MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
9th Legislative Day
Thursday, February 26, 2026

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor assumed the Chair.

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

Prayer by Chaplain Peter Panagore, Maine State Prison, Warren.

National Anthem by Kelli Palmer, Augusta.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Susan Doughty, MSN, WHNP-BC, Scarborough.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 374)

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 24, 2026
The Honorable Matthea E.L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
132nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development from its review and evaluation of the Finance Authority of Maine under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.
Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the Finance Authority of Maine by letter dated April 29, 2025 of its intent to conduct a review. The Finance Authority of Maine submitted its program evaluation report on October 30, 2025.
The committee has reviewed the report and unanimously finds that the Finance Authority of Maine is operating within its statutory authority.
Sincerely,
S/Sen. Glenn “Chip” Curry
Senate Chair
S/Rep. Traci Gere
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 375)

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

February 25, 2026
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I have appointed Representative Scott Harriman of Lewiston to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, effective immediately.
Representative Harriman is replacing Representative Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach
who was my temporary appointment to the committee.
Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 373)

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TASK FORCE

February 23, 2026
The Honorable Matthea Larsen Daughtry, President
Maine State Senate
The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker
Maine House of Representatives
Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to Resolve 2025 c. 108, the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force is pleased to submit its *interim* report. Copies of the report have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others may access the full report on-line through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at http://legislature.maine.gov/opla.
Sincerely,
S/Sen. Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair
S/Rep. Ann Matlack
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 378)

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

February 26, 2026
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
L.D. 2026 An Act Regarding Distributions from the Stipend Fund for Agricultural Fair Competitions and Events (EMERGENCY)
Housing and Economic Development
L.D. 1926 An Act to Require Increased Housing Density or Lower Minimum Lot Sizes for Workforce Housing
Labor
L.D. 2049 An Act to Clarify Indemnification When Seeking Remedy for Labor Law Violations
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 821)

MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 24, 2026
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Speaker Fecteau:
In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nomination:
Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor, Rodney Hiltz of Monmouth for appointment to the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

People Plus, of Brunswick, a nonprofit celebrating its 50th anniversary. People Plus has a combined membership of over 2,000 area residents composed of older adults and teens. The organization sees over 35,000 visits to the program annually and offers over 200 monthly programs, classes and events, improving health, longevity, nutrition and mental well-being. People Plus offers free transportation, grocery and pharmaceutical delivery services for nearly 1,000 home-bound older adults totaling over 35,000 miles of free rides annually, making People Plus's Volunteer Transportation Network the largest free ride program in Maine. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1642)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Recognizing:

William "Pops" Mangum, of Orrington, for his 50 years of service at Regional School Unit 34. In 1976, Mr. Mangum started working in the Old Town School Department mentoring one student. Soon he was mentoring other students. Over the years, he's been asked to work with students in other districts, including Milford, Hampden and RSU 63, and students at the University of Maine, including student-athletes. At 77 years of age, Mr. Magnum continues to serve as a mentor to the district's students. We extend our appreciation and best wishes;

(HLS 573)

Presented by Representative DILL of Old Town.
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot, Senator TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DILL of Old Town, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dill.

Representative **DILL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, William "Pops" Mangum was born and raised in Philadelphia. He spent a lot of time with his grandparents. When he and his grandfather would come home, his grandmother would say, 'here comes Grandpop and Pop.' The name obviously stuck.

When he was a teenager, he worked in the mail room at Gulf Oil. When the vice president, Mr. Phillips, would come by, Pops would say hi to him. Everyone told him not to speak to the vice president, but he did anyway. They became friendly and Mr. Phillips would always say hi to him when he was walking by the mail room. No one ever went to the top floor of the building to chat with Mr. Phillips, but Pops decided, what the heck, he'll give it a try, so, he went up. When he asked Mr. Phillips about how he became vice president, he told him to have consistency in who he is. Be your true self every day. He also told him to listen, look and learn. Pops has taken that advice with him every day. And if you really want to know his secret to working with kids, that's what it is; he is consistent

with them every time he sees them, he listens, looks and learns. He says it's that simple and it's worked for 50 years.

Pops started working with one student in Old Town School Department in 1976. The student needed some mentoring, and they called on Pops. Whatever he did worked so well that they asked him to work with more students. Over the years, he's been asked to work with students in other districts including Milford, Hampden, RSU 63 and even students at the University of Maine. Without advertising, these other schools heard about the impact that Pops was making and invited him into their schools to work with their students also.

A couple other things I'd like to say. Pops has a degree in domestic international marketing, which has taken him to parts of Africa, Cuba and Canada, doing diplomatic work. He was drafted into the Army at the age of 19 to fight in the Vietnam War. He was a radio operator in the infantry. Since cutting radio communication was a top priority for the enemy, Pops was always a target and he had to travel with a group of snipers to protect him and he was even blown out of a helicopter. And if you know Pops, that might explain a few things. He's a member of the Maine Sports Legends Hall of Honors. While he does have a history playing and coaching basketball, the honor was given to him because of his work of what he's done with students at the University of Maine.

Pops has no plans on retiring. He may cut back on the number of schools that he works with as the years go on, but no plans to fully retire. Great news for the students that work with him. Congratulations, Pops.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. In all our communities, large or small, we have these people who are pillars for not only our community, but also an institution like the University of Maine. Pops is just one of those kind of guys. He's always chipped in and is just the type of guy that makes our communities proud. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my daughter went to Old Town High School. She's now in her 40s. I talked to her earlier and she said that there was one teacher that really made a difference in her life. That he was engaged with the kids and that it was very obvious that he had a love of teaching and of his students. And that was 20-something years ago and she still remembers him as one of her favorite teachers. And I would just like to congratulate him on a magnificent career, and I hope you continue, because you have a real love of kids. Thank you.

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

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have to stand and thank Pops. I haven't seen him for years. Way back in my early teaching career, I had the fortune to have a program that I worked with some of the neediest children, and Pops was my right-hand man, and he was so helpful and loving and I admire him so much and I was ecstatic to see him here and so happy that I could be part of this day.

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

Recognizing:

the Boothbay Region Water District, which received the Maine's Best Water Award from the Maine Rural Water Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 575)

Presented by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative STOVER of Boothbay, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Recognizing:

the Boothbay Region Water District, which won the Bronze Medal at the nationwide 27th Annual Great American Water Taste Test. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 576)

Presented by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative STOVER of Boothbay, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I feel very proud to stand before you today in recognizing the Boothbay Region Water District.

We all need water. It is absolutely essential to our well-being and we enjoy it very much on a hot summer day. I am a trustee, a second-term trustee elected to the Water District, I could not be more proud of the men and the women who work at that water district; who work tirelessly in the spring to make sure summer water is turned on, in the fall to do the reverse, to make sure that our islands that have some coverage get that water to them, to make sure that all of the meters work correctly. Three of our members couldn't be here today because they were up in the middle of the night because we had an alarm in the plant and they got up at two a.m. and went over there and took care of it.

So, this special honor of Maine's Best Drinking Water from the Maine Rural Association means everything. And then to go on to Washington, D.C. and receive the bronze medal, third place in the country. So, I want to encourage you all when you come to Boothbay this summer, and I know you will, when you enjoy your beverage by the sea, remember those ice cubes came from this drinking water and how amazing they taste. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, February 24, 2026, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Hall-Dale High School Boys Soccer Team, of Farmingdale (HLS 545)

TABLED - February 12, 2026 (Till Later Today) by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair now recognizes the Representative from Hallowell, Representative Shagoury.

Representative **SHAGOURY**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I'm very proud to stand before you today and offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Hall-Dale boys' soccer team.

In 2024, they won their first State Championship, and in 2025, followed that up with a second State Championship by beating Orono in a real nailbiter, 1-0 with an overtime goal. These young men have played together since a lot of them were little kids and they're really something to watch. It's a lot of fun to see them operate as a real team and make plays and just have a lot of fun out there. And I wish them all the best of luck in all their endeavors and, while I don't want to jinx anything, I hope they can make it three in a row.

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

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Montell, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **MONTELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I rise today; actually, and I'd like to speak on the record, if that's not an understanding already. I rise to remember someone that was part of my family's life.

Twenty-one years ago, my family and I took a leap of faith, and I had gone to a PTA meeting and I had found out that there was a Thai teacher that was looking for a home for half of a school year, so he could come to the United States and teach about Thai culture. I was immediately excited and came bounding home to my husband and said, we have to host this teacher, he's coming to the United States, he needs a home and guess what, he likes golf. I thought for sure that would get my husband to be excited about it. Well, actually, it was when he looked up the profile of this person, he just was drawn by the large smile of this teacher that wanted to come to the United States.

Mark Wichipan was part of my family. We hosted him, my daughter was four, my son was six, almost seven, and at the time, I always knew I wanted to host AFS, American Field Service, because growing up, I had a Brazilian sister that my family decided to host and so, I knew I wanted it to be part of my child's upbringing. And this was perfect because it wasn't another child I was bringing in my home, it was a teacher, who turned out to be just an amazing part of our life. He was like the fun uncle. But he could cook, he could dance, he could sing. And I say he could cook, I would come home after a day of work and there would be just this spread on my dining room table and there was just so much love in his cooking.

And there was so much to Mark. So, back in Thailand, he taught English. He wanted to be an artist, really wanted to teach art, but his parents said, teach English. So, my home is filled with artwork that he has embroidered, painted; actually, one Halloween, he decided it would be cool to paint my shrubs red. They finally grew out, but that was just Mark. He was just very impulsive, which I appreciate. You know, on a snowy day, snow angels, always the surprise in the house. Sometimes, I'd come home and all the rugs would be outside on the lawn, he would be sweeping them.

And after Mark stayed with us, he went on to Good Will-Hinkley, and most of you are aware that that can be a challenging school, and they just loved him there. And from there, he went to Cape Elizabeth, and he had an amazing year here in the United States. He then went to New Zealand to study to be a chef, which he already was an amazing cook, and from there, he went to become a massage therapist and then he became a nurse. So, he was just a lifelong learner, full of energy and joy and a great spirit.

Yesterday morning, I found out that Mark passed away. He was 66 years old. He had gone back to Thailand last October with a plane ticket to return to the United States today, he was on a 10-year visa. Actually, his home here in the United States was Fort Kent, he loved Fort Kent and he had some shoulder pain and some symptoms that would indicate and ultimately be his diagnosis of prostate cancer and by the time they found it, it had spread to his other organs.

So, I just want to just remember his life and I appreciate you letting me share him with you, because my family still struggles with this and as I was talking to my daughter on the phone yesterday and consoling her, because she was quite young when he first came and he came back for multiple visits. I explained to her, because of Mark and because of that good experience, that we went on to host twice more. We have a son from Thailand and we have a daughter from Italy and they have enriched our lives greatly. So, thank you for listening.

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

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would like to thank the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham, for acting as Speaker Pro Tem today. If you will all join me in thanking him.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 376)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

February 25, 2026

To Robert B. Hunt, Clerk of the House, in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRS, Section 1, hereby certify that the following is the name and residence of the Representative-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on February 25, 2026:

DISTRICT 94 Scott A. Harriman, Lewiston

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, given under my hand at Augusta this twenty-fifth day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-six.
S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 377)

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

I, the Secretary of State of Maine, certify that according to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, the Department of the Secretary of State is the legal custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Maine which is hereunto affixed and that the document to which this is attached is a true copy from the records of this Department.
In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta, Maine, on the Twenty-fifth day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-six.
S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

State of Maine
Office of the Secretary of State
February 25, 2026

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of the proclamation issued by the Governor on December 1, 2025, calling for a Special Election to be held on February 24, 2026, to elect a State Representative in District 94 and having tabulated the returns of the votes cast;
REPORT AS FOLLOWS: In accordance with Title 21-A MRS Section 711, having tabulated the total number of state ballots cast, the number of voters participating in this election is 1077; and that Scott A. Harriman of Lewiston, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected a State Representative in the 132nd Legislature in District 94:
Harriman, Scott A., Lewiston (Democratic) 572
Beaudoin, Janet I., Lewiston (Republican) 503
I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast at the Special Election, as reported to me on the return from the municipality of Lewiston.
S/ Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State
Received by the Governor on February 25, 2026

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

At this point, the Speaker announced the presence in the Hall of the House of Representative HARRIMAN of Lewiston.

Pursuant to his authority under House Rule 401.1, the Chair assigned Representative HARRIMAN of Lewiston to Seat 30.

At this point, Representative HARRIMAN of Lewiston was added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1500)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2026 AS CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, dental caries is the most common chronic disease found in children; and

WHEREAS, through dental education and regular preventive dental care, tooth decay is almost completely preventable; and

WHEREAS, good oral health habits start in childhood, and parents and caregivers who are educated about the importance of oral health are empowered to embrace appropriate oral hygiene and dietary behaviors and make and keep dental appointments for their children; and

WHEREAS, research shows that, through supervised tooth brushing programs and preventive dental care, children can reduce the occurrence of dental-related illness, which starts as early as first grade and causes children in the United States to miss 51,000,000 hours of school time each year; and

WHEREAS, through a balanced diet, brushing and flossing after every meal and regular dental checkups, children can avoid dental caries and remain healthy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate February 2026 as Children's Dental Health Month and to encourage the raising of public awareness about the importance of preventive dental care for all children.

READ.

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

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I rise today to introduce this Joint Resolution recognizing February 2026 as Children's Dental Health Month.

Tooth decay remains the most common chronic disease affecting our children, yet it is almost entirely preventable. With routine dental visits, fluoride treatments, sealants, proper brushing and flossing and a balanced diet, we can spare children needless pain, infection and missed opportunities to learn and thrive.

Research shows that dental-related illness begins as early as first grade and leads to an estimated 51 million hours of missed school each year in the United States. That is classroom time our children cannot afford to lose. Poor oral health is also linked to difficulty eating, sleeping, speaking and concentration, all of which directly affect academic performance and overall well-being. That is why it is critically important that we advance prevention-based policies that improve children's oral health. Prevention reduces long-term health care costs, eases the burden on emergency rooms, supports working families and promotes equity for children who might otherwise go without care. Good oral health habits begin at home, but public policy plays a vital role in creating conditions for these habits to succeed.

When we prioritize prevention, we invest in healthier children, stronger families and more successful schools. By designating February 2026 as Children's Dental Health Month, we reaffirm our commitment to not only awareness, but to action. Together, Mr. Speaker, we can help every child smile, learn and grow free from preventable dental disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Journal of Tuesday, February 24, 2026 was read and approved.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 41)

ORDERED, that Representative Ann Fredericks of Sanford be excused Feb 3 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Allison Hepler of Woolwich be excused Feb 3 for legislative business reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Michel A. Lajoie of Lewiston be excused Feb 12 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Grayson B. Lookner of Portland be excused Feb 3 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sheila A. Lyman of Livermore Falls be excused Feb 10 and 12 for health reasons.

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

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Mark Walker of Naples be excused Jan 7, 13, 20 and 27, Feb 3, 10 and 12 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sophia B. Warren of Scarborough be excused Jan 20 for health reasons and Feb 3 for personal reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-500)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding to Improve the College and Career Readiness of Certain Students in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties"

(S.P. 865) (L.D. 2147)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-500)**.

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**: Though the integrity of the program this bill represents is not in question, Maine taxpayers are burdened enough. It is not the responsibility of the Maine taxpayer to fill the gap from the loss of federal funding. This is not a precedent that should be set. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When federal funds were lost for this program, there was no explanation given and at the time, there were a total of three Upward Bound TRiO programs that lost funding. Two of them have had their funding restored, and again, without explanation. And this one-time funding would be used solely to provide academic support and college and career preparation assistance to students at Mountain Valley High School, Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, Buckfield Junior and Senior High School, Dirigo High School and Telstar High School and Edward Little High School. In order to be eligible, students from these six high schools must come from low-income families and be the first generation in their families to attend college.

Among other things, students receive tutoring in math and English Language Arts, along with mentoring and assistance preparing college and financial aid applications. The River Valley Upward Bound program has a proven record of success. We heard testimony from several graduates of the program who told us that their lives had been dramatically improved as a result of their participation. This is a program that works and deserves this one-time funding so it can continue in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, why should the Maine taxpayers pick up the cost of an additional federal program because our Chief Executive Officer and the other side of the aisle has decided to not follow federal regulations, and that's why we're losing funding and it's going to go across the board. So, it's not about the program, it's about the actions that our Chief Executive Officer and the

other side of the aisle has taken over the last couple of years. Thank you.

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

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This program; I have to rise in opposition. This particular program is successful, but it's one that lost its funding and didn't make the appeal, so, I'm certain that they know why they lost the funding, so, I really believe that it's up to them to make the changes necessary to get the funding restored.

I just have to reiterate the words that this is not a precedent that we should be setting for any State Legislature. 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. 626

YEA - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Terry, Webb, Wood P, 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, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, 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, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Archer, Ducharme, Friedmann, Greenwood, Jackson, Lanigan, Rollins, Skold, Supica, Underwood, Warren, Wood S.

Yes, 72; No, 64; Absent, 13; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 13 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-500)** 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-500)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-495)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Greater Equity in and Reduce Costs Related to the State's Net Energy Billing Program"

(S.P. 754) (L.D. 1936)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representative:

PAUL of Winterport

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-495)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-495)** 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-495)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-498)** on Bill "An Act to Require the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Establish a Technical Assistance Materials Hub"

(S.P. 808) (L.D. 1995)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

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-498)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-498)** 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-498)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-493)** on Bill "An Act to Exclude Agricultural Leases from the Definition of 'Subdivision' Under the Planning and Land Use Regulation Laws"

(S.P. 812) (L.D. 1999)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

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-493)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-493)** 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-493)** in concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR
First Day

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

(S.P. 57) (L.D. 128) Bill "An Act to Support Permitting of Certain Multifamily Housing Developments Under the Site Location of Development Laws" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-494)**

(H.P. 1369) (L.D. 2039) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 1: Fee Schedule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1455) (L.D. 2166) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 205) (L.D. 305) Bill "An Act Regarding Transportation in Maine" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-813)**

(H.P. 1041) (L.D. 1583) Bill "An Act Regarding Home Health Care and Hospice Services Ordered by a Health Care Provider Outside of Maine" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-811)**

(H.P. 1099) (L.D. 1658) Bill "An Act to Preserve and Strengthen the Fund for a Healthy Maine" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-809)**

(H.P. 1354) (L.D. 2024) Bill "An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-812)**

(H.P. 1447) (L.D. 2158) Bill "An Act to Address Vacancies on the Knox County Budget Committee" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-810)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating Transient Sales of Home Repair Services

(H.P. 1399) (L.D. 2084)

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. 108 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, to Establish the Commission to Make Recommendations for Equity in the Compensation of Prosecutors and Public Defenders in the State

(S.P. 166) (L.D. 374)
(C. "A" S-496)

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. 112 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

Acts

An Act to Incorporate the Assessment of Emerging Energy Technologies into the Comprehensive State Energy Plan

(H.P. 243) (L.D. 343)
(C. "B" H-790)

An Act to Reinvest in the Pension Funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

(H.P. 1243) (L.D. 1872)
(C. "B" H-795)

An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union

(S.P. 805) (L.D. 1992)

An Act to Authorize Issuance of Securities to Modernize and Consolidate Certain Court Facilities

(S.P. 810) (L.D. 1997)
(C. "A" S-497)

An Act to Eliminate the Thermal Imaging Camera Program

(H.P. 1346) (L.D. 2016)

An Act to Eliminate the Juvenile Crime of Willful Refusal to Pay a Fine or Comply with the Terms of a Court Order

(S.P. 804) (L.D. 2126)

An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Geographic Boundaries Between Certain Judicial Divisions in Aroostook County

(S.P. 898) (L.D. 2205)

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

Resolve

Resolve, Directing the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Convene a Working Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of Maine's Subdivision Laws

(H.P. 94) (L.D. 161)
(C. "A" H-787)

Was 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 Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances

(H.P. 1367) (L.D. 2037)

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

On motion of Representative PAUL of Winterport, was **SET ASIDE**.

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

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

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to remind people that this was a bill that we did not support in Committee nor on the Floor. Thank you.

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. 627

YEA - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Terry, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, 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, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Archer, Friedmann, Greenwood, Jackson, Lanigan, Rollins, Skold, Supica, Underwood, Warren, Wood S.

Yes, 71; No, 66; Absent, 12; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 12 being absent and 1 excused, 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**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 379)

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

February 26, 2026
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (H), I appoint Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham, of Winter Harbor to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Thursday February 26, 2026.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 906)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair will preface our announcements this afternoon; oh, actually, it's still this morning, so, pretty quick day. The Chair will preface the announcements this morning with some additional guidance related to announcements.

This has been a tradition of the House for a long time as an opportunity that doesn't appear on our Calendar, but it's been provided as an opportunity for folks to share things that are happening around the State House; lunches, caucus meetings, whether it be the prayer caucus or the aging caucus. It's been an opportunity for people to announce someone's birthday in the Chamber or to announce that next week will be Color Day; we're still waiting on that announcement, Representative. But it has not been an opportunity for extending debate, bringing up issues that are outside of general announcements for the purposes of all of us to hear. And I think if we continue to move in the direction we are headed the last few session days, I think that announcements could devolve into one side saying one thing, the other side saying another thing and this could go on and on and on, and I think that would be not productive for all of us. I don't think any of us will enjoy it, because one side's going to say something we don't like to hear, the other side's going to say something we don't like to hear and at the end of the day, what have we accomplished? What we've accomplished is delaying ourselves collectively to get to Committee, for those of you who have scheduled hearings and work sessions, where the public is waiting for us to do our business.

And so, with that in mind, I hope that we can keep announcements germane to what they've been intended for, and what they've been used for, for a long time in this Body, and if they don't, we just won't have Announcements anymore, which I think would be an unfortunate outcome, but; it's a tradition of the House, but it's not a matter that appears on our Calendar and we won't proceed with them if we're going to continue to have this sort of our beliefs are this and our beliefs are that and we have an extension of debate here on the floor. So, with that, we'll see how this goes.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki, requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Had I been here, I would have voted no on LD 1975. And had I been here, I would have voted no on LD 1587. And had I been here, after listening to the debate online, I would have voted no on SP 901, the Joint Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Hogdon, Representative Quint, requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you. Had I been here on Tuesday, on LD 1975, I would have voted no; on LD 1587, I would have voted no. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme, requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Had I been in the Chamber for the vote on LD 2147, I would have voted no.

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, the House adjourned at 11:30 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2026, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 906) and in honor and lasting tribute to Verna Hammond of Belgrade, Phyllis Marie Peterson of Gouldsboro, James Brown of Waterville and Dwayne Campbell of Waterville.