MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
11th Legislative Day
Thursday, March 5, 2026

Representative BLIER of Buxton assumed the Chair.

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

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

National Anthem by Gwyneth Hymes, Liberty University, Waldo.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, John Diefenderfer, DO, Hallowell.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 3, 2026 was read and approved.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 909)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAINE'S REALTORS

WHEREAS, the Maine Association of REALTORS® has more than 6,500 members actively involved in the business of real estate, with members and affiliates including lenders, appraisers, title companies, building inspectors, surveyors and insurance providers; and

WHEREAS, the not-for-profit trade association provides each member with an equal voice and representation in the real estate profession, serving members in all 16 Maine counties and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, a healthy supply of affordable, safe, secure and high-quality residential and commercial real estate inventory statewide supports the continuing growth of Maine's economy; and

WHEREAS, real estate transactions stimulate Maine's economy and include not only the money spent and reinvested in the sale price of a property but all those services and expenditures that occur in relation to a property transaction, for both a buyer and a seller; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, it is estimated that 3 jobs are generated for each home sold, each home sale contributes about $170,150 to the economy and the real estate industry accounts for 19.5% of the gross state product in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the real estate market in Maine is strong, as evidenced by the number of home sales and the overall impact on Maine's economy in 2024 of 18.3 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, real estate ownership is an investment in the future and one of the best ways to build financial security through equity accumulation, and for many in Maine their real property ownership represents their life savings; and

WHEREAS, expanding real property ownership will strengthen our State and its families and communities, enhance our economy and create jobs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Association of REALTORS® and its members for their positive contributions to and the significant role they play in the lives of Maine citizens and their communities and that their service and dedication to this State are a tribute to those values and principles that we all hold dear; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Association of REALTORS® and Maine's 12 local association boards and councils.

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

READ.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I just wanted to briefly give a few remarks to the House about the importance of the Maine Association of Realtors. And I'm sure you can read this Joint Resolution at your leisure, but it talks about the positive contributions and the significant role that Realtors from Maine play in the lives of Maine citizens and also the economic impacts from real estate in our State, something which I know the Chair is very familiar with.

On a personal level, positive impacts for me for having been a member of the Maine Association of Realtors since 2003, I've gotten to know so many great clients, many of whom have become good friends and all of whom have really given back to the State and their communities. I've gotten to peek into some amazing Maine homes, everything from an historic forge in Camden to a little log cabin on Washington Pond. I got to go on a habitat build with a bunch of Maine Realtors, which really sort of cemented my love for that organization and our need for affordable housing. And finally, I feel that being in real estate and a member of the Maine Realtors has really helped me to hone my negotiating skills, and that has been very helpful in this building.

I think a lot of us who are in real estate, we really practice the sort of 'getting to yes' concept and that, in other words, that's compromising. And I think getting to yes and compromising is something that would do us all a world of good here. So, congratulations to the Maine Association of Realtors, and I'm proud to be a member.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 386)

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

March 5, 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:"
Criminal Justice and Public Safety
L.D. 2073 An Act to Add Positions to the Maine State Police Executive Protection Unit

Transportation
L.D. 2185 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Erect Signs on the East Limington Bridge Between the Town of Standish and the Town of Limington
L.D. 2186 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Place Signs on the Canal Bridge in the Town of Standish
Veterans and Legal Affairs
L.D. 1814 An Act to Increase Transparency in State Government by Amending Laws Regarding Persons Attempting to Influence the Competitive Bidding Process and Lobbyist Reporting During Rule-making Processes
L.D. 2048 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fantasy Contest Licensing
L.D. 2160 An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Affecting Small Distilleries (EMERGENCY)
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 387)

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

March 5, 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 Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has approved the requests for "Leave to Withdraw" by the following sponsors:
Representative Mathieson of Kittery
L.D. 663 An Act Regarding Health Care
Representative Moonen of Portland
L.D. 1119 An Act Regarding Reproductive Health Care
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 388)

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

March 5, 2026
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 March 3, 2026

Stephen C. Shannon of Biddeford, Frederick A. Onion of Wayne, and Jean Hoffman of Peaks Island for reappointment, and Eric Kingsley of South Portland for appointment to the Finance Authority of Maine.
Pursuant to Title 10, MRSA §965, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

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

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

Bridget D. Scontras, of Saco. Mrs. Scontras worked as a teacher, initially at Massabesic High School in Waterboro, where she taught chemistry, and later at Wells High School, where she taught chemistry and physics. At Wells High School, she also coached the Academic Decathlon team. She retired from teaching in 2013 after 26 years of dedicated service. In retirement, she and her husband Peter reopened the popular Way Way Store in Saco. Their efforts at the store were recognized locally and nationally, and they appeared on journalist Jane Pauley's CBS Sunday Morning television broadcast. Mrs. Scontras will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(SLS 1701)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COPELAND of Saco, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative Copeland.

Representative **COPELAND**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. The Scontrases are a huge part of our community in Saco. They've been around forever, they were married forever and Mrs. Scontras, you can read, you heard in the article that was read by the Clerk, had so many things she did in our community, with our schools and our children. And they both own the Way Way Store. If you haven't seen it, it's an architectural thing and it's called Way Way because it's so far out of town. And it's on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. So, if you're ever near there, I would certainly recommend going in. It's 93 Buxton Road in Saco. And just wanted to reiterate that Mrs. Scontras will be long-remembered and sadly missed and I thank her and her husband for all the things that they did to make Saco a better place. He's the town historian. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

Sheldon F. Goldthwait, Jr., of Bar Harbor. Mr. Goldthwait had a career at Bar Harbor Banking and Trust, working his way from the mail room to teller to president of the bank. When he retired from banking, he worked as a sternman on a lobster boat. He went for a decade on F/V Cod Fish out of Bar Harbor and another decade on F/V Rich Returns out of Bass Harbor. He also joined the crew of the Ocean Star out of Murphy's Pond, Port Hood, Cape Breton. He supported or participated in many local activities, including the Bar Harbor Fire Department. Mr. Goldthwait will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 584)

Presented by Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bar Harbor, Representative Friedmann.

Representative **FRIEDMANN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand today to honor the memory of Sheldon Goldthwait. He was an iconic member of our business and civic communities in Downeast Maine. I had the pleasure of working with him on many projects, including the Jesup Library, the public library in Bar Harbor, and it was always inspiring to me to see him turn out as a volunteer fireman for blazes that happened in our town of Bar Harbor. Sheldon often participated in the Rotary Lunch on the Ballfield on the Fourth of July. He was an active member of that organization, which supported nonprofits and worthy causes throughout our community. His wife, Jill Goldthwait, served in the Senate here in the State House for eight years, and together they were leaders and inspirations for our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

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

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to thank the Representative from Buxton for his service as Speaker Pro Tem and his four consecutive terms of service as a State Representative. Thank you.

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Establish Greater Alignment of Penalties for Certain Labor Law Violations"

(H.P. 1045) (L.D. 1587)

Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **LABOR READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on February 24, 2026.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **LABOR READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-808)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

Representative **BECK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The opposition to this amended bill has been, in my view, overwrought and misguided. This bill gives to the Bureau of Labor Standards the same investigatory tools already in place at other State agencies while protecting all due process rights of employers. It will help protect workers against the scourge of wage theft and also protects small businesses who do the right thing from unfair competition.

The Maine Department of Labor's 2025 annual report on wage and hour complaints and violations was issued just last month. Over the last three years, more than $1.8 million owed to Maine workers went unpaid. And those are just the unpaid wages we know about. Many more instances of wage theft likely went unreported. The implementation of new enforcement tools and complaint processing improvements in 2025 was a significant step forward in labor law compliance, but challenges remain, particularly in wage recovery and employer accountability. The Department's report says, and I quote, "not all employers voluntarily pay the wages and liquidated damages owed or the penalties assessed. The Wage and Hour Division has limited ways to enforce the findings of wage violations. Legislation is currently pending;" LD 1587; "that would augment the Division's ability to identify and levy against employers' assets when wages are owed to workers and better serve workers harmed by labor violations." Closed quote.

Wage theft is stealing from Maine workers. It's just as bad as reaching into their wallets and pocketing their cash. When their wages are stolen, they can't pay their rent or mortgage, put gas in their car or feed their families. We can do something to fight back against wage theft today. Please support the pending motion to help ensure that Maine workers get paid promptly for the important work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe everybody on this side would agree that people who work should get paid. My objection to this particular legislation is that it gives one person the authority to put onto a business in the State of Maine a notice of levy, which is a power that is immense when it comes to people in the banking business. Having worked in the banking business for 20-plus years, when you get a notice of levy, everybody in the building knows it because everybody has to focus on it. So, allowing the Director in the Department of Labor the ability to put on a notice of levy on a business will then allow one person to make a decision to freeze all the assets of any business in the State of Maine based on their own investigation. That's my objection to it. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 631

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Terry, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, 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, 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.

ABSENT - Campbell, Crockett, Julia, Lanigan, Roberts, Supica, Warren, Woodsome, Yusuf.

Yes, 72; No, 68; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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. 1501) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BRENNAN of Portland, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South Portland, HARRIMAN of Lewiston, SACHS of Freeport, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2026 AS SOCIAL WORK MONTH

WHEREAS, social workers have paved the way for change by enhancing the well-being of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped lead the nation's struggle for social justice and continue to advocate for positive social change and, more than the members of any other profession, social workers recognize that more must be done to address the persistent social problems that plague the State; and

WHEREAS, social workers support diverse families in every community and understand that individuals and communities together can bring about change; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for the rights of the disadvantaged and oppressed; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for children's rights to a safe environment and a good education; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer rights; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, rules and policies; and

WHEREAS, social workers work to ensure good care is provided to older adults; and

WHEREAS, social workers help provide community support for veterans and their families after their service; and

WHEREAS, social workers strive to improve access to mental health treatment and health care services in order to save lives; and

WHEREAS, social workers effect change and put the ideals of citizenship into action every day through legislative, regulatory and social policy efforts; 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 recognize March 2026 as Social Work Month; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the University of Maine, School of Social Work; the University of Maine at Presque Isle, College of Professional Programs, Social Work program; the University of Southern Maine, School of Social Work; the University of New England, School of Social Work; Saint Joseph's College, Social Work program; and the National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter.

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 recognize March 2026 as Social Work Month and honor the thousands of social workers across Maine who dedicate their lives to supporting individuals, families and communities.

As a licensed social worker who's been practicing here in the State of Maine for over 30 years, I've seen firsthand how our profession impacts the lives of others, not just clinically but also in the public policy arena, where we can truly impact positive systemic change. This year's theme, Social Workers Uplift, Defend, Transform, captures the heart of our profession. Every day, social workers uplift people during some of the most difficult moments in their lives. We defend the rights and dignity of those who are too often unheard. And we work to transform systems, so that every person has the opportunity to live with safety, stability and hope.

Social workers truly touch every aspect of our lives. We support children and families, help older adults maintain independence and dignity, provide critical mental health care and assist veterans and their families as they return home from service. We advocate for safe environments, quality education and fair treatment for all people, regardless of race, background or income. Across our State, Mr. Speaker, social workers stand with those who are vulnerable, marginalized or are facing crisis. We strengthen communities, connect people with essential services and work every day to build a more just and compassionate society.

Today, we recognize social work as a profession and renew our commitment to this vital field by thanking the social workers who uplift, defend and transform lives across our State

every single day. And I will add, Mr. Speaker, this is the eighth year that I have put this Joint Resolution forward honoring our profession, and we are losing a number of our colleagues in the social work profession due to term limits and various other reasons, and so, I'm looking forward to somebody coming behind me who can continue honoring this important work that we do as social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION**.

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 today in support of social workers. I have many social worker friends. I admire the work they do. But what I can't support is a piece in here that is a direct conflict with federal law.

I use the analogy of, I can support you 99% of the time, but when you put that drop of poison in there, it's still poison. Mr. Speaker, the well has been poisoned with this document right here with an item that is in direct conflict. Mr. Speaker, I have a daughter, and I will support my daughter and girls first. Thank you.

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

Representative **MALON**: Mr. Speaker, as a proud so-called girl dad myself, I do not consider the provision that the Representative from Wales is speaking of to be poison. I support the pending motion.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I worked in the ICU for a long time, and I've worked with many wonderful social workers. But that's not why I'm standing up to object to this Resolution today.

I, like the Good Representative, object to one specific piece of this Resolution. And I do so because I think that we are doing great harm to our young people in Maine and across the country supporting an ideology that is based on a lie.

Mr. Speaker, within the last week, the Supreme Court ruled that a California law that would restrict when schools can impart information to parents about their student, specifically that their student has asked to be referred to as --

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering what this has to do with the Joint Resolution pending before us.

On **POINT OF ORDER,** Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative LIBBY of Auburn were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would rule that the Joint Resolution speaks to the issue of the rights that I believe were being debated at the Supreme Court. Therefore, the Member's comments are in order.

The Chair **RULED** that the remarks of Representative LIBBY of Auburn were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Supreme Court blocked a California law that was intended to ensure that parental rights were infringed and that parents were not informed when their child wanted to be referred to as a different gender than they actually are.

Mr. Speaker, we have a similar law here in Maine. I think it's reprehensible and infringes on parental rights and it is directly related to this Resolution and this line that specifically refers to transgender rights. Mr. Speaker, any individual of any profession that is supporting the lie that a boy can become a girl or that a girl can become a boy is perpetrating harm against children. And it is for that reason that I cannot support this Resolution, as much as I appreciate the good work of many social workers. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 632

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Terry, Webb, Wood S, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Cimino, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hall, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Nutting, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P.

ABSENT - Arata, Bagshaw, Campbell, Chapman, Collamore, Collins, Eder, Haggan, Hymes, Julia, Lanigan, Lemelin, Morris, Poirier, Roberts, Strout, Supica, Thorne, Warren, White R, Woodsome, Yusuf.

Yes, 88; No, 39; Absent, 22; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

88 having voted in the affirmative and 39 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 22 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative RANA of Bangor, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1502) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MUSLIM CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar, a significant holy month in the Islamic faith and a month of sacrifice in which Muslims fast the entirety of the month, abstaining from food and drink from sunrise to sunset; and

WHEREAS, commencement of Ramadan begins on February 18, 2026, and Ramadan continues for one lunar month; and

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the holy month when millions of Muslims in the United States fast not only to renew themselves spiritually but also to recognize their responsibility and obligations to society at large and to take care of those less fortunate, regardless of their religious or racial background; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Maine contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faith backgrounds and also contribute greatly to society, serving as medical professionals, teachers, first responders, journalists, writers, artists, athletes, small business owners, professors, activists, community leaders and elected public officials; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Maine have a long history of contributions to our State, including the building of one of the first mosques in North America in Biddeford in 1915; and

WHEREAS, Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as the day that marks the end of the month-long sunrise-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan; 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, in observance of and out of respect for the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, prayer, charity, reflection and spiritual renewal, take this opportunity to recognize the onset of Ramadan and express our deepest respect to Muslims in Maine and throughout the world on this significant occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We extend best wishes to all those of Muslim faith in Maine, the United States and across the world for a joyous and meaningful observance of Ramadan.

READ.

Representative HENDERSON of Rumford **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION**.

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 Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, ladies and gentlemen of many faiths. The beauty of this country and one of the things that I love about her from coast to coast is that all can come and worship here; is that we, each of us, whether we choose to worship or not, have a God-given and constitutionally protected right to worship freely of our choosing.

The freedom of religion is a freedom that we don't have to be under a state-sanctioned or state-mandated religion, but that we can choose the God in whom we serve. This is a freedom that I support. It's a freedom that I exercise and a freedom that I benefit from daily. Just today, I walked the halls of this building in prayer and prayerfulness, asking God for direction.

I have such a deep love for many walks of life, many of those from different creeds and color, and at times it's created a conflict within me, because that love that comes from me is one that's not of myself, but is supernatural and it loves those that think differently than I do, that talk differently than I do and that walk differently than I do. I have a love for many in this room, in this State and the nation. But the deepness of the roots of my faith demand and require that I don't participate in any worship other than the worship of God Jehovah.

I'm thankful that this Resolution exists. I'm thankful that it's before the Body today. Because it is, in and of itself, a reflection of the very freedom that I support and that I benefit from and that I exercise. I support the existence of this Resolution, and I do not support the content of the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ANKELES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising because there's a very small number of legislators here are either Jewish or Muslim and across the world, it's a very fraught time in international relations, and I wanted to rise as one of the Jewish Members to wish our Muslim Members a Ramadan Mubarak since this Resolution is before us. I'm no fan of Joint Resolutions, but since this is here, I was thinking about the fraught situation internationally and thought, well, here in America, here in Maine, we can still lead with love. And so, I just wanted to express that to my Muslim colleagues and in support of this Resolution today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today in support of this motion and as a Christian.

Although we do not serve the same God or worship the same God as Muslims, I know that my God loves Muslim people. It's very clear throughout Scripture; you know, John 3:16, I Corinthians 13, I John 4:7 make it very clear that God loves Muslim people. And if God loves Muslim people, then so should I. And I see this as an expression of deep respect to Muslims in Maine, and so, I feel that this is appropriate for me to express and I hope that others will join me. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to echo the comments of the Good Representative from New Gloucester.

I was pleased and gratified when we have seen Resolutions that recognize my own faith, I am a committed Christian, and when we've seen Resolutions that validate and celebrate the faith of our Jewish Members and our Muslim Members. I will be supporting this wholeheartedly as a Christian. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise briefly on this Resolution recognizing Ramadan.

As a Christian, my faith is central to who I am. It teaches me the importance of prayer, humility, charity and love for my neighbors. Ramadan is a sacred time for many of those Mainers of Muslim faith, time marked by fasting, prayer, reflection and generosity to others. Those values are not foreign to us. In many ways, they echo the same principles that people of faith strive to live by across many traditions. Supporting this Resolution does not require us to set aside our own beliefs. Rather, it is an opportunity to show respect for our neighbors and acknowledge the diverse communities that call Maine home.

For that reason, I am comfortable supporting this Resolution and extending good wishes to those who observe Ramadan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 633

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hall, Harriman, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Perkins, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Terry, Tuell, Underwood, Walker, Webb, Wood P, Wood S, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Cimino, Daigle, Gifford, Henderson, Lance, Lyman, Paul, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Soboleski, Swallow, Wadsworth, White J.

ABSENT - Adams, Bagshaw, Bishop, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Eder, Haggan, Julia, Lanigan, Lemelin, Morris, Poirier, Roberts, Strout, Supica, Thorne, Warren, White R, Woodsome, Yusuf.

Yes, 111; No, 14; Absent, 24; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

111 having voted in the affirmative and 14 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 24 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 42)

ORDERED, that Representative Mark Michael Babin of Fort Fairfield be excused Feb 24 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative W. Edward Crockett of Portland be excused Feb 24 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Caldwell Jackson of Oxford be excused Feb 24 and 26 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sheila A. Lyman of Livermore Falls be excused Jan 20 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative William D. Pluecker of Warren be excused Feb 10 and 12 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Stephen J. Wood of Greene be excused Feb 26 for personal reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Refer to the Committee on State and Local Government Pursuant to Statute

Representative SALISBURY for the **Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions"

(H.P. 1505) (L.D. 2228)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12006, subsection 2.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

Sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-515)** on Bill "An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability"

(S.P. 763) (L.D. 1955)

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 Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
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 "B" (S-515)**.

READ.

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

Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea **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 Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although it would seem that we have a child care affordability and other child care issues, I oppose this bill because I am under the belief that we are personally responsible for the child care of our children.

Back in the day, it was basically babysitting, and now it's turned into education. You see kids two, three years old being

educated. And so, these child care centers are spending exuberant amounts of money to bring in teachers, *et cetera*, when it's really not necessary. I believe that parents need to go back to the old way, where you had family members care for them or one of the parents would work. Somebody just came up to me and mentioned how they had to work certain hours and their husband worked other hours and you just worked it out. It's not the place of the State to babysit our kids and to pay for that babysitting. There are extreme conditions where there is a single parent who can't possibly make enough money, and we have services already in place for this.

So, I think what we need to do is start thinking about our roles as parents. I had to do it, nobody from the State came running to me and said, hey, don't worry about it, we'll help defer the cost of child care. We had to do it. Including my son with special needs, nobody came running to me to help me. Nobody. And I don't have family up here, my family's an hour away and they have been the whole time. I didn't get that help, I made it and both my wife and I are both professionals, but we made it. It's called sacrificing.

Now, like I said, to some people, it's not just a sacrifice, it's overwhelming, but that's a very, very small number. What we're doing here is forcing taxpayers to pay for a lifestyle that we choose. That's not right, Mr. Speaker. So, it's not a matter of me not having the compassion for those certain individuals that truly need the help. These bills that are coming up are the opposite, they're to help everyone and I just don't believe that's necessary and especially the educator part. I don't care if people want to stand up and tell me how all these studies have proven how much greater kids are when they're educated from three years on. My kids weren't educated from three years on and they're very successful. I believe it's up to the parents to educate their children at a young age. I just can't be for this bill. So, 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. The Child Care Affordability Program, or CCAP, is foundational support for working families across our State. Yet over 600 of those families, that's about 830 children, remain on a waitlist, unable to access affordable child care that would allow their parents to work. Investment in this program is necessary to move families off the waitlist and ensure that child care is not a barrier to economic participation.

Now, we know that women are disproportionately impacted by a lack of affordable child care. Many in this income bracket who would choose to work and build their careers are forced to make a very different choice for themselves and their families. Child care costs are often the deciding factor that lead women to pause or leave their careers, reducing their long-term economic mobility. A truly sustainable child care system must serve all families who qualify, ensure consistent funding and remove child care as a barrier to economic participation and gender equity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief, and I'm only going to speak on this bill, even though it's closely tied with some other business we have before us.

I recognize that people may look at the question before us and do a thought experiment, and that's perfectly valid, we all have different ways of assessing how we're going to vote. I will point out that these are not exorbitant salaries that our child care workers receive. They are bottom two to three percent of the salary scale in the State. So, it's not exorbitant. And as far as what is the; you can think of it as the return on investment, the cost-benefit ratio; for those of us in the Chamber who want to be analytical as well as evaluate things based on philosophy and our heart, the business-friendly organization, ReadyNation, described as a business leader organization dedicated to building a skilled workforce and a strong economy, Mr. Speaker, testified showing the study, and it's linked if people want to look in the Committee testimony, there's a link under ReadyNation. It found that in Maine, the lack of child care for children just up to age three costs our State economy over $400 million a year. Four hundred million dollars a year in our economy because we are not investing in things like this. This is a good deal for the State, Mr. Speaker. Four hundred million dollars a year we are foregoing because of lack of child care up to age three. That more than doubled since 2019.

So, that's just additional food for thought. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, putting lifestyle choices aside, it's not the proper role of government to simply throw more money at a solution, or it shouldn't be, it shouldn't be the first thing we look to. This has a $15 million Fiscal Note; I cannot support that. I do support reforms that will increase the amount of child care that we have available in our State. And frankly, we can do that by simply getting government out of the way.

Let me read a few things that we could do instead of putting $15 million more of taxpayer funding toward the solution. We could raise the threshold for license-exempt home child care and ensure that folks could care for up to six children. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, I had nine kids in my house, friends of my children, over February vacation and while it was a little chaotic, I can tell you that as a Mom, I can competently care for six kids at a time, that's for sure.

Mr. Speaker, we could relax staff to child ratio rules carefully and considerably. We could preempt local zoning bans on home daycares. That could be done at the local level. We could simplify licensing tiers. We could recognize alternative staff credentials. We could allow more shared-space child care. We could encourage employer-run micro daycares. We could streamline inspections and paperwork. We could expand family, friend, neighbor care exemptions. We could reduce physical facility mandates.

We could do many, many, many things to encourage the growth and expansion of responsible child care here in our State that don't involve throwing $15 million of taxpayer funding at it. Let's provide some real solutions to change the policies in our State instead of simply trying to allocate more money that Mainers do not have.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't plan on standing and talking today, and I want to add a little bit of a different perspective and some information towards this bill.

One, without child care support, I would not be where I am today. I stand here as a person who was a single mother with two children. Somebody who Social Security's been taking money out of me since I was 12 and found myself unable to work, because I was still working, but my child care costs left me with $25 a week to put back into my tank to go back to work. Finally, I came down off a waiting list and was

allowed to get a child care voucher. All of our lives changed after that. Stability in child care allowed me to work, it allowed me to work more, but it also allowed me to continue my education and to build goals for my family.

I share that as a personal experience because I know many have personal experiences with child care, with my peers. But I also want to highlight five important benefits that child care bring in lasting positive impacts. And I'm highlighting these because when we're talking about a population that needs help with child care, we are almost always talking about a lower-income population of people that we supposedly have a ladder to help them climb up. This bill helps fix one of those broken steps in the ladder and will help people continue to climb to where they deserve to be able to be.

So, the five things is, research shows that access to high quality early learning programs can significantly reduce educational opportunity gaps between children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds at the time of kindergarten entry with readiness being a key predictor of academic success. Two, children enrolled in quality early learning programs tend to have 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 in early child care education. Adults who receive quality early child care are more likely to be employed full-time, become homeowners and maintain savings accounts. Participation in early child care programs is associated with long-term health benefits, including lower rates of depression, reduced alcohol and tobacco use and a decrease in the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases. Evidence suggests that early childhood education enhances parenting practices, benefitting children during the program and later years in life.

And I will stop there. There is much more that I could say about the critical need for the child care infrastructure in our State and the role that our State plays and child care is. Bottom line is, it is the backbone to our entire economy. So, I urge my colleagues to support this vote before us. Thank you.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only thing I have to say on this particular bill is, please vote no. Government has no business in the child-rearing business. And everybody in here has a mother and a father, a male and a female, and they are responsible for raising children and giving them moral values. Mine did and I'm sure yours did also. 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. 634

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Terry, Webb, Wood S, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, 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.

ABSENT - Julia, Lanigan, Roberts, Supica, Warren, Woodsome, Yusuf.

Yes, 77; No, 65; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "B" (S-515)** 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 "B" (S-515)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-513)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Child Care Employment Award"

(S.P. 855) (L.D. 2066)

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 "B" (S-514)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent

GRIFFIN of Levant

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-513)**.

READ.

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

Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea **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. 635

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Terry, Webb, 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, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Julia, Lanigan, Perkins, Roberts, Skold, Supica, Warren, Woodsome, Yusuf.

Yes, 72; No, 68; Absent, 9; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 9 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-513)** 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-513)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-522)** 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:

LANCE of Paris
MASON of Lisbon
THORNE of Carmel
WOOD of Greene

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick
BRIDGEO of Augusta
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
DILL of Old Town
TERRY of Gorham

Representative REYNOLDS of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

READ.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **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" (H-829)** on Bill "An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition"

(H.P. 1347) (L.D. 2017)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass 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: 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. 636

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Strout, Terry, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Julia, Lanigan, Roberts, Skold, Supica, Warren, Yusuf.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 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" (H-829)** 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-829)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-827)** on Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Development of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities by Exempting Certain Facilities from the Requirement to Obtain a Certificate of Need"

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CIMINO of Bridgton
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-828)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-827)** 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-827)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-826)** on Bill "An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1417) (L.D. 2102)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representative:

MORRIS of Turner

READ.

Representative MATHIESON of Kittery 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: 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. 637

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Harriman, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Stover, Strout, Terry, Thorne, Webb, White R, Wood S, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Campbell, Chapman, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Julia, Lanigan, Roberts, Skold, Supica, Warren, Yusuf.

Yes, 106; No, 36; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

106 having voted in the affirmative and 36 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 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" (H-826)** 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-826)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Reporting on Residential Buildings"

(H.P. 1394) (L.D. 2079)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
LOOKNER of Portland
MALON of Biddeford
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
EDER of Waterboro
MINGO of Calais

READ.

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

Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **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: 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. 638

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, 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, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Terry, Webb, 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, 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 - Julia, Lanigan, Roberts, Skold, Supica, Warren, Yusuf.

Yes, 72; No, 70; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

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. 885) (L.D. 2181) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Roxbury the Roxbury-Frye Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 887) (L.D. 2183) Resolve, to Rename the Little River Bridge in the Town of Cornish the Cornish Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 803) (L.D. 1991) Bill "An Act to Authorize an Educational Requirement for Seaweed Permit Holders" Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-516)**

(S.P. 860) (L.D. 2142) Bill "An Act to Establish Guidance for Awarding General Spousal Support" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-517)**

(H.P. 1411) (L.D. 2096) Bill "An Act Regarding Scheduling of Agricultural Fairs and Pulling Events" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-823)**

(H.P. 1419) (L.D. 2104) Bill "An Act to Clarify Contractual Rights of Personal Sports Mobile Dealers" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-825)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS
Emergency Measure

An Act to Establish Additional Requirements Related to the Sale or Lease of Net Energy Billing Interests and Solar Energy Equipment

(S.P. 771) (L.D. 1964)
(C. "A" S-511)

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. 110 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 Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund

(S.P. 801) (L.D. 1989)
(C. "A" S-512)

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

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be remiss if I did not announce in the Gallery today, we have some folks from the Drug Court who are visiting at the invitation of myself and Senator Moore. And I think given the topic matter, this is probably an appropriate time to recognize and thank them for their advocacy and their work, and to invite folks after session to a lunch up in the VLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the Body as a whole that in the future, during the course of debate, we're not to recognize members of the Gallery as a way of influencing the course of debate. The Representative is forgiven.

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Update the Requirements for Psychology Licensure

(S.P. 802) (L.D. 1990)
(C. "A" S-503)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Provide Required Funding for the Reimbursement of Assigned Counsel

(S.P. 852) (L.D. 2059)
(C. "A" S-506)

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds

(S.P. 875) (L.D. 2156)
(C. "A" S-510)

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 Study Pathways to Increase Efficiency in Resolving Legal Disputes Involving Housing Development Projects

(H.P. 1282) (L.D. 1921)
(C. "A" H-806)

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. 73 voted in favor of the same and 58 against, and accordingly the Resolve **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

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

(S.P. 772) (L.D. 1965)
(C. "B" S-505)

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 Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization

(H.P. 1456) (L.D. 2167)

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. 105 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

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

(H.P. 1314) (L.D. 1970)
(C. "B" H-801)

An Act to Provide Immunity from Civil Liability for Justices of the Peace

(S.P. 807) (L.D. 1994)

An Act to Remove the MaineCare Program from the Prescription Drug Benefit Provisions in the Maine Insurance Code

(H.P. 1341) (L.D. 2011)

An Act to Clarify the Setting of Group Life Insurance Coverage Levels Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

(H.P. 1352) (L.D. 2022)

An Act to Amend or Correct Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws

(H.P. 1379) (L.D. 2055)
(C. "A" H-799)

An Act Designating July 21st as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day

(H.P. 1382) (L.D. 2069)

An Act to Make Changes to the Laws Governing Financial Institutions and to Eliminate Certain Administrative Fees Paid by Banks and Credit Unions Under the Maine Consumer Credit Code

(H.P. 1385) (L.D. 2072)
(C. "A" H-807)

An Act to Increase the Cap on Bonds Issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to Reflect Current Housing Production Needs in the State

(S.P. 813) (L.D. 2127)
(C. "A" S-501)

An Act Relating to Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures

(H.P. 1494) (L.D. 2215)

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 Connectivity Authority to Develop Recommendations to Transition Functions Performed by the ConnectMaine Authority to the Maine Connectivity Authority

(H.P. 1319) (L.D. 1975)
(C. "A" H-802)

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 389)

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

March 5, 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 Mark John Blier, of Buxton to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Thursday, March 5, 2026.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 910)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 10, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Refer to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Pursuant to Resolve

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development** on Bill "An Act Regarding Municipal Inspection of the Electrical and Plumbing Components of a Manufactured Home" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 911) (L.D. 2229)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 105, section 7.

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

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

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this won't change my statistical presence in the record. However, I was not here last week and would like to take a moment to record my vote. I wish unanimous consent to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood, has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Had I been in my seat for Roll Call 619, LD 524, I would have voted yes; Roll Call No. 620, LD 2004, I would have voted yes; Roll Call 621, LD 2011, I would have voted yes; Roll Call 622, LD 1587, I would have voted no; Roll Call 623, LD 1975, I would have voted no; Roll Call 624, SP 901, I would have voted yes; Roll Call 626, LD 2147, I would have voted no; Roll Call 627, LD 2037, I would have voted no. Thank you.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request unanimous consent to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby, has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to let folks know that March is Women's History Month and read into the record a document that expresses exactly where we are in our status with women in history.

Hi. My name is Katie Mountain. I am an inmate at Maine Correctional Center. I knew coming to serve my 10-month sentence wouldn't be a walk in the park, but I never thought in a million years it would be a straight nightmare from hell. I'm hoping by sending my story out to the world I might get some help, not only for me but for the women who come after me.

I'm a 40-year-old Baptist married woman. I came to MCC in December and stayed in Foxtrot, or the Pods, as they say, for the first 11 days, before they moved me up to the women's center. I was moved to B walk; quad. I don't think there's a reason they call it that anymore, because it houses six inmates, but it used to only house four. When moving into this quad, I was forced into a situation of sharing a bunk with a male inmate. This inmate claims to be transgender, but physically is still male and has a very masculine personality. He makes jokes like, sorry, I can't help you, but I can put a baby in you.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind the Member of a guidance that the Chair provided to the Body just a few days ago about not extending debate on policy matters and other things that were not announcements about things that are happening around the State House. I think the Chair provided that guidance, it has been followed, I don't think that this is following that guidance. I think we can agree on that. And the Chair would ask the Member to; I think these comments are worth making in many ways and many venues. This is announcements from the floor related to matters happening here at the State House, in our districts and so forth, regarding events, and I don't want to have to move to a place where we don't do announcements. I said that a few days ago, and I'm afraid that this is going down that road where we're going to just not have announcements anymore.

The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: At what point would it be appropriate to speak to the state of women in Maine, particularly women who are currently and continue to be in harm's way because of Maine policy? Where and when is that appropriate, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: So, the Chair would advise the Member that all Members here have platforms that extend well beyond speaking here on the floor. Of course, any Member in this Body is welcome to speak to these issues on all platforms, on all mediums that they have access to. Holding a press conference, we see that all the time. Having comments made and shared on any platform. I think the point of the matter here; and should this issue be before us as a matter that's being debated through a bill. There's not a bill before us, and that would be the Speaker's guidance, the Chair's guidance to the Body.

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

On motion of Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, the House adjourned at 12:28 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 10, 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. 910) and in honor and lasting tribute to Sheldon F. Goldthwait, Jr., of Bar Harbor.