

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
 FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
 24th Legislative Day
 Tuesday, June 3, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Eleanor Collinsworth, Union Church of Belgrade Lakes.

National Anthem by Madilynn Treasure, Springvale.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Robert Rousseau, PA-C, EM-CAQ, Sidney.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 84) (L.D. 197)
 (C. "A" S-126)

House **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Resolve **FAILED** of **FINAL PASSAGE** in the House on May 29, 2025.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-126) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-211)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund"

(H.P. 41) (L.D. 77)

Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-323)** in the House on May 29, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Ensure In-state Tuition for Postsecondary Students Who Are Registered to Vote in the State and to Amend Eligibility Requirements for the Free Community College Tuition Program"

(H.P. 830) (L.D. 1255)

Majority (8) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 29, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-310)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INSIST**.

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 Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, once again, the only thing that this bill does now, under the Minority Report that was passed through the Senate, was put a one-year guardrail on free college in Maine. It's protecting the taxpayers of Maine. That's all it does, is one year. You vote against that and I don't even know what to think. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 282

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker, Wood S.

Yes, 74; No, 70; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program

(H.P. 462) (L.D. 723)
(C. "A" H-305)

FAILED of **FINAL PASSAGE** in the House on June 2, 2025.

Came from the Senate **FINALLY PASSED** 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. 283

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, 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, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 71; No, 74; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 74 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports

(H.P. 231) (L.D. 331)

Majority (8) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 27, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-270)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford 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. 284

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

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 145; No, 0; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

145 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Prohibiting Places of Business from Being Open to the Public on Sunday"

(H.P. 181) (L.D. 277)

Unanimous **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-251) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-293)** thereto in the House on May 27, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Make Student Transfer Agreements Renew Automatically Except in Certain Circumstances"

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

Majority (9) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 22, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (4) **OUGHT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 189)

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

June 3, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

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

on June 2, 2025

Elizabeth Fitzgerald of Machiasport for appointment to the Board of Environmental Protection.

Pursuant to Title 38, MRSA §341-C, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 502)

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

June 2, 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 Education and Cultural Affairs,

- Dr. Victoria Cohen, Ed.D. of Farmington for appointment, to the State Board of Education,
- Abbey Hamilton of Yarmouth for appointment, to the State Board of Education.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 504)

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

June 2, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report from the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act to Increase the Sales Commission of Retailers Selling Lottery Tickets" (H.P. 136) (L.D. 213) in non-concurrence.

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.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Patrick Paradis, of Augusta, who received the 2025 Alumni Achievement Award for Leadership and Service from Framingham State University. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 339)

Presented by Representative ROLLINS of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec, Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ROLLINS of Augusta, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Ought to Pass

Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Space Corporation"

(S.P. 733) (L.D. 1863)

Reporting **Ought to Pass**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-230)**.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-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 Senate Amendment "A" (S-230)** in concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-220)** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry"

(S.P. 689) (L.D. 1771)

Signed:

Senators:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland
BLACK of Franklin
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CRAY of Palmyra
DILL of Old Town
JACKSON of Oxford

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-220)**.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-213)** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers"

(S.P. 53) (L.D. 34)

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-213)**.

READ.

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

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

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a really hard bill for me to motion to not support, being a teacher of 37 years right here in the State of Maine. Even my Assistant Superintendent called me last week and said, 'did you really vote against this,' and I said I did. But what she didn't know is I've been voting against my own retirement as well this week. I just can't burden the smaller school districts with the property tax increases.

We have had many groups come to us in our Committees, claiming that there's a teacher shortage. There's been conflicting information about that. There's no real hard data to support that. They look at recertification, they look at serving schools applications and they're basing it on that. When I asked the research group, MEPRI, that reports to our Committee, on several occasions, 'do you find that there's truly a teacher shortage,' they stated, 'no.' And I'm basing; I would like to just support; my support is through the Maine School Boards Association, the President was actually a school board member at my district and is now the President. And a paragraph that I would like to share that I feel is very important is that the Maine School Boards Association "believes that teacher compensation must be a local decision and should not be mandated by the State. Our school board members are the ones balancing student needs, teacher contracts and the financial constraints of

our local communities. Our schools and school board members understand the needs and concerns of our residents and it should be our local decision, not those of the State, that determine educator salary."

Would I love to have an immense amount of money to pay teachers? Yes. One last thing I'd like to point out; that, being a teacher of 37 years, the increase for the veteran teachers who need to also be supported that I don't feel would be supported if this was to pass, eventually they would be, but the amount of money that it would take to support those people would just really be a hindrance, and people are very pressed with property taxes and other taxes, so, I just cannot support this. Thank you.

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I support what the Good Representative from Hampden said. I am also a teacher of 25 years. I voted in favor of this last Session; however, until we stop prioritizing illegal immigrants over the Maine taxpayer, we don't have any money to give our seasoned and new teachers raises, which they deserve, and I might like to point out also, that that is taxation without representation, taking the people's tax dollars to fund the illegals. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill increases the minimum teacher salary from \$40,000 a year; which was set several years ago; and increases that to the \$50,000 minimum incrementally up to the year '28-'29; school year '28-'29. And the State would fully fund that until '28-'29, and then it would be distributed among the local districts in the State.

We are facing a crisis with our educators. They're leaving the field, and not enough young adults are entering the teaching profession to fill those empty positions. In 2023, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute found that 81% of survey respondents cited pay as the biggest perceived drawback to a career in education. Another survey done by Educate Maine in 2023 concluded Maine teachers made 24% less than comparable workers statewide. Professionals with similar credentials are making nearly 25% more than their counterparts in education.

LD 34 raises the minimum teacher salary incrementally and allows for SAUs to prepare and make adjustments for the change. The majority of Maine's teacher workforce will be retiring in the next five to 10 years. We need to prepare now by aggressively recruiting and retaining teachers for the wave of employment opportunities that will be coming in our public schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do hear what the Good Representative said about a teaching crisis. But as a Member of the Tax Committee, I can tell you we're in a taxing crisis. We do not have money for this. And in my small communities, there's a thing called local control. The State of Maine is supposed to have local control. And for some reason, this Body keeps disregarding that. They step into the place of teacher unions and negotiate on their behalf. This is absolutely unacceptable. Once again, the State will offset this for a couple of years. In a couple of years, what happens, Mr. Speaker? The older folks in my community, they lose their homes. That's what happens, Mr. Speaker. It is not our responsibility to be negotiating teachers' salaries in this Chamber. Last session, we did this with staff. And guess what? Those bills haven't even

come due yet, and when they do, we will have people in my district losing their homes. I have 47 communities. Forty-seven. They're all smaller; there's no more money. There is no way to keep raising the taxes on the people of Maine to pay for bills that we keep implementing within this Body. This is one of them.

So, keep in mind, we still have the crisis of when those bills become due before this bill would actually become due. We simply can't afford it. We started a task force to look at property taxes over the interim and report back to us in January in the Tax Committee, because, guess what, all of the bills that were coming through Tax Committee were people screaming for money, and we need relief on the local level and here we are, torpedoing the local level's actual responsibility and privilege to control what goes on within their own communities. I'm absolutely opposed to this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Having served on a school board, there is a pay scale, and our particular school has 20 steps in that pay scale. When you introduce beginning teachers at a new hire wage, the history has been that those teachers that have been there for two, four, 20 years, all want a bump in their pay. Will this also pay for that increase for those teachers that are not affected by a starting salary?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an answer to that question.

When I was on the school board in Dexter many years ago now, when Dexter Shoe was going to China, I was faced with managing the committee for negotiations. At that time; the Chief Executive at the time was Baldacci; he put in the first that I know of, put through and the Legislature passed legislation that raised the teacher's minimum wage to \$30,000 a year. We were forced in my town, because of what was happening with our economy at the time, to say, 'okay.' We had actually had some second- and third-year teachers that were not at that level. We raised everybody that was below \$30,000 to \$30,000, and the negotiations committee had to tell the rest that, 'we're sorry, just because you're making a wage that's closer to what the minimum salary is in our district now, doesn't mean that we can afford to give you a raise.'

So, that's something that the small towns have to deal with when folks from more wealthy municipalities feel that we can pass legislation like this rather than go through the negotiation process and leave it under local control.

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. 285

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 80; No, 65; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-213) 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-213)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Grant or Extend Conditional Teaching Certificates Under Certain Circumstances"

(S.P. 161) (L.D. 369)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-222)** 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 NOT TO PASS Report READ and ACCEPTED.**

READ.

On motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, 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 Change the Residency Requirements for State Funding for Student Tuition at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

(S.P. 428) (L.D. 1011)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Scenic Beauty by Requiring Solar Panel Fields to Be Hidden from View"

(S.P. 357) (L.D. 830)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-100)** 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.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise to support; in strong support; of LD 830 as Amended, a bill that strikes the right balance between advancing renewable energy and preserving the scenic beauty that defines our great State.

Maine is known for its pristine landscapes, rolling hills and breathtaking coastal views; natural treasures that attract visitors, sustain local economies and enhance the quality of life for our residents. This legislation ensures that as we embrace solar energy, we do so responsibly, without compromising the visual character of our communities. LD 830 does not oppose solar energy development. Rather, it regulates its placement and visibility to ensure that large-scale solar fields do not detract from Maine's scenic characters. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate the impact of solar developments on scenic beauty and, when necessary, mandate visual screening measures such as fencing, trees or vegetation. This common-sense approach allows us to expand renewable energy while respecting the expectations of Maine's residents and our visitors.

Why is the bill necessary? First, Maine's economy depends on tourism and outdoor recreation. Visitors come here to experience unspoiled landscape, charming rural towns and breathtaking views, not to see industrial solar fields dominating the horizon. Without proper legislation, large-scale solar developments could erode the very aesthetic appeal that fuels our economy.

Second, the bill protects property values. Homeowners and businesses invest in Maine's beauty; invest in Maine because of its natural beauty and rural charm. Unregulated solar fields can negatively impact property values, particularly in

residential and scenic areas. LD 830 ensures that solar developments blend into the environment, rather than to disrupt it, preserving the integrity of our communities.

Third, LD 820 promotes responsible development. Solar energy is a vital part of Maine's future, but it must be implemented thoughtfully. This bill does not ban solar fields; it simply requires developers to take reasonable steps to ensure their projects do not harm our scenic character. By consulting with local land use authorities, the Department of Environmental Protection can tailor solutions to each community's needs, ensuring fair and effective implementation.

Mr. Speaker, Maine has always been a leader in environmental stewardship. We must continue to embrace renewable energy, but we must do so in a way that protects our landscapes, supports our economy and respects the character of our communities. LD 830 as Amended achieves that balance. I urge my colleagues to support LD 830 and vote no on the pending motion and support the future where clean energy and scenic beauty coexist harmoniously. Thank you.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to share this little nugget with you, because I'm a child of the 70s, and I remember going up and down the Interstate and all the trees that got planted, and I wondered why. Well, a short inquiry on the internet provided this: the Interstate Beautification Project, spearheaded by Lady Bird Johnson, aimed to enhance the beauty of America's highways in the 1970s by promoting landscaping, particularly the planting of flowering trees and shrubs. The initiative, which was formalized through the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, encouraged the use of trees and flowers to create more visually appealing roadside environments.

I don't know what we're doing here in Maine, but you drive up and down the Interstate right now, and all you can see are solar panels. Beauty, I guess, is in the eye of the beholder, but I find nothing appealing about it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

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

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the Ought Not to Pass motion and I'd like to just explain a little bit to my colleagues.

The proposed legislation mandates visual barriers around solar energy developments, requiring developers to invest in fencing, trees, shrubs or other vegetation to screen their projects. Now, these additional requirements would significantly increase the direct cost of these projects and the time it takes to get them going. These increased costs and delays could discourage new investments in our clean energy transition. And, Mr. Speaker, they could prevent our State from gaining the economic benefits that these projects do provide. Immediate benefits and long-term ones as well. Jobs in engineering, construction and maintenance, as well as the spillover benefits to retail, hotels, restaurants. Solar projects also create sustainable, well-paying jobs.

There's no doubt, I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, there's no doubt that Maine's scenic beauty is one of our greatest assets. I understand that the intent behind this bill is to preserve that beauty, but this bill is too restrictive. The DEP, under site law, already has the authority to and

regulates visual impacts from solar energy development or other applicable development. Also, visual buffering standards are typically set and regulated at the municipal level, and we should not take away that local control. Individual communities are the ones who are best positioned to address their unique needs.

So, this proposed legislation could have negative consequences for our economy, job growth and our future in renewable energy. There are already provisions in site law to deal with the visual effects of any kind of development, and municipalities can choose to do more if they wish. I ask that you, Mr. Speaker, follow me and the majority of the Committee in voting 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. 286

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 75; No, 70; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Legislative Approval for a Contract to Operate the Juniper Ridge Landfill"

(S.P. 566) (L.D. 1349)

Signed:

Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ANKELES of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
CAMPBELL of Orrington
RIELLY of Westbrook
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips
WOODSOME of Waterboro

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-221)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach

OSHER of Orono

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-183)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care"

(S.P. 385) (L.D. 896)

Signed:

Senator:

INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot

DEBRITO of Waterville

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MCCABE of Lewiston

SHAGOURY of Hallowell

ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

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-183)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to LD 896; not because I don't care about children's health, but because I believe Maine families deserve sustainable solutions and not unfunded promises.

Let's be clear: LD 896 comes with a price tag of more than three million dollars annually in General Fund dollars, not including the long-term administrative and systemic costs. This

is on top of the already historic expansion of MaineCare, which now serves over 400,000 Maine people; nearly one in three residents. Our system is stretched to the breaking point. Maine is already failing to pay its MaineCare bills on time. Providers, especially those in rural areas, are waiting months for reimbursement. These delays are harming the very patients that we're trying to help.

Before we add even more to the rolls, shouldn't we first fix the system that we have? This bill, though well intentioned, would lock the State into another open-ended entitlement commitment at a time when our budget is already struggling to keep pace with core obligations. We're looking at a historic deficit in the years ahead, and we cannot afford to continue piling on more spending without accountability or reform. I believe that Maine children and all Maine families should have access to quality health care, but the way to get there is not by growing a system that is already unsustainable. We need to focus on building a healthier economy, not expanding dependency. A stronger economy will create more private coverage options, more job opportunities and ultimately, fewer families relying on public assistance. We owe it to our children not just to give them coverage, but to ensure that we're building a system that they can count on five, 10, or 20 years from now. LD 896 fails to do that. It's another short-term solution with long-term consequences. Mr. Speaker, we cannot spend our way into compassion. Fiscal responsibility is what protects our most vulnerable in the long run. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no on LD 896.

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

Representative MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. Maine children deserve to be healthy, and we as a State have a significant interest in our kids getting healthy, getting the care they need. It sets them up for a successful life and ensures that the next generation is healthy for school, and eventually, for the workforce.

In Maine, more than 130,000 children rely on MaineCare and CHIP for their health insurances in our State, and nationally, the annual recertification to continue Medicaid coverage has led to children churning off and on the program due to often uncontrollable family circumstances. Parents may experience an income fluctuation due to overtime pay or temporary second job that briefly makes them ineligible for MaineCare. This churn can result in unmet health care needs and delays in accessing essential health services.

Our children should not have to risk harm to things that are beyond their control. To ensure our kids have a path to success in school and life, Maine should provide continuous Medicaid coverage for eligible children during their first five years. The proposed legislation would do just that, and I would ask my colleagues to vote in favor of Maine kids.

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

Representative CIMINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard the term 'temporary' used; temporarily help people on MaineCare. My question is, do we know what the average time is that someone is on MaineCare?

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

Representative LEMELIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that we're in financial crisis, especially in the Health and Human Services. Although we want to help every single person we can, we just don't have the money to do it. So, regardless of

how fluffy people want to make this sound, we have to be responsible.

This is not about neglecting children if we don't pass this. It's about the fact that we can't pass this. So, like my friend from Chester said, we need to fix the problem first. We need to pay the COLAs. We need to pay the hospitals. We need to pay the nursing homes. We're not doing any of that. This has to come first before we add an additional burden to a failed system. So, it's not a matter of neglecting children here. We're not being bad guys by voting this down, saying that we don't care about the children five and under. We're saying that we have to be responsible adults in the room and fix the problem first. Once we fix the problem, then we can come back to this bill and address it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Stover.

Representative STOVER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have no greater responsibility as lawmakers than to care and protect for all children. Thank you.

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

Representative CIMINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to remind my colleagues that by us not taking care of the 400,000 people that are already on MaineCare, we are neglecting them. So, to me, it makes no sense to add people when we're already neglecting the people that are on MaineCare by not paying our bills.

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. 287

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 74; No, 71; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-183) 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-183)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Family Life Education to Include a Human Growth and Development Curriculum"

(S.P. 669) (L.D. 1716)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

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

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to the motion before us.

This bill recognizes a simple truth: that human growth and development are natural, universal parts of life and that education on these topics is most effective when it is based on accurate, age-appropriate and scientifically grounded information. LD 1716 aims to ensure that students receive a curriculum that reflects current medical and psychological understanding of how children and adolescents develop physically, emotionally and socially.

This is not about promoting ideology; it is about preparing young people with knowledge that supports their health, self-awareness and decision making as they grow. The science tells us that early, accurate education around human development leads to better outcomes, lower rates of risky behavior, improved mental health and stronger interpersonal skills. When students understand what's happening to their bodies and minds, they're less likely to feel isolated or confused. They're more likely to ask questions, seek help when needed and make informed choices.

LD 1716 does not reinvent the wheel. It strengthens existing family life education by ensuring that human development is taught in a comprehensive and developmentally appropriate way. It allows educators to respond to the real needs they're seeing in the classroom, using resources backed by research and best practices. We know from public health data that well-informed students are healthier students. And as policymakers, we have a responsibility to make sure the information available in our schools is grounded in evidence, not assumption or fear.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion before us and to give this bill the consideration and the support it deserves. Thank you.

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

Representative **MEYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. Yes, accurate, comprehensive sex education is essential to ensure that young people can make informed, thoughtful choices about their sexual and reproductive health. Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex ed programs are associated with decreased rates of sexual transmitted infections, adolescent pregnancy, as well as less risky sexual behavior.

Unfortunately, this bill advances policy that is misaligned with evidence-based sex ed. The national sex ed standards do not suggest using an ultrasound video in the classroom, and experts in child development agree this is not practice for the very young children it is aimed at in this piece of legislation; that would be eight-year-olds. Requirements to show materials related to fetal development without critical context about reproductive health are misleading and potentially dangerous. The "Baby Olivia" video and others like it purported to be high-resolution ultrasound intrauterine videos are denounced by the American College of OB/GYN, which stated, and I quote, they are "designed to manipulate the emotions of viewers rather than share evidence-based, scientific information about embryonic and fetal development." 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. 288

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 75; No, 70; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Supply of Child Care Services Through the Use of Contracts"

(S.P. 682) (L.D. 1736)

Signed:

Senator:

INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot

DEBRITO of Waterville

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MCCABE of Lewiston

SHAGOURY of Hallowell

ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

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

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to LD 1736. While I agree with my colleagues that access to affordable, quality child care is a pressing need across our State, this bill is not the right solution, and here's why.

First and foremost, the Department of Health and Human Services, the very agency that would be tasked with implementing this legislation, is not in support of LD 1736. That alone should give us pause. When the Department charged with overseeing child care in Maine says a bill is unnecessary, we should listen carefully. The reality is that this bill is duplicative. The Department is already moving forward with a plan to roll out contracted child care slots, just not immediately. Those contracts are scheduled to be implemented in Fiscal Year 2026. That's not too far in the future. That work is already underway. LD 1736 does not add to that effort; it simply runs parallel to it, creating confusion and adding an unnecessary layer of

legislative direction when the Executive Branch is already acting.

We need to be thoughtful stewards of taxpayer dollars. Passing legislation that duplicates existing work is not fiscally responsible and it sets a troubling precedent. Let's not micromanage a process that is already in motion with experienced professionals at the helm. I urge this Body to let the Department do its job, follow through on the timeline that it has outlined and assess the impact of contracted slots once they are in place. Let's not legislate for the sake of legislating. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative McCabe.

Representative **McCABE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. Maine is in the midst of a child care crisis. Let me be clear: this is not a distant issue or someone else's problem. This is a crisis that affects our families, our workforce and the very future of our State.

Roughly one in four Mainers lives in a child care desert, areas where there are not enough licensed child care slots to meet the demand. And in our rural and underserved communities, this problem is even more acute. LD 1736 offers a real, sustainable solution. This bill empowers the Office of Child and Family Services to contract directly with child care providers. That means the State can pay for a guaranteed number of child care slots, focused on areas identified through a regional needs assessment. This is not guesswork; it's strategic. It's data driven, smart government.

We all know that child care providers operate on shoestring budgets. My son's incredible child care, the YWCA in Lewiston, accepts all students, no matter whether they utilize private pay or receive a State subsidy. But many child care providers are unable to take State subsidies, because their margins are too razor thin. Unfilled slots, even for a few weeks, when multiplied by several children, proves too great a financial burden. Contracting directly with child care centers provides sorely needed stability. It means predictable funding, something that's been lacking for too long in this sector. With that stability, providers can plan, hire and grow. Families will gain access to care that didn't exist before. This bill also brings Maine in alignment with national best practices in federal guidance. States across the country are moving towards this direct contracting model because it works.

By passing LD 1736, we are not just addressing a shortage, we are building a foundation. A foundation of opportunity for parents who want to work, providers who want to serve and for children who deserve a strong, safe start to life, no matter their ZIP Code. I urge you to join me in voting yes on LD 1736. 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. 289

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, 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, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan, Walker.

Yes, 77; No, 68; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 6 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.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-158)** on Bill "An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife"

(S.P. 559) (L.D. 1343)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick
DILL of Old Town
LANCE of Paris
MASON of Lisbon
TERRY of Gorham
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Greene
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Senator:

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representative:

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

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-158) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-184)** thereto.

READ.

On motion of Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine

(S.P. 68) (L.D. 132)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan
SATO of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-178)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

LEE of Auburn
PUGH of Portland
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

READ.

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

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-196)** on Bill "An Act to Make Agricultural Workers and Other Related Workers Employees Under the Wage and Hour Laws" (S.P. 273) (L.D. 589)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney

DRINKWATER of Milford

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-196)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LD 589 attempts to treat farming like any other business, ignoring the unique challenges and realities that farmers face.

The longstanding exemption for overtime for agriculture was put in place recognizing the unique nature of agricultural production. In Maine, we have a very limited time in which to raise and harvest crops. In the potato industry, this is approximately 120 days. Agriculture is also faced with factors that we have no control over, such as weather. They cannot plant a crop until ground conditions are suitable, they can't plant in wet soil and if it rains, cultivation and management of the crop during the summer is impacted. State harvesting can only begin when the crop has reached; and again, cannot be done in wet conditions.

This bill also eliminates piecework pay, which will have a harmful impact on the blueberry harvesters. Mandating hourly wages will reduce earnings for those who pick and rake produce, many of whom rely on piecework to make a living. Senior citizens who have raked blueberries for decades will no longer be hired. Teenagers who rake to earn extra money for school clothes will lose their opportunity. Anyone who cannot rake enough berries to meet the mandated hourly wage simply won't be hired. This bill shuts out the very people who depend on seasonal work.

Lastly, this bill still allows a private right of action. Section 4, Subsection 654 says that "may not be construed to restrict or impair any existing right available to an employee under any other section of this chapter." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill was heavily amended and now is a much different version than we would see. The proposal itself is a result of extensive collaboration over many years, and in its amended version, which is what is before us today, it reflects the consensus reached by the Chief Executive's agricultural stakeholder group last year. It represents a balanced approach that considers the need of both employers and employees in our agricultural sector.

Agriculture is a vital part of our State's economy and heritage. Our farmers not only provide us with food, but also contribute significantly to our communities. And as you heard from my Good Friend from Milford, they are working under incredibly difficult circumstances to make a living and to produce

those crops that we depend on. Notably, every single farmer who testified on this bill indicated that they already pay their workers far above the State minimum wage. It's also important to highlight that farmers employing workers under the H-2A visa program are required to pay what's called the adverse effect wage rate, which as of December 16, 2024, is set at \$18.83 per hour in Maine. This rate, as we all know, is significantly higher than the State minimum wage of \$14.65 an hour and must be paid to all farm workers if the farmer also employs H-2A workers.

This bill aims to establish a consistent baseline. That's it. It ensures that all agricultural workers will receive at least the State minimum wage. It aligns with practices already in place and provides clarity and uniformity across the industry. Additionally, this bill addresses the previous concerns by excluding a private right of action, focusing instead on a straightforward update to our wage laws. By supporting this legislation, we affirm our commitment to fairness and consistency in our labor standards while continuing to honor the invaluable contributions of our agricultural community, who again are telling us that they are more than fairly compensating their workers already. Thank you.

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

Representative **MACIAS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. I rise today in strong support of LD 589, because farm work is hard work, no matter where it's done or who does it; my back and knees hurt just thinking about it.

For too long, agricultural workers; those who plant our food, harvest berries, wrap wreaths, milk cows and endure long hours under the sun; have been excluded from basic wage protections most of us take for granted. These exclusions are rooted in a shameful legacy, and they have no place in the Maine of today. All of our hearts should hurt for this long-defended injustice. This bill doesn't create special treatment; it simply closes a loophole. It says to the men and women who feed us, you matter, your time matters, your labor matters and yes, your dignity matters.

LD 589 affirms a simple principle; if you work hard, you should be paid fairly. No one should be exempt from fairness just because their work is invisible to most of us. Let us be the generation that corrects old wrongs. Let us build a labor system that is rooted in respect, not exception. I urge my colleagues vote yes on LD 589.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had an interesting thought. If the solar people in the State of Maine want some more land to put up some of their junk, pass this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition of the pending motion. Not because I don't think that farmers should be paid fairly, but I think that you should be able to earn as much money as you can in the time that you have to do that. And that's what piecework allows in my area.

I grew up raking blueberries, I'm very proud to say I was part of that heritage industry and I'm very proud to say that I had my son be a part of that as well, and he realized that he wanted to do something different, because he did not want to do that hard work. So, where I live and where I grew up, piecework really makes those operations able to exist. We have families

come out; we have retirees that come. One woman I know is my neighbor, she rakes just to get feed for her horses. She knows how much money she needs, she's allowed to come and she's allowed to rake and earn that money.

So, while I agree that most farmers are paying their workers more than minimum wage, without that piecework, that definitely disenfranchises my area for the ability to keep the small farms open and the workers to earn as much money as they can while they have the opportunity. Thank you.

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

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the Members may not realize that piecework in farming is an extremely important practice. It allows hard workers to make more money, and it allows the harvest to come in at a time when farmers are facing adverse weather conditions, at a time where they may lose their crop if they don't bring it in quickly. This bill would oppose that. I really; I ask Members to vote for an Ought Not to Pass on this. Piecework is an extremely important practice for farming, and this would take away the effectiveness of that practice. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify; and thank you for letting me rise again; piecework is not outlawed by this bill. Piecework is still a thing that can happen and people can still do piecework. I'm not sure where the idea that this bill would cut out piecework came from. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Beck.

Representative **BECK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Roeder just stole a little bit of my thunder about piecework not being affected by this. I think it's important to remind ourselves that this came out with a very strong vote from the Committee in favor of it, a bipartisan vote. I'm very hopeful that we can pass this. Thank you.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. I just want to remind people that a lot of our farmwork is done by first-generation Americans, our immigrants, and I know that's important to the other side of the aisle just as much as it is here, and this gives immigrants an opportunity to work hard and live the American Dream; which is work hard, take care of your family; and I just want to kind of put that on the table, and when you put minimum wages in place, they find machines to replace people. So, just keep that in mind while you're voting and please vote against this measure. 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. 290

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Walker.
Yes, 74; No, 72; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-196)** 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-196)** in concurrence.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment yesterday, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass** - Minority (4) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act"

(S.P. 272) (L.D. 588)

- In Senate, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

TABLED - May 6, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **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 Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read from some of the testimonies we heard on this bill. "When a farmer hires an employee, that employee knows what the job duties are and what the compensation for performing those duties will be. If an issue arises, the Maine Department of Labor Maine Monitor Advocate is available to help employees with such things as conducting field checks in the agriculture industry, providing information and advocacy for migrant and seasonal farm workers on issues such as wages, housing and discrimination, and informing farm workers of their

rights and of the right to file a complaint. Concerted activity would cause another undue burden and regulation on our agricultural community."

At its core, Mr. Speaker, LD 588 grants agricultural employees the right to engage in a broad range of 'concerted activity,' a term defined so vaguely in the bill that it opens the door to substantial workplace disruptions. Agricultural employees would be banned from disciplining workers who refuse to work as a collective bargaining tactic, even during the peak of harvest season. When labor timing is critical to product quality and farm viability, LD 588's one-size-fits-all framework; modeled after the National Labor Relations Act but broadened to cover workers otherwise exempt under federal law; fails to account for agricultural's lives, unique demands and rhythm. Thirty-six states do not currently guarantee collective bargaining sites for farm workers, and Maine is one of them. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be testifying against this bill because there's no evidence to show that it's necessary.

The members of the Labor Committee sat through a bunch of testimonies the day this bill came before us, but not one farm worker testified. Not one. You may be thinking, Mr. Speaker, they didn't come out to testify because they were intimidated. In fact, Erica Veazey from Pine Tree Legal Services said their group visits farms to find employees. It seems if the problems were so great on these farms, employees would be speaking to the press, posting on social media and running in droves to Pine Tree Legal. I repeat, not one employee came before us to testify in favor of this bill.

We did hear from farmers. Tessa Burpee, a fifth-generation farmer from Brewer, describes the people she works with like family. She said their farm pays above minimum wage and provides incentives and bonuses. Michael Goss grows berries in Mechanic Falls and says his employees are working at \$18.83 an hour. These same employees are receiving free transportation, free housing with utilities and one of the houses he rents is about \$1,200 a month. We all know Jeannie Tapley from the Maine Potato Board. She told the Labor Committee in recent surveys from their growers the minimum average hourly wage for full-time employees is \$23.15 an hour. Some of their employees are making over \$28 an hour. She also noted that these employees receive benefits; dental, health and paid time off; and some actually have company vehicles.

I think if we're being honest, this bill should have been named "An Act to Allow Agricultural Employees to Unionize," because we also heard from a whole lot of unions. They all had the same theme that day, and I dare say, the title theme should've been "Enlarging their Membership." Beth White from the SEIU wrote employees are "denied the right to organize and collectively bargain with their employers." Coralie Giles from the Maine State Nurses Association; which I'm not even sure what that has to do with farming, but she had something to say: "While the bill falls short of recognizing the right to form a union and bargain collectively, it is an important step forward." Adam Goode from the AFL-CIO said working people should be able to organize. Ruben Torres from the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition stated LD 588 would extend collective bargaining rights to farm workers.

Farmers in Maine are already operating on thin margins. Testimony does not support that there is a need to support this bill. And let me quote one of our Members of this Body, a farmer from Palmyra, Representative Cray: "It's already hard to be a

farmer in Maine," and "we should not increase that burden." Please vote with me today, vote no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've heard 'collective bargaining' quite a lot for a bill that isn't about collective bargaining. This is concerted activity, and I know that's a term that we don't hear in our day-to-day lives; I'm going to talk a little bit about what concerted activity means.

One of the things that you can do if you are allowed to engage in concerted activity is talk to your coworkers about working conditions. That is a right that most workers already have. For example, I could've told my good friend and seatmate yesterday that I was really cold and hated it, and that is my right to exercise concerted activity. So, it's about talking with one or more coworkers about your wages and benefits or other working conditions. It has nothing to do with negotiating those wages and benefits.

And the cited \$18.83 per hour that we heard from my Colleague from Sidney is the adverse effect wage. Let me remind you that when we have H-2A workers on our farms, there's a whole host of things that we have to adhere to, including those working conditions, including pay, including room and board. They're taken care of pretty well, and the eyes of the government are on those farms because of that. And if there isn't a problem, perhaps there would be no entries in the federal database of federal labor law violations for Maine farms, but there are, and I encourage people to look at that.

No, we didn't have a lot of people who were farm workers come to testify about this. Yeah, because they're working. That is also one of the reasons that not every farmer who wanted to testify on our agricultural bills came to testify in front of us, too. These are working people. And again, it's not a bill to unionize farm workers in any way, shape or form. The reason, I would like to speculate, that Cokie Giles from Nurses Union testified on this bill is because union members have a tendency to stick up for working people. They testify in ways; on bills that would affect a workers' ability to have a fair working place, to enjoy some of the same rights that union workers have collectively bargained for.

But this is just about talking to each other; it's about having the right to do what everybody else in the United States has a chance to do, because again, farmworkers in the 1930s were left out of the Fair Labor Act laws and we're just asking for this very baseline concerted activity, because we know that unionization poses a lot of challenges, especially to the farmers, who we've already heard are operating on very thin margins because they are price takers, not price makers. This is a baby step; a baby step towards fairness, and I hope that we as a Body can take it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Beck.

Representative **BECK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, a rhetorical question. Have you ever had a bad boss? Have you ever had any sort of a problem at work, and if you did, did you talk to your coworkers about it? I'm guessing you probably did, right? That's what we do when we share the experience of a workplace. If you are a farmworker and you talk to one of your coworkers about a problem at work, that is enough to get you fired under the law. The rest of us are protected by the National Labor Relations Act, but agricultural workers and domestic workers are not. This merely gives permission for agricultural workers to talk to each other about what's going on work. Nothing more, nothing less. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **HALL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my fourth term here. I'm a farmer; I'm an eighth-generation farmer. I've heard this bill be before us, I believe, for the last three Sessions. It's all about unionizing farm labor. I don't care how you write the title of it, the bottom line is, and I agree with the Good Representative from Bangor, it's a baby step towards unionization.

If we keep passing these bills against agriculture, I know every one of you, when you go to the grocery store; complains about the cost of food. Guess what? We're not going to have any farms left here in the State of Maine, so, we're going to truck all of our food in from out of state, which most of it's coming from out of state now. When that food comes from out of state, it costs money; transportation. It also costs money to have the truck drivers bring that in here, because guess what, they're unionized.

I could go on and talk about this for quite some time, but I would strongly suggest that everybody vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm a little confused, and I wonder if I could pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you. I'm just curious. I heard somebody say that it's illegal for farm workers to talk to each other and that they'd get fired, because that's what the law is currently. But I have not seen the Statute that says farmers can be fired for exercising their First Amendment rights, and I'm curious if we could find the point in Statute where that's an issue. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you. It's the Federal National Labor Relations Act. It excludes agricultural laborers from its protection.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry to rise for the second time, but I really take offense when somebody stands on the floor of the House and says you can be fired for talking to your coworkers about issues.

I have owned a business. You cannot just fire somebody for talking to another employee about issues. Under the Department's rules, you have to first of all bring that person in and talk to them, and hopefully, they'll sign the statement saying that you've been counseled. If they do it a second time, you bring them in and you say, 'listen, one more time, you're fired, please sign here.' The third time they do it, you are out the door. And if you don't obey by those rules, that person will file a complaint, and then the Department of Labor shows up and wants to know and look at your files on that employee and what happened.

So, to stand up on the floor of the House and say you can be fired for talking to your employee is nonsense. He knows better; he shouldn't've done that. Thank you.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to share some facts with you and the Members of the House. The definition of a labor union or simply a union is an organized collection of workers who band together to advocate for their interests, particularly regarding wages, benefits and working conditions. In this bill, Section 1, Line A: "Conferring with another agricultural employee with regard to wages, working conditions, terms of employment or other matters related to employment." That's just Section A. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Beck.

Representative **BECK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise a second time to answer the question that was posed through the Chair and to address some of the comments from my colleagues in the House.

The right to speak to one another about work issues at work is guaranteed to workers in the private sector. Agricultural workers and domestic workers are not guaranteed that same right. There's nothing that says that the owner of a farm is required to fire somebody for speaking that way, but those agricultural workers do not enjoy the same protections under the law that private sector workers enjoy. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, a quick Google search. I found the Federal Labor Relations Act, which governs labor relations in the federal sector, generally protects employees' rights to communicate with each other about work-related matters, particularly those related to wages and working conditions. Thank you.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, this bill is not about just banter and conversation between workers. It's definitely a bill that is there to support having unionization. If the opposite were the fact, then unions would not have been there speaking in support of this piece of legislation.

Also, as a reminder, even if you want to argue that agricultural workers are not covered under the Labor Relations Act the way individual employers are in the private sector, I think we have a Constitution that guarantees the First Amendment. And I know while some of you don't follow the Constitution of the United States, a lot of us believe --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would remind the Member to not impugn the motives of other Members.

The Chair reminded Representative CIMINO of Bridgton that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CIMINO**: I'm going according to how we vote, so, I'm not impugning; I'm stating a fact. 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. 291

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cluchey, Eaton, Griffin, Walker.

Yes, 71; No, 75; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass Report was NOT ACCEPTED.**

Subsequently, on motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass Report was ACCEPTED in NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1269) (L.D. 1898) Bill "An Act to Correct Outdated References Regarding the Maine Human Rights Act" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 10) (L.D. 46) Bill "An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-430)**

(H.P. 408) (L.D. 640) Bill "An Act Requiring Certain Fees Charged by the Courts for Court-ordered Payments Be Capped and Paid by the Defendant" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-452)**

(H.P. 422) (L.D. 654) Bill "An Act to Adjust the Maximum Small Claim Limit Based on the Consumer Price Index" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-451)**

(H.P. 630) (L.D. 970) Bill "An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-449)**

(H.P. 707) (L.D. 1085) Resolve, Directing the Judicial Branch to Perform an Inspection and Study of the Rumford Courthouse Building Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-450)**

(H.P. 740) (L.D. 1121) Bill "An Act to Ensure Equitable Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-431)**

(H.P. 775) (L.D. 1170) Bill "An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-447)**

(H.P. 820) (L.D. 1245) Bill "An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-453)**

(H.P. 984) (L.D. 1500) Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Community Development Financial Institution Fund to Support Small Businesses, Rural Economic Development and Affordable Housing" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-446)**

(H.P. 1008) (L.D. 1523) Bill "An Act to Improve Perinatal Care Through Expanded Access to Doula Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-443)**

(H.P. 1077) (L.D. 1623) Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws Related to Landowner Representation Regarding Abandoned Property" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-440)**

(H.P. 1089) (L.D. 1635) Bill "An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-432)**

(H.P. 1141) (L.D. 1706) Bill "An Act Regarding Notification of Appointment of Legal Representation for Indigent Clients in Custody" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-458)**

(H.P. 1213) (L.D. 1812) Bill "An Act to Provide Low-interest Loans for Accredited College Graduates Entering Trade Professions and an Employer Tax Credit for Trade Tool Reimbursements" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-448)**

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

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

(H.P. 1112) (L.D. 1677) Bill "An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-442)**

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

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

The Unanimous Committee Report was **READ**.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report and later today assigned.

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2025-26

(H.P. 1042) (L.D. 1584)
(C. "A" H-424)

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. 104 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports

(H.P. 231) (L.D. 331)
(C. "A" H-270)

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

Acts

An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers

(S.P. 53) (L.D. 34)
(C. "A" S-213)

An Act to Establish an Apprentice Insurance Producer License

(H.P. 567) (L.D. 881)
(C. "A" H-421)

An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care

(S.P. 385) (L.D. 896)
(C. "A" S-183)

An Act Regarding Safety from Fire for Recreational Vehicles

(H.P. 784) (L.D. 1179)
(C. "A" H-420)

An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors

(H.P. 801) (L.D. 1226)
(C. "A" H-333)

An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of the Drug Laws Related to Cocaine Base

(H.P. 889) (L.D. 1366)
(C. "A" H-332)

An Act to Develop Maine's Credentialed Workforce

(H.P. 1094) (L.D. 1653)
(C. "A" H-375)

An Act to Increase the Supply of Child Care Services Through the Use of Contracts

(S.P. 682) (L.D. 1736)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Space Corporation

(S.P. 733) (L.D. 1863)
(S. "A" S-230)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State

(S.P. 84) (L.D. 197)
(C. "A" S-126; S. "A" S-211)

Resolve, to Increase Reading and Mathematics Proficiency in Public Schools

(H.P. 224) (L.D. 324)
(C. "A" H-377)

Resolve, Directing the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to Take Appropriate Actions to Identify Opportunities for the Beneficial Reuse of the Buildings and Land Commonly Known as the Bangor Mall

(S.P. 390) (L.D. 901)
(C. "A" S-182)

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

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

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

An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers

(S.P. 273) (L.D. 589)
(C. "A" S-196)

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 292

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin, Lanigan.

Yes, 74; No, 73; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 240) (L.D. 561) Bill "An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-225)**

(S.P. 569) (L.D. 1375) Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-228)**

(S.P. 651) (L.D. 1643) Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-227)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws

(H.P. 323) (L.D. 494)

(C. "A" H-328)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act

(H.P. 928) (L.D. 1406)

(C. "A" H-419)

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. 116 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Delay Implementation of Certain Recent Changes to the Beverage Container Redemption Law and to Make Other Necessary Changes to That Law

(H.P. 1022) (L.D. 1564)

(C. "A" H-415)

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. 121 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

(H.P. 172) (L.D. 269)

(C. "A" H-356)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

(H.P. 469) (L.D. 730)
(C. "A" H-374)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 114 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees

(H.P. 821) (L.D. 1246)
(C. "A" H-392)

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

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, **TABLED** pending **FINAL PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment

(H.P. 858) (L.D. 1323)
(C. "A" H-347)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 4 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure
(S.P. 22) (L.D. 9)
(C. "A" S-219)

An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Elver Fishing
(H.P. 8) (L.D. 44)
(C. "A" H-344)

An Act to Support Municipal and County Actions on Dam Ownership and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Release from Dam Ownership
(H.P. 26) (L.D. 62)
(C. "A" H-391)

An Act to Eliminate the Cultchless American Oyster Growers License
(H.P. 28) (L.D. 64)
(C. "A" H-346)

An Act Regarding the Permitting of Projects Affecting Public-use Airports Under the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Site Location of Development Laws
(S.P. 74) (L.D. 138)
(C. "A" S-210)

An Act to Ensure Consistency of Income Tax Deductions for Retired Members of the Uniformed Services
(S.P. 158) (L.D. 366)
(C. "A" S-212)

An Act to Authorize the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to Issue Additional Securities for the Replacement of the Legislative Management System for the Senate and the House of Representatives
(H.P. 288) (L.D. 434)
(C. "A" H-357)

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Ferry Service to Matinicus Isle
(H.P. 301) (L.D. 447)
(C. "A" H-337)

An Act Regarding the Issuance of Silver Alerts
(H.P. 325) (L.D. 496)
(C. "A" H-331)

An Act to Reduce the Time Period for Challenging the Validity of a Property Tax Lien on Commercial Real Estate
(H.P. 345) (L.D. 526)
(C. "A" H-407)

An Act to Enhance Support Services for Individuals with an Acquired Brain Injury
(H.P. 391) (L.D. 623)
(C. "A" H-418)

An Act to Explicitly Allow the Department of Corrections to Charge Room and Board to Residents Who Perform Remote Work in Detention and Correctional Facilities and to Amend the Laws Governing Rehabilitative Programs
(H.P. 394) (L.D. 626)
(C. "A" H-370)

An Act Regarding the Laws Relating to Unemployment Insurance
(H.P. 445) (L.D. 706)
(C. "A" H-379)

An Act to Improve the Efficiency of Certain Department of Health and Human Services Licensing Investigations
(H.P. 494) (L.D. 764)
(C. "A" H-373)

An Act to Support the Maine Service Fellows Program
(H.P. 562) (L.D. 876)
(C. "A" H-338)

An Act to Modernize Deed Duplication from Microfilm to a Digital Image
(H.P. 580) (L.D. 915)
(C. "A" H-354)

An Act to Create the Weatherization Plus Program and Weatherization Plus Fund
(H.P. 643) (L.D. 996)
(C. "A" H-341)

An Act Regarding the Required State of Mind Relating to Robbery
(H.P. 751) (L.D. 1146)
(C. "A" H-368)

An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the State's Background Check Center
(H.P. 762) (L.D. 1157)
(C. "A" H-342)

An Act to Provide for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Create a Noncommercial Northern Shrimp License
(H.P. 781) (L.D. 1176)

An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund

(S.P. 516) (L.D. 1287)
(C. "A" S-208)

An Act to Clarify the Quality Rating System for Child Care Services in Maine

(H.P. 961) (L.D. 1469)
(C. "A" H-372)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Baitfish Wholesaler's Licenses

(H.P. 970) (L.D. 1478)
(C. "A" H-395)

An Act to Change the Laws Regarding Real Estate Appraisers

(H.P. 998) (L.D. 1514)
(C. "A" H-355)

An Act to Strengthen the Maine Development Foundation

(H.P. 1000) (L.D. 1516)
(C. "A" H-339)

An Act to Ensure Transparency in Student Transfer Requests

(H.P. 1046) (L.D. 1588)
(C. "A" H-406)

An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture

(H.P. 1053) (L.D. 1595)

An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of "Public Service Infrastructure"

(H.P. 1116) (L.D. 1681)

An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea

(H.P. 1143) (L.D. 1708)
(C. "A" H-351)

An Act to Clarify Municipal Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing

(H.P. 1194) (L.D. 1783)
(C. "A" H-409)

An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor

(H.P. 1245) (L.D. 1874)
(C. "A" H-335)

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

(H.P. 1286) (L.D. 1925)
(C. "A" H-349)

An Act to Clarify Data Collection Processes in Health Care Facilities

(H.P. 1304) (L.D. 1945)
(C. "A" H-343)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Designate a Portion of Route 234 in the Town of New Vineyard and the Town of Anson in Honor of Corporal Andrew L. Hutchins

(H.P. 378) (L.D. 610)

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Mattawamkeag the Mattawamkeag Veterans Memorial Bridge

(H.P. 389) (L.D. 621)

Resolve, to Allow the Placement of Hospitalized Patients in Nursing Facilities in Alternative Locations Under Certain Circumstances

(H.P. 619) (L.D. 960)
(C. "A" H-417)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Study Protection of Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program Funds

(H.P. 796) (L.D. 1221)
(C. "A" H-365)

Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program

(H.P. 854) (L.D. 1279)
(C. "A" H-345)

Resolve, Regarding the Percentage of a Lobster and Crab Fishing Licensee's Lobster Traps That May Be Fished in a Lobster Management Zone Listed on the License as a Secondary Zone

(H.P. 1019) (L.D. 1561)

Resolve, Regarding Host Community Compensation for the Juniper Ridge Landfill in the City of Old Town

(H.P. 1193) (L.D. 1782)
(C. "A" H-408)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)** on Bill "An Act to Require Minimum Pay for Reporting to Work"

(S.P. 282) (L.D. 598)

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-195)**.

READ.

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

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: 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. 293

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 88; No, 60; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

88 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)** 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**.

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **PRESENTED** **House Amendment "A" (H-471)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this bill first came to us, I had my hesitations about it. And then, along the way, I get a phone call from one of my relatives who works for Public Works for one of the cities and towns of my area, and he says, 'Gary, that bill would help people like me that work for Public Works, because I get called in all time of the night, any time of the weekend and then I get sent home. I think I should deserve minimum pay.' And you know, I said, 'you know, you're absolutely right.' So, I offered this

Amendment to help those public workers that are not unionized, because this exempts collective bargaining agreements, to help them get that extra pay. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Representative from Milford for his Amendment and just say I like it.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-471)** was **ADOPTED**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)** and **House Amendment "A" (H-471)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Agricultural Employers and Employees from the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 407) (L.D. 952)

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-188)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney

DRINKWATER of Milford

LIBBY of Auburn

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.

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **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 Topsham, Representative Macias.

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **MACIAS**: The average life expectancy of a farm worker is 49 years, 73 for the rest of us. Members of this

Body have used their power to try to take away their health care, their medical leave, their overtime wages, their ability to address workplace issues with each other, their dignity and their sense of security. My question is, how much more can we care for them less?

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 294

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 76; No, 72; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Suspend the Remittance Obligation for Paid Family and Medical Leave Private Plan Users" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 537) (L.D. 1307)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
COLLINS of Sidney
GEIGER of Rockland
LIBBY of Auburn
MACIAS of Topsham
SKOLD of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-197)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

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 Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry to keep rising, but it is what it is. Roll Call, please.

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **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. 295

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 75; No, 73; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Index Unemployment Benefits to the Unemployment Rate"

(S.P. 622) (L.D. 1538)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
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-198)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representative:

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, Directing the State Auditor to Audit All State Agencies

(S.P. 278) (L.D. 594)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-199)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias

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

READ.

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

Representative SMITH of Palermo **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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. The bill before us; I turned my fan off, the heat's still on, Mr. Speaker.

This bill would ask the Auditor to audit all State agencies and ask for seven items: the number of current employees; the number of newly hired employees over the last five, 10, 15 and 20 years; the current budget and the projected budget; the growth of the budget over the last five, 10, 15 and 20 years; the agency's jurisdictions, roles and responsibilities; the scope of the current projects, completed projects and incomplete projects over the last five, 10, 15 and 20 years; and the percentage of the total of the most current State biennial budget that the agency's current budget represents.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor indicated that much of those seven items are already being done. So, it would be a repository for ease of access to have that data at our fingertips, Mr. Speaker. For those reasons, I don't feel it to be a big burden to ask the Auditor to do what he's hired to do and audit the agencies of the State. 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. 296

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 76; No, 72; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters and Marine Resources up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 208) (L.D. 553)

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
GOLEK of Harpswell
RIELLY of Westbrook
SIMMONS of Waldoboro
STROUT of Harrington
THORNE of Carmel

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-203)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

WOOD of Norway

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

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-216)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Residents of Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax"

(S.P. 686) (L.D. 1768)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androskoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

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-216)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minority Report of Ought Not to Pass was not so much about amending the real estate transfer tax, we didn't have a problem with that, it was just earmarking the money to go to a specific housing opportunities fund. 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. 297

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 79; No, 69; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-216)** 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-216)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues

(S.P. 633) (L.D. 1549)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle

ANKELES of Brunswick

EATON of Deer Isle

MONTELL of Gardiner

RAY of Lincolnville

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-181)** on same RESOLUTION.

Signed:

Senator:

FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

ALBERT of Madawaska

BISHOP of Bucksport

MASON of Lisbon

PARRY of Arundel

WHITE of Guilford

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

READ.

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

Representative PARRY of Arundel **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 Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution, a Constitutional Amendment to permanently put the sales tax on vehicles into the Highway Fund. It starts at 60% and increases it five percent a year until we reach 100%.

The sales tax on vehicles, this is something that I've been working on for over a decade, and the Legislature made a great step forward two years ago, when we moved 40% of the sales tax into the Highway Fund. It's been a huge benefit to the Highway Fund; it's sustainable funding. The big advantages, as we know, with the gas tax; the gas tax isn't increasing because we have more electric vehicles, more fuel-efficient vehicles. The advantage on having the sales tax in the Highway Fund is it's an increasing number. We have seen a 70% increase in cost on construction and highway just since 2019. We need to do a better job on funding the Transportation Committee and the Highway Fund and our transportation system here in Maine. This will be the thing.

If we could get this passed, and what this does is, this sends it out to the voters to see if they think that spending the sales tax when they buy vehicles on our transportation system would be a good idea. I think they would agree. So, I would hope everybody could vote this pending motion down and support our highway system and our transportation system here in Maine. Thank you.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it seems to me one of the things that we like in the law is consistency, and my recollection is we recently passed; as a matter of fact, I think it was today or yesterday; a proposed Constitutional Amendment to provide for the money that goes into the Paid Family Leave account, that that money would only be used for that purpose. This seems very consistent with that, and so, if we're going to be consistent in terms of allotting and protecting funds, certainly we should be voting in favor of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CRAFTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the remarks from the Good Representatives on the other side of the aisle, and I think we can all agree that long-term, stable funding for infrastructure is vital, especially now.

My concern is, as Amended, this Report incrementally moves up the percentage of the sales and use tax on July 1, 2028, five percent each year, until it maxes out at 100%. And I believe the Majority Report and those of us on the Committee supporting it had concerns about what this would do to the rest of our General Fund budget as a State, as we're trying to negotiate and figure out how to solve the financial hurdles that we face currently.

I hope folks will support the Ought Not to Pass motion.

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. 298

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 75; No, 73; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Eleven Members of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Residency Requirements for and Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

(S.P. 347) (L.D. 787)

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

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-161)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

HAGGAN of Hampden

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

Came from the Senate with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ and ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-160) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-226)** thereto.

READ.

On motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of any Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-396)** on Bill "An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units"

(H.P. 291) (L.D. 437)

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

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Chamber. \$1.7 million dollars for a six-year pilot program with a minimum of schools involved in the pilot; four schools. Again, I want to stress; \$1.7 million for a pilot program. We have great needs in the field of education presently existing that we have to prioritize and we don't have the money for a great deal of it.

A pilot to have our infants and toddlers within the public school system. We can't afford this. The cost is too great. Not only fiscally, but even socially. Babies and toddlers do not belong in the public school system. The benefits of parental bonding with an infant and a toddler, as their mom and dad, far outweighs the convenience of a public child care facility. Parents always make sacrifices to make their child a priority. Here's a simple sacrifice for any parent: Keep your youngest children's care closest to your home, to your arms and to your heart. This is not a single; there is not one single program, pilot or educational structure that can compete with the vital interaction between parents and their children within a family setting. Thank you.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would just like to make a comment. There was an Amendment made and it's for a pilot for four schools to do, and there is a way to pay for this if the schools so choose to do so under Section 3, Number 6: "Charging a fee for child care, which may be adjusted based upon the income of the parent or the guardian of the child, based upon recommendations of the Department of Education and other child care service providers, and accepting a child care voucher or other child care assistance."

And I just want to take a minute to talk about this bill. This is a bill similar to a bill that was passed out of this House, through the Other Body and everything last Session, and ended up dying on the Table because we ran out of time. This is an adaption to that bill, and it's better. This bill takes a proactive step towards addressing the critical need for child care in Maine by directing the Department of Education to explore feasibility of integrating child care facilities into public schools. This initiative aims to develop and implement pilot programs based on comprehensive research.

The challenges faced by Maine families in accessing quality child care and the difficulties providers experience in retaining staff are issues that deserve our urgent attention and constructive solutions. The necessity for child care options in our State is increasingly apparent. Our child care providers are essential to building a strong workforce and supporting our economy. The complexities of the child care crisis in Maine, ranging from inadequate pay to workforce shortages, are significant. For many parents, finding affordable and accessible child care is crucial for reentering the workforce or pursuing further education. A report from the Council for Strong America revealed that 141 child care providers around Maine closed permanently during the pandemic and many more closed temporarily. Those that did reopen have often reduced their capacity due to difficulty finding workers. High cost and limited access to affordable child care significantly impacts parents' ability to work, affecting economic growth and financial stability for families.

According to a 2023 report by the Bipartisan Policy Center, Maine does not have enough licensed child care slots to meet the needs of young children. Notably, Aroostook County faces a substantial gap, with 2,561 children requiring care, but only 565 slots are available. This gap exists across all counties in the State, highlighting a pressing need for increased services. Furthermore, all counties across the State face a gap between the availability of services and the number of children that need care. Notably, the BPC analysis did not account for additional gaps caused when child care providers cannot operate at full capacity due to challenges with staffing. The true numbers are likely more dire.

The economic repercussions of the child care crisis have dramatically escalated since the pandemic, amounting to an estimated \$122 billion annually in lost earning productivity and revenue nationwide. In Maine, the lack of child care specifically for infants and toddlers costs the economy approximately \$403 million each year, more than double the 2019 estimate of \$180 million.

Clearly, our child care providers are vital to our workforce and the overall economy. This bill has the potential to enact meaningful change in Maine's child care landscape. It sets forth several important goals. It aims to establish training centers to help students learn about early child care development and the development stages of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Such programs provide valuable early child care education experiences that can lead to certificates at graduation or count towards further education in this vital field. This bill emphasizes the importance of providing nurturing, high-quality child care and age-appropriate learning experience in a safe and secure environment.

Investing in early child care education can foster upward mobility for all children, equipping them with the foundational skills necessary for long-term success. The benefits extend beyond individual children, positively impacting their families and communities for years to come. I would like to highlight five important benefits of quality child care and their lasting positive impacts. Research shows that access to high-quality, early learning programs can significantly reduce educational and opportunity gaps between children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds at the time of kindergarten entry, with readiness being a key predictor of academic success. Children enrolled in quality early learning programs tend to have higher graduation rates, with a six percent increase in high school graduation and a 5.5% increase in college attendance, rates being linked to their participation. Adults who receive quality early child care education are more likely to be employed full time, become

homeowners and maintain savings account. Participation in high-quality early education programs is associated with long-term health benefits, including lower rates of depression, reduced alcohol and tobacco use and a decreased prevalence of cardiovascular diseases. Evidence suggests that early childhood education enhances parenting practices, benefiting children during the program and in later years.

This bill also seeks to effectively tackle workforce shortages in our school districts which currently face shortages across various roles, including teachers, educational technicians, food service workers, maintenance staff and bus drivers. By offering quality child care as an employee incentive, we can boost recruitment and retention, addressing critical workforce gaps. Moreover, this bill is posed to strengthen the private child care sector by creating a pipeline of skilled early childhood education workers, with over two-thirds of the children under age six; that's about 51,000 children; affected by the continued child care challenges. Improving access as availability is crucial for supporting parents and fostering a stable future for our workforce. Parents need access to reliable, affordable child care to stay in the workforce, but challenges with affordability, availability, the child care workforce and care quality leaves parents with a lack of viable options. The lack of accessible child care forces many parents, especially women, to reduce their work hours or leave the workforce entirely. The lack of child care availability is near the top of the list of challenges facing Maine's female workforce. The State of Working Maine Report in 2023 stated that "an average of 19,600 women and 2,500 men each week listed either child care or care for older adults as their main barrier to employment, meaning that the responsibility of care was almost eight times as likely to fall on women as on men." This reduces household income and contributes to gender inequity in the workplace.

Maine is facing several crises at once, and several are connected at the hip. Our child care shortage is related to our workforce shortage. We cannot build one without the other. We as a State must work to fix these. LD 437 opens an opportunity for us to create long-term changes needed in our State to step towards addressing our State's child care needs. It will prepare participating students with adequate skills and knowledge of correct child care techniques for home and for the workplace. Together, we can create a long-term solution our State so desperately needs and the Maine people so desperately deserve.

I ask you to follow my light and join me in passing this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to identify this as one of those financial hurdles that we're trying to avoid or find a way around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Mexico, Representative Schmersal-Burgess.

Representative **SCHMERSAL-BURGESS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At some point, I believe parents need to parent. Thank you.

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Babies to five do not belong in the Department of Education being looked after. They need to be at home with their parents. The school is not replacing the parents. No matter what they think, parents are the main stakeholders in a child's life and we need to stop telling them otherwise with these insane bills.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as an early childhood educator, I'm very excited to hear colleagues discuss the importance of high-quality early childhood education. However, I will not be supporting the motion before us. And that's because I would rather see this \$1.7 million be used to help ensure that we have early childhood educators working in the centers that we have that desperately need more educators.

I'm not saying that having a child care center attached to a school is not a good idea. I worked at EduCARE, I think it's a great model, it works really well for parents. What I am saying is that this money could go further by investing in our educators and reducing the cost to the parents, because we can't keep charging parents more to pay for what our early childhood educators need in order to live and survive.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please follow my light.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We should; parents; there should be a male and a female, in marriage, raising children up to, say, the age of eight, and --

Representative **SALISBURY**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: I'm questioning the relevance of that statement to this bill.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the Member the bill before us is related to child care facilities in selected school administrative units.

The Chair reminded Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: The government should get out of the life of educating children and let parents be parents. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a moment ago, my colleague on the other side of the aisle said 51,000 children would be affected by this, and after digging up the Fiscal Note, the total at the bottom was \$650,000. Doing the math, that's \$12.74 and a half cents apiece. That doesn't seem like a number that would be very effective. Something doesn't add up here.

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. 299

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, 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, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury,

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Bunker, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 74; No, 73; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-396)** 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-396)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-194)** on Bill "An Act to Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan to Include Employees Who Work for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner"

(S.P. 73) (L.D. 137)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLINS of Sidney

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-194)**.

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-194)** 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-194)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow a Journeyman Electrician to Supervise 3 Helper Electricians"

(S.P. 227) (L.D. 509)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLINS of Sidney

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

READ.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-398)** on Resolve, to Increase the High School Graduation Rate by Creating the Maine Promise Initiative

(H.P. 634) (L.D. 974)

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 Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-398)** 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-398)** 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-399)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Physical Escort and Restraint and Seclusion of Students in Schools"

(H.P. 823) (L.D. 1248)

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
HAGGAN of Hampden
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:

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

READ.

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

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I was the only one that voted against this bill in our Committee, and I tried to understand this bill, and I did not support this bill. And if we're for parental rights, if it was the Good Representative from Hampden or Livermore Falls giving an escort, but when I asked Drummond and Woodsum what happens if a teacher went too far with this,

would there be any accountability? 'No, we would protect them from that.' So, for that reason, I'm a no way. Thank you.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-399)** 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-399)** 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-400)** on Bill "An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in Maine by Compensating Student Teaching"

(H.P. 862) (L.D. 1327)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
HAGGAN of Hampden
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:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

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-400)** 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-400)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Children in Public Schools by Requiring Parental Consent for Certain Tests, Analyses and Diagnoses"

(H.P. 948) (L.D. 1439)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-416)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, the Summary for this bill is that "this bill prohibits school administrative units from conducting student evaluations that include testing of intellectual, emotional, behavioral, psychological or physical development or are for the purpose of diagnosing an intellectual, emotional, behavioral, psychological or physical condition without first obtaining parental consent."

I don't know about you, but the number one issue whenever I speak to a parent is their fear that they are not being listened to, that their consent is not being given for everything that happens in the school. And that's a very real concern. They are demanding that decisions be brought to them, they make the decision for what happens with their child, no matter if it's in school or without.

The people that testified against this bill said that they believe that it's already in Statute. Well, if it was, then parents would know everything that was happening at their school. A child wouldn't be receiving a survey that they didn't know about.

So, I believe that this is an important bill, and I always say this, and I'll say it again: if there's a thunderstorm and a child is crying in their room, who's there? Their parent is there. If a child has finally swum out to the swim dock in the middle of the summer and they are just overjoyed, who's overjoyed for them? Their parents.

The parents' rights do not stop at the school door. I ask you to vote against this motion and vote for parents. Thank you.

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. Another parents' rights bill. I'm very alarmed about our present social condition that encourages and, at times, invites dangerously keeping parents uninformed; at times, even purposefully pursues a direction with a minor that lacks parent consent or awareness.

This bill honors parental responsibilities and demands their consent in regards to anything that a public school does in regards to their children's lives. Simple. Parents have the sole responsibility of their child's needs. This bill requires a collaboration or a collaborative approach between home and school. It ensures that parents are informed and are the decision makers on matters concerning their child's growth and development.

I continue to find it so alarming; actually, I can't even find good reason for anyone to question parental rights. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue that we had with this bill was that it conflicts with federal rules; with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, that provides that a school may, but is not required to, pursue an initial evaluation of a child for special education purposes in the absence of parental consent, except to the extent inconsistent with state law relating to such parental consent. And we were unclear in this legislation what exactly qualifies as an evaluation, because professional educators are evaluating students throughout the day, every student in their classroom is being evaluated by a teacher for emotional well-being, for academic success, for a number of things, and it seems burdensome for every single time a teacher is needing to evaluate a student, that they would get parental consent in advance. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lebanon, Representative Adams.

Representative **ADAMS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to rise on this.

So, I just want to be clear; we ran into something similar to this down where we're at. The schools are paid, or they receive extra funding to put kids on IEPs. So, it was pretty much they were trying to, you know, I guess, label these kids to get that extra money. And this just prevents them from doing that, because this leaves out parental consent. So, I just; you need to be aware of that. That happened just recently. 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. 300

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Bunker, Eaton, Griffin, Hall.

Yes, 75; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Related to Excusing a School from Making Up Missed Days When It Cannot Operate During a Declared State of Emergency" (H.P. 958) (L.D. 1466)

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 to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-425)** on same Bill.

Signed:

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 COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **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 Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a nice, simple bill. It was brought to me by superintendents after we had those horrific weather storms that caused schools to shut down for a large period of time, including shutting down because their bus garages were underwater. So, they have absolutely no way to get their kids to school. And so, it's quite a process, I'm not sure if you know about this, to get approval to be able to have school days waived when something like that happens. And this was even during a declared emergency.

Now, we already have something on the books right now for that to happen: automatic waivers from the DOE when there's a declared emergency for health-related reasons like COVID. And so, this is just a way of trying to fix the gap that was there. It's limited at five days or fewer of being excused should there be a declared emergency by the Chief Executive, to ensure that our schools don't have to have the extra headache of trying to file stuff with the Department of Ed in order to have this happen.

So, let's help our schools; we have a lot more extreme weather events that are happening; and ensure that they are able to prioritize the safety of their children that are at the schools over whether or not they want to have to fill out that administrative paperwork. 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. 301

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Bunker, Eaton, Griffin, Hall.
Yes, 75; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-401)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming"

(H.P. 1078) (L.D. 1624)

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

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I can't support this bill. It's a \$9.3 million Fiscal Note. There is no more pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. We have no money. We've spent it on insane things, so, good things can't be funded. So, for that reason, I'm a no way.

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. 302

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Bunker, Eaton, Griffin, Hall.
Yes, 75; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-401)** 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-401)** 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-403)** on Bill "An Act to Support the Implementation of Learning Standards and Results in Public Schools"

(H.P. 1136) (L.D. 1701)

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-403)** 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-403)** 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-410)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines"

(H.P. 517) (L.D. 810)

Signed:
Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative 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 Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully am standing to oppose this motion.

Quite honestly, I'm shocked that we're being faced with this bill so soon after the historic and controversial battle that the State of Maine has ever faced. LD 810 overturns part of the Citizens' Initiative of November 2, 2021, where Maine voters overwhelmingly decided that any future high-power transmission line must be approved by the Legislature. Specifically, the question read; it had three parts; but one of the parts said, do you want to "require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine?" The first part referred to the NECEC line in the Upper Kennebec region.

This was no NIMBY vote. With a total of 412,086 votes cast, 243,943 Mainers voted yes. That's 60%. That's 15 out of Maine's 16 counties voted yes. Eight counties voted yes by over 60%. The majority of every Maine town along the corridor voted yes, including Lewiston, home of the proposed substation, due to receive the largest municipal tax benefit. Eighty-nine percent of Maine towns presented a majority yes vote. Maine's 25 largest towns; including 19 in southern Maine, nowhere near the corridor; all voted yes. And just to be clear, I'm sure many of us have constituents in these towns. I'm just going to; these large towns, 25 large towns: Orono, Standish, Sanford, Westbrook, Waterville, Kennebunk, Saco, Windham, Portland, Brunswick, South Portland, Augusta, Lisbon, Biddeford, Auburn, Wells, Kittery, Lewiston, Topsham, Gorham, Bangor, Scarborough, Brewer Falmouth and York.

And now, the powers in this building are coming before this House; the people's House, of all places; to overturn the vote of 244,000 people that voted yes with an overwhelming 60-40 victory. Mind you, Mainers are already disenfranchised with our political system. For the second consecutive year, hundreds of Mainers from across the State, not just those in the host communities, mobilized and unified in a concerted effort to enable the Maine voter to have a powerful voice of influence upon a transmission line. This bill is about transmission lines. In less than three months, 700 registered Maine voters sacrificed extensively their time and efforts to collect and notarize signatures from over 100,000 voters. That feat was made even more admirable and awe-inspiring as these were three frigid Maine winter months, where citizens battled freezing pens and simultaneously combatted the adversities of a pandemic. Why such worthy sacrifice? So that every Mainer would have the opportunity to have their voice heard, to make a

difference and to employ the democratic process afforded in our Constitution. For many, this was their second time successfully collecting signatures for a Referendum, so that Maine citizens could have a say on a transmission line.

I have incredible respect for the sponsoring Senator, but this bill in its form opposes the will of the people and the vote. Mr. Speaker, Mainers made it clear that they care deeply about the balance of powers and how our State was actually run on their behalf. With agencies operating indifferently to submitted public opinion and evidence in the Record, Maine voters took hold of their constitutional rights to convey their voice through the democratic process. Now, LD 810 seeks to take away the peoples' voice via their legislative Representatives and put the power back in State agencies, unelected bureaucrats and staff appointed by the Executive Branch. This Amendment, in the Summary, it says that transmission lines would have received the majority legislative approval if the high impact transmission line is approved for a contract after a competitive procurement conducted by the PUC or State agency. This is the Executive Branch, not the Legislative Branch as required by the Maine voters.

If we look back at what happened with the agencies on the CMP corridor line and why the Legislature vote on a project location is essential for Mainers to be truly represented, just a few facts: 86% of the host communities voted on that line; 100% of those towns opposed. Still, it didn't matter to our regulatory agencies. Over 1,200 Mainers submitted testimony to the PUC, an unprecedented historic level. They still gave the certificate. There were so many intervenors in the DEP that they had to consolidate everyone into groups. They still gave the permit. After all was said and done, the PUC examiner's report to the Commissioners summarized their findings. They confirmed that CMP's effort was, quote, "a community outreach failure, deceiving the host communities and laying out the corridor without doing the necessary studies and alternative analysis to avoid or quantify adverse impacts." Keep in mind, the Commissioners gave them the certificate, anyhow. On page 103 of their Examiner's Report, they said, quote, "the running of an overhead transmission line through this area would have a considerable and detrimental impact on the scenic value of the area." They gave the certificate. Pages 104 and five, they said the record supports a finding that the perpetually-cleared corridor and transmission line located in that corridor would have a pronounced effect on the recreational values in the area in question. The record further indicates that the NECEC's impact on recreational values would have a corresponding impact on tourism and the economy in the host communities. They gave the certificate, anyhow. In addition; this is another quote; "In addition to CMP's unexplained failure to include key stakeholders, such as the town of Caratunk, in the MOU process, the Commission is concerned about CMP's overall outreach and communication activities regarding the project." They gave it anyhow. They said that CMP had a, quote, "unsettling disregard for certain members of the host communities."

Mr. Speaker, after all this and more, the agencies still gave the permits. Now, I know because I was an intervenor; I was at the PUC, I filed briefs, I questioned CMP for three hours at a hearing. I was part of the DEP process as well. Why do I go down memory lane? Because this is exactly why Mainers voted to ensure the Legislature could intervene on their behalf. They are tired of the good old boys' club, lobbyists, special interest groups and backroom deals running their State. LD 810 removes the protection of a Citizens' Initiative, of the citizens' elected officials, and puts the power back into the Executive

Branch and the Executive Branch's appointees. This is why our vote today must honor Mainers.

Current law says that a high-impact electric transmission line may not be constructed anywhere in the State without first obtaining the approval of Legislature, but LD 810 says that high impact electric transmission line proposed by the State agency is deemed to have received the; oh, I already read that part. It's deemed to have received the legislative approval if it's approved for a contract after a competitive procurement conducted by the PUC or a State agency.

A vote Ought to Pass on this bill sends a clear message to Maine voters that special interest groups, developers and backroom deals rule the roost in Maine, that their votes don't count, that Citizens' Initiatives are a joke, that the balance of powers is not balanced at all because this legislation puts the Executive Branch in full power, removing the Legislative Branch's authority.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how many times I've been asked how the corridor is still being built after 244,000 people won. I can't tell you how many times I've heard people exude their frustration and distrust over the political system that it allowed this to happen. Thousands of Mainers participated in the regulatory process at State agencies, battling an army of lobbyists. Historic levels of public comment came into our regulatory agencies. And in 2023, there was large opposition to the northern line. So large, I was contacted in Caratunk by people in fear of eminent domain for a poorly planned for-profit transmission line. I know what it's like.

We sure better be representing the people of our district, the people of Maine, and not on circumventing the peoples' vote for some other agenda, the agenda of special interest groups, a political party or a for-profit utility company or developer. If this bill had stated that we could get approval after the project; potential transmission line project; was laid out and the legislators could vote on it and represent their constituents, I would be okay with it, but this is taking that away. The issue with past transmission lines is that they laid it out without considering residents, without considering the impact, as I've already said. And they knew that they weren't held accountable to it, they didn't have to do the studies, they said they didn't do the studies because there was no accountability. This bill, as it is, would not require accountability for projects, where they went and how they impacted people.

The Legislative Branch is the closest branch to the Maine people. They elected us to represent them. And there aren't many topics that the Mainers have more clearly directed us than when they gave their 60% vote to say that their Legislature must approve any future high impact transmission lines. Please vote Ought Not to Pass.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kessler.

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have to start off by recognizing the Representative from Caratunk and to say that she's not necessarily wrong about what her experience was back then. And I respect when she came to the EUT Committee when she was not a Representative, advocating for her community, and I do not; I do not blame her for the distrust that she feels in government about how the process went.

And as we all know, these things can be complicated. I'm the Sponsor of this bill, and I, too, voted against the CMP corridor. What ended up happening subsequently demonstrated how Referendum questions can have unintended consequences. And that had occurred when; well, let me back up here. What this bill is about is not about the type of

transmission line that was just described, where we have a private investor-owned utility purchasing up land and making plans; when people really weren't aware; and using that transmission line for profit. This bill specifically is about when we, the Legislature, seek to build a transmission line, because that's the direction that we're going. We understand that we are going to need further capacity for a growing population, growing heating and cooling needs, artificial intelligence, you name it. The grid is going to need to grow. And if we want to be able to have clean, cheap electrons, we're going to need to get that stuff from up north, which is from the County with renewable, you know, wind and solar, and even from hydro from Canada. We know that that electricity is cheaper and cleaner.

But what is important to understand about this bill is that if we, the Legislature, are asking for that transmission line project, that is the permission that we are granting. We are not granting it after everything has been gone through the process of the DEP and the PUC; which, once again, the Representative from Caratunk had detailed problems with that; and I want this Body to understand that since then, we have passed many laws strengthening the public review process and also strengthening the rights of property owners when it comes to the powers of eminent domain. But what this bill is simply saying, because this Legislature, as you know, we are a squishy people sometimes, if we are requesting the transmission line, that means we are granting permission for that line to move forward into the future for the benefit of the people of Maine. So, I will leave it at that and thank you for listening.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The irony here today is very thick in the air. We on one hand know of folks that supported the Referendum, supported the possibility of stopping the NECEC line in its day; a line that, for the most part, the land was owned by the developers. A line that, for a small part, was a small piece of State-owned land. And I certainly agree with my Good Friend from Caratunk that a lot of that was laid out and done behind the scenes, without full knowledge of the public.

However, this bill has been triggered by a different line; as a matter of fact, the next line that the State of Maine was considering after the NECEC line and all that it brought, including the Referendum from the people of Maine that said the Legislature will have a vote to decide whether the next line or any large high-capacity, high-voltage transmission line is being installed in the State. The line that has instigated this bill was, in fact, quite different, although another very long line, high-voltage transmission line, going to connect the County, wind and solar and other possible energy generation sources down towards the coast of Maine. That line was running through more populated areas, through very many towns, some of them I represent, some of them represented by other Republicans and by Democrats in the Legislature. The constituents who own property where this line was planned to go found out about it going through their back yard or their front yard or their crop lands or their forest by receiving a letter in the mail, showing them a map, inviting them to a meeting to discuss the line that was now going to happen. The outpouring from those folks, forming committees in towns; forming a group on one end of the line and a group on the southern end of the line; contacting Democrat Senators, Republican legislators and voicing their concerns. Many of us that represented them attended some of these meetings. People were very upset and very surprised to find out that in this case, this land was not purchased ahead of time, this line was not laid out ahead of time, without people

knowing it, on lands that were already owned by the company that was going to put the line in. Much of this line was going to be taken by eminent domain. Fortunately, because of some issues between the time that it took to lay this all out, have the meetings and so on and so forth, the company that had won the PUC bid to put the line in and the PUC couldn't come to terms on the cost, and that project failed. In the meantime, we've had legislation come before us in the EUT Committee to address some of these issues, including the taking of lands by eminent domain for such a purpose.

But Mr. Speaker, this matter that we're voting on today; and I would suggest we need to oppose the pending motion; basically goes around all of those efforts. It goes around the efforts that the Referendum resulted in a decision that the Legislature would have a say on a line that was proposed, and it goes around the efforts of the citizens' committees and all those that came out and said, 'no, not across my land.' Mr. Speaker, this basically says that if a majority in the Legislature says, we asked the PUC to put out bids for a line to go from Kittery to Madawaska, then the PUC now has the right to accept a bid and put that line in, no matter which route it takes, because we won't know. Just like we didn't know with the LS Power line that was the northern Maine line that caused such outrage and basically instigated what we now see before us, to prevent that from happening again.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that we vote down the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Flynn.

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

It was in the spring of 2023 that I was elected as a Selectman in the town of Albion, and it was in July of that year that I as a Select Board member, as a resident of the town, received a letter from LS Power inviting me to a meeting at the Besse Building in Albion. There was no indication of what the meeting was for. There was some indication it had to do with a power line; I had heard that through the Selectman's office. I thought it was a power line they were putting in, a small line from the solar project in Benton, coming down through Albion. When I got to the meeting, there was a number of people from town there that were members of the LS Power Management team there. They also had security guards there, Mr. Speaker. And I was curious as to why we would need security guards, but it became very apparent when you walked into the room and there were maps on the wall and they were showing you where this power line was going to come through. Upon further investigation, we found it was for the King Pine project in Aroostook County. It was approved by the State of Maine and is being built without any indication of where the power line was going to come and how this power is going to get from Aroostook County to Coopers Mills, Maine. It was coming through many towns. The letter I had received, the power line was coming within 300 feet of my kitchen window on my 60 acres of Eden in Albion, Maine.

It didn't take long for a number of committees to establish up and down the corridor of townspeople and the rallying cry of, how could this be and how could this happen? Why would we not know ahead of time? Why would we not be involved in the process, Mr. Speaker? Within a matter of three months, we had coalitions up and down the corridor and every single one of those towns now has a high-voltage transmission line ordinance, so that these cannot happen in these small towns. We already have many power lines. One of the largest

beekeepers in the United States, Swan's Honey, is up the road from my house. He testified every single time you put a power line in, the GPS system inside a honeybee gets messed up and they can't get back to the hive. But these things don't seem to matter, Mr. Speaker, because we have all this power we now need to get downstate and out of state, and we have to connect to Canada in some fashion.

So, within weeks and months, all of these ordinances pop up. And then, we had found out; as Representative Foster had said, for whatever reasons; the project was scrapped. We also found out in this process that LS Power, had they been given the contract, were going to be giving full public utility authority and a private for-profit company, Mr. Speaker, could take a private citizen's land. And the response we get now, because the citizenry spoke, Mr. Speaker, we get this bill. Let's see if we can circumvent the towns, let's see if we can take the peoples' voice and we're going to put in a power project, because we all need it because of global warming, and we really don't care about people in central and northern Maine, we're going to put the power line wherever we want. This, Mr. Speaker, is a disgrace to the people and the process.

We are the Pine Tree State, not the Power Line State. The people that I represent take great pride in their land, Mr. Speaker. They're caretakers; they're stewards. And we all understand we need power. We presented high-voltage transmission lines can go underground in the I-95 corridor. There's many other options that could be looked at, but no, we have to look at the one project that's going to generate the most revenue. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm a little bit concerned with this legislation. I very much am. I believe it's a disgrace to the rights of the citizens in our rural communities, and we, as a Body, ought to take a look at this and find a way to vote no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. One thing that's consistent in my serving in this House and your serving in this House and the Representative from Caratunk and the Representative that presented this bill is that we serve at the consent of the governed. We are not overlords.

It has yet to be five years since the Referendum went through, the people spoke very clearly. For this Body to circumvent the people's voice; 60% of the voters in the State; that is not us serving at the consent of the governed; that's us dominating the governed. It is high time that we realize that we are not the peoples' overlords. We have a mandate, it was given to us in a Referendum from the people we serve and instead of trying to circumvent the people's will, we must start recognizing and respecting the people's will. Thank you.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, like the Good Representative from Caratunk, stood outside of L.L. Bean on really awful weather days and collected signatures for this Referendum. I was so proud to vote yes for this Referendum, as did many of my Committee Members, and I think many of the folks here. It is difficult to hear us then being portrayed as being overlords, because I happily voted for this Referendum, and I still support this Referendum.

As the Good Representative from Caratunk noted, there were three parts of that 2021 Referendum that was overwhelmingly supported. One was to ban, basically, the corridor, the NECEC corridor. Another part was to approve any public lands projects by two-thirds of the Legislature. The second part of what constitutes legislative approval for all such

projects that are not on public lands, actually just has confusion. And if you look, Mr. Speaker, at the bill and at the Statute, there is nothing crossed out, there's nothing overturned, there is nothing repealed. This is a clarification, which is common for referendum. And the reason I was comfortable for this because the Referendum did not say, Mr. Speaker, that when that legislative approval had to be and we are seeing significant confusion from the Maine citizens around this. Should it be in the beginning? Should it be in the interim? Should it be at the end? There is no sense at all what that should be.

And so, having this clarity; again, clarifying, not repealing or overturning; is very important. And so, in this one instance, what this bill, LD 810 says is, hey, Legislature, if you have had a bill that's gone before EUT, with a very public hearing; if you've been to EUT, those are wicked long; we have a public hearing, and then it goes through this Body, and then it goes through the Other Body and it goes to the Chief Executive's desk. If we have asked you, State agency, to do the thing, we are approving you to do the thing. That is all this bill says. In that one instance, it would not have impacted this bill, the NECEC corridor; it would not have done the unfortunate pieces that the Good Representative of Albion had talked about. That would not; the public process, the eminent domain, we've put things in place, Mr. Speaker, in the 130th and the 131st that helped to curtail those activities, because we as a Body saw the problems of that. It does not remove the rigorous and extensive processes around MPUC process, DEP process, the extensive notification and education provisions. In fact, this Body even sent a very bipartisan bill by a Republican Senator in the Other Body to continue to work on that transparency around the siting processes.

I will note the bill was also reviewed by the Attorney General's office just to make sure that we're not overturning any piece of what we're talking about. I will also note, Mr. Speaker, that this bill found almost unanimous support from organizations who rarely agree when testifying on issues in front of EUT. The Associated General Contractors of Maine and the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, right alongside the Conversation Law Foundation, Maine Audubon and Nature Conservancy. And this bill has strong support by the Office of the Public Advocate for its beneficial impact on Maine ratepayers.

So, I urge this Body to look at what the bill is actually doing to make this simple clarification and support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 303

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, 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, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Archer, Bunker, Eaton, Griffin.

Yes, 72; No, 75; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 4 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.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-411)** on Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Pathways for Creating a Thermal Energy Networks Program in Maine

(H.P. 1073) (L.D. 1619)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-411)** 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-411)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of PFAS"

(H.P. 1325) (L.D. 1982)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-394)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico

READ.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to ask for a Roll Call as long as you give me a few minutes of your attention, and I think that's a really great deal.

I'm speaking because this issue is going to come before you again, because the definition of what PFAS actually is, is not settled science. The definition of PFAS in Maine is different than the federal EPA's definition approved by the Biden Administration. For those who don't know, I have a background in molecular biology, so, I think this is fascinating, so, please bear with me.

PFAS stands for polyfluoroalkyl substances. The word substances is very broad and not a word that's typically used in chemical nomenclature. Maine's definition of PFAS includes any chemical that contains even one; just one; fully fluorinated carbon atom. The federal definition includes chemicals that have a chain of at least two fully fluorinated carbon atoms. Okay, so, remember this: Maine has one or more; federal, two or more.

The federal definition recognizes the interplay between chemistry and molecular and cellular biology. Did you realize that, although we know that certain PFAS is dangerous based on epidemiological data, we don't know the molecular mechanism by which it causes harm? Scientists understand the molecular pathways that lead to many diseases, but not for PFAS. However, there is one really good hypothesis, which is that long-chain PFAS mimics the long-chain fatty acids that comprise cell membranes. This allows PFAS to enter the membranes and disrupt cell signaling and various metabolic functions, causing disease. Chemicals such as perfluorooctanesulfonic acid has eight fluorinated carbon atoms and is found in fire foam and sludge and is similar to fatty acids and fits the federal definition of two or more fluorinated carbon atoms. This shows how the federal definition of PFAS makes sense.

If I put you to sleep, wake up now, because this part is interesting. Maine's definition of PFAS includes Prozac, Flonase, cipro, Celebrex, Lipitor and the COVID-19 drug, Paxlovid. Including Lipitor on this list is ironic, because certain PFAS has been shown to raise cholesterol, but Lipitor is a medication that reduces cholesterol. Also, certain types of PFAS have been linked to cancer, yet there are many chemotherapy drugs that have one fluorinated carbon atom and are considered PFAS under Maine's definition. But don't get upset, because Maine has exempted medications from the PFAS law, but this illustrates that merely having one fluorinated carbon atom does not mean that a chemical causes harm.

By having a more restrictive definition of PFAS than the federal EPA's definition, Maine farmers won't be allowed to use the same pesticides as many other states and will be at a competitive disadvantage nationwide. Some of the testimonies against this bill demonstrated a lack of understanding of chemistry, which is very concerning; and I'll just leave it at that.

As we approach the deadline to eliminate products that Maine defines as PFAS, you're going to see this bill over and over again, and I hope that you remember some of what this nerdy-but-sincere Legislator told you, because we can protect Mainers' health and at the same time protect Maine's industries and farmers. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank the Good Representative from New Gloucester, and she certainly has a lot of expertise in chemistry, and it's been interesting to hear what she's saying. And she's right, there are some scientists who this is their belief. But those are not; what she is saying is not the consensus, Mr. Speaker, of non-industry scientists who are working in this field. And the long and short of it is that LD 1982 creates loopholes in our laws. We've done a great job in this State in attacking this problem. It allows dangerous chemicals to escape regulation and it ignores the bigger picture, that PFAS are harmful because they don't break down; they can build up in people, water and the environment.

As I said, we've been a leader, we need to continue this role in this State. LD 1982 is a massive step backward and it would allow many of these dangerous chemicals to end up in our environment and in our bodies, so therefore, I respectfully ask the Body to follow my light and vote Ought Not to Pass on 1982. Thank you very much.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Broadband Equipment from Sales and Use Tax"

(H.P. 1170) (L.D. 1752)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
LAVIGNE of Berwick
MATLACK of St. George
QUINT of Hodgdon
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-427)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

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

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR
First Day**

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

(H.P. 430) (L.D. 662) Bill "An Act to Fund Military Sexual Trauma Liaisons" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-469)**

(H.P. 716) (L.D. 1094) Bill "An Act to Prohibit a Person from Obtaining an Elver Dealer's License for a Minimum of 5 Years in Cases of Repeat Violations of License Conditions" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-475)**

(H.P. 804) (L.D. 1229) Bill "An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Campaign Finance Laws Between Enrolled and Unenrolled Candidates" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-470)**

(H.P. 1225) (L.D. 1830) Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Protect Firefighters from Cancer Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-474)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers

(S.P. 240) (L.D. 561)

(C. "A" S-225)

An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center

(S.P. 651) (L.D. 1643)

(C. "A" S-227)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction

(S.P. 569) (L.D. 1375)

(C. "A" S-228)

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**.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night, the majority party pushed to go after 9:00 p.m., after taking over three and a half hour breaks during the day. And then today, we take over a two-hour break for lunch, and the majority party decides that they want to leave at five; well, legislative time, 5:20 p.m; because they have an offsite caucus. So, the rest of us, hey, we could be here till 9:00 p.m. and finish our work, but hey, that's not what the majority party wants. This is ridiculous, and it shows that last night's shenanigans were all political and intentionally disrespectful by the Majority Leader to the rest of us. Mr. Speaker, just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to not question the motives of other Members.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the House adjourned at 5:18 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 4, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Robert Hanson Whear of Damariscotta, Neva L. Moody of Monroe and Gili L. Brown of Pittsfield.