinder this vital next step, and I urge the Body to vote Ought to Pass.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is about holding utilities accountable, period. As noted by my Good Friend, the Representative from York, minimal standards were passed by the 130th in LD 1959. These minimum standards were passed on a bipartisan basis as a beginning step to hold utilities accountable for what they say they are going to do. And the Commission intends to utilize performance metrics as a regular feature of rate cases, so that if a utility comes and says, 'look, we're doing this service reliability,' that they have to prove that the cost they are charging to ratepayers actually proves service reliability.

However, when the PUC chose to move forward with these performance-based metrics, I urged this Body to look at Docket No. 2023-00336. This is not a someday or a fear, this is actual testimony, written testimony by the PUC Commissioners that are talking about the fact that Versant came up and said, 'we would like a 34.6% increase in our capital spending to sustain system reliability,' and used ratepayer money to push back against the Public Utilities Commission, saying that is not appropriate. So, in two ways, we have documentation they are wasting taxpayer money, simply because we are trying to hold them accountable, and I urge my wonderful, Good Representative Colleague from Scarborough to continue to work together, to continue to improve these performance-based requirements, because not passing this bill, Mr. Speaker, casts doubt on the ability of the PUC to do the very thing this Legislature has asked them to do.

I urge you to follow my light. 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. 179

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, 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, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Montell, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Arata, Fredette, Gifford, Griffin, Hall, Lanigan, Mingo, Osher, Smith, Underwood.

Yes, 68; No, 73; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was NOT ACCEPTED.**

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SACHS of Freeport, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass Report was ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Winthrop/Maranacook Field Hockey Team, of Winthrop, which won the Class C State Championship, the team's fourth state title in a row. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 265)

Presented by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield. Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 173)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

May 19, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, President of the Senate

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 305.6, we are writing to notify you that LD 1172, "An Act to Enact the Passamaquoddy Fisheries and Workforce Development Act" has been automatically withdrawn.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler

Senate Chair

S/Rep. Allison Hepler

House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 174)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

May 22, 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. 306 An Act to Stabilize Rural Maine Emergency Medical Services Departments

L.D. 1526 An Act to Change the Permissible Hours and Penalties Pertaining to the Use of Consumer Fireworks

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 71 An Act Regarding Special Education Funding

L.D. 193 An Act to Fund Students in Maine Schools Who Are Experiencing Homelessness

L.D. 282 An Act to Raise the Limit on the Total Number of Public Charter Schools

L.D. 501 An Act to Fairly Fund School Administrative Units for Economically Disadvantaged Students

L.D. 673 An Act to Better Support the Educational Attainment of Low-income and Moderate-income Communities by Providing Additional Funding to Certain School Administrative Units

L.D. 933 An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of Funding for Special Education Costs of All School Administrative Units

- L.D. 1398 An Act Regarding Behavioral Health Support for Students in Public Schools
- L.D. 1518 An Act to Clarify the Amount and Use of Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit Budget
- L.D. 1689 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education
- Energy, Utilities and Technology
- L.D. 1096 An Act to Allow Municipalities That Have Financed Fiber-optic Broadband Infrastructure to Use Loans or Grants to Repay Associated Debt
- L.D. 1929 An Act to Improve Public Utility Service by Addressing Seasonal Property Hazards
- Health and Human Services
- L.D. 637 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Evaluate the Municipal General Assistance Program Database
- L.D. 831 An Act Regarding Abandoned Vehicles Due to Involuntary Psychiatric Hospitalization
- L.D. 1029 An Act to Ensure General Assistance for Housing Does Not Reduce Assistance for Other Basic Necessities and to Increase Presumptive Eligibility and State Reimbursement for General Assistance
- L.D. 1066 An Act Regarding Limits on Municipal General Assistance Programs
- L.D. 1799 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review the Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-ordered Community Treatment
- L.D. 1952 An Act Regarding Home Heating Fuel Assistance
- Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
- L.D. 459 An Act to Regulate the Use of Prior Authorization for Health Care Provider Services
- L.D. 675 An Act to Protect Consumers by Increasing Transparency and Accountability in the Pharmaceutical Industry
- L.D. 890 An Act to Permit the Dispensing of Ivermectin Pursuant to a Standing Order upon Request for COVID-19, Flu and Cancer Patients
- L.D. 1205 An Act to Set Limits on Virtual Currency Kiosks
- L.D. 1402 An Act to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Determine Methods of Ensuring the Long-term Solvency of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association
- L.D. 1663 An Act Relating to Health Care Transparency and the Maine Health Data Organization
- Housing and Economic Development
- L.D. 1468 An Act to Establish Standards for Independent Motor Vehicle Repair Facilities in Maine (EMERGENCY)
- L.D. 1597 An Act to Prohibit the Use of Dynamic Pricing for Certain Consumer Goods
- L.D. 1845 An Act to Establish the Working Waterfront Advisory Council
- State and Local Government
- L.D. 148 An Act to Provide for the Statewide Popular Election of the State Auditor
- L.D. 236 An Act to Provide Legislative Oversight of the Rule-making Petition Process
- L.D. 452 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General by Ranked-choice Voting
- L.D. 774 An Act to Require Bleeding Control Kits in State-owned Buildings
- L.D. 789 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Legislative Approval of Any State of Emergency Lasting Longer than 60 Days
- L.D. 928 An Act to Maintain Public Access to Town Ways in Maine
- L.D. 944 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Improve Representation and Simplify Legislative Redistricting
- L.D. 1388 An Act to Replace the Participation Threshold in Votes to Adopt or Alter a Municipal Charter with a Lower Approval Threshold
- L.D. 1417 An Act to Strengthen the Authority of Local Officials to Enforce Provisions Regarding Dangerous and Nuisance Properties that Constitute a Threat to Public Health and Safety
- L.D. 1454 An Act to Redefine "Term" in the Law Governing Term Limits for Constitutional Offices
- L.D. 1524 An Act to Enhance Legislative Participation in the Governor's Exercise of Emergency Powers
- L.D. 1546 An Act to Require Recommendations from Study Commissions to Be Printed as Legislative Documents
- L.D. 1560 An Act to Address Conflicts of Interest with Municipal Contracts
- L.D. 1594 An Act to Change the Appropriation for the Governor's Expense Account and Create Transparency in Expenditures Made from That Account
- L.D. 1767 An Act to Amend the Waldo County Budget Adoption Process and Allow Residents Who Are Not Municipal Officers to Serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee
- Taxation
- L.D. 432 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Municipalities to Apportion Real and Personal Property Taxes on the Basis of Property Classification
- L.D. 1291 Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Apportionment of Service Revenue
- L.D. 1304 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues
- L.D. 1464 An Act to Provide for an Alternative Municipal Property Tax Assessment Rate
- L.D. 1475 Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Taxation of Digital Assets
- L.D. 1481 An Act to Amend the Law Governing Stabilization of Property Taxes on Homesteads of Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older
- L.D. 1537 Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Lowering Property Taxes by Revising the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program
- L.D. 1541 An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief for Senior Residents
- L.D. 1591 An Act to Grant a Municipality Authority to Tax Property According to Use
- L.D. 1610 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Apportion Differentiated Tax Rates on Real Property According to Use

- L.D. 1729 An Act to Increase the Rate of Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost as a Result of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption
L.D. 1798 An Act to Increase Revenue Sharing and to Control Property Taxes

Transportation

- L.D. 304 An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation
L.D. 947 An Act to Clarify Overnight Docking at Mainland Ports for Certain Island Ferry Vessels
L.D. 1632 An Act to Provide Incentives and Amend Laws Regarding Access to Protect Rural Highway Capacity and Promote Long-term Economic Development

- L.D. 1680 An Act to Establish a Permanent Ferry Oversight Committee to Ensure Sustainable and Equitable Ferry Operations

- L.D. 1809 An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue
L.D. 1875 An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Highway Funding by Imposing a Road Use Fee for Electric Vehicles

Veterans and Legal Affairs

- L.D. 104 An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 175)

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

May 22, 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 Salisbury of Westbrook, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

- L.D. 1599 An Act to Establish the Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 176)

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

Letter of Transmittal

Honorable Members of the Legislative Council, 132nd Maine Legislature;

Honorable Janet T. Mills

Governor of the State of Maine

I am pleased to submit the State of Maine Management Letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. During our audit of the State of Maine, we became aware of matters that offer opportunities for our government to improve its operations. Recommendations regarding these matters accompany this Management Letter as "management letter comments."

This publication of our Management Letter includes two sections: management letter comments previously issued in relation to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) audit; and management letter comments newly issued in relation to the Single Audit. Management letter comments related to the ACFR audit were separately issued on January 28, 2025, and are included in this report to provide the reader with a comprehensive set of our recommendations.

Please feel free to contact me with questions you may have. Like you, we are committed to improving our State government for the benefit of our citizens. Healthy discussion of the problems found and solutions considered are part of a dialogue that aims at improvement. I welcome your thoughts and inquiries about these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
S/Matthew Dunlap, CIA

State Auditor

May 9, 2025

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 429)

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

May 20, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

- Nancy Y. Harrison of Veazie for reappointment, as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority,
- Noel Bonam of Portland for reappointment, as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority,
- Robert C. Bryant of Hartland for reappointment, to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority,
- Ian Houseal of Portland for reappointment, to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Transportation:

- Carol Murray of Sanford for reappointment, to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 443)

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

May 21, 2025
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

- Janice de Lima of Falmouth for reappointment, to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 454)

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

May 21, 2025
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Transportation:

- James Cohen, Esq. of Portland for reappointment, to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative THORNE of Carmel, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1327)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

WHEREAS, Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, began in the aftermath of the Civil War and has grown into a solemn national observance honoring the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Maine citizens have proudly served in the United States military throughout the nation's history, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms and democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day is observed each year on the last Monday in May and provides a time for all Mainers and Americans to reflect, remember and honor the service members who died in defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the State to recognize the courage, dedication and selflessness of these fallen heroes and to express gratitude to the families and communities who have borne this profound loss; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine continue to uphold the enduring tradition of Memorial Day through local ceremonies, parades and flags placed on graves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize Memorial Day as a day of solemn reflection and heartfelt gratitude for those who gave their lives in defense of our country; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We encourage all citizens of the State to observe Memorial Day with appropriate ceremonies and acts of remembrance in honor of our fallen service members and their enduring legacy.

READ.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Memorial Day is not simply a day off, nor merely an unofficial start to the summer. It is a sacred occasion. A day when we pause as a community, as a State and as a nation to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in service of our country.

Here in Maine, we're not strangers to service or sacrifice. From the rockbound coast to the quiet north woods of Maine, our small towns and cities have produced generations of brave men and women who answered the call of duty, many of whom did not return home. Their names are etched not only in the stone memorials and plaques, but also in the hearts of the families and communities who remember them every day.

In the Civil War, Maine contributed heavily to the Union effort, with estimates suggesting that around 9,400 Mainers died in service. World War I, approximately 1,026 Mainers. World War II, 2,553 Mainers died out of nearly 113,000 who served. In the Korean War, around 233 Mainers. And so on and so forth through the Vietnam War, the Persian War, the Iraq War, the Afghan War and until today.

Last month, the remains of Maine Private Willard D. Merrill from Dover-Foxcroft, who fought in World War II, had been identified and returned to Maine, more than 80 years after his death. We remember soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy, we remember sailors who were lost at sea, airmen who flew missions into danger and never returned and Marines who fought in distant lands from the Civil War to present day.

Their sacrifices were made so that we have the freedoms that we hold dear and too often take for granted.

Let us also remember the families who carry the weight of the sacrifice; the Gold Star families, whose strength and resilience remind us of the cost of war and the depth of love. As legislators, we have a responsibility not just to honor the fallen with our words, but to serve the living with our actions. Let us commit ourselves to enduring, and ensuring, that veterans receive the care and respect they deserve, that military families are supported and that the memory of the fallen is preserved for future generations. May we never forget that freedom is not free; it is earned and upheld by the courage and sacrifice of those who served.

Our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, wrote a letter that many of us have heard to Mrs. Bixby during the Civil War. It reads: "Dear Madam, I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless may be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to serve. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, A. Lincoln. "

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, thank you, and may God bless the families of the fallen, God bless the State of Maine and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 29)

ORDERED, that Representative Ann Fredericks of Sanford be excused May 13 and 14 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Randall C. Hall of Wilton be excused May 7 and 14 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Nathan J. Wadsworth of Hiram be excused May 13 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Mark Walker of Naples be excused Apr 29, 30, May 6 and 7 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Peter Conley Wood of Norway be excused May 13 and 14 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 782)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and PASSED in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

On motion of Representative STROUT of Harrington, the House adjourned at 2:38 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 782).