MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
13th Legislative Day
Thursday, March 12, 2026

Representative KESSLER of South Portland assumed the Chair.

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

Prayer by Pastor Cornel Preda, Rumford.

National Anthem by Nathan Henderson, Rumford.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 10, 2026 was read and approved.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 394)

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

March 12, 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:"
Environment and Natural Resources
L.D. 2174 An Act to Replace the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act with the Maine Renewable Energy and Associated Transmission Development and Conservation Act (EMERGENCY)
Health and Human Services
L.D. 1959 An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter
L.D. 2065 An Act to Provide One-time Funds to Support the Construction of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for At-risk Youth
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 395)

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

March 12, 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 Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Meyer of Eliot, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:
L.D. 766 An Act to Protect the Children of Maine
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Marine Resources has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Tepler of Sagadahoc, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"
L.D. 475 An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 396)

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

March 12, 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 10, 2026

Grace Dunton of Hartland for appointment as a student member, Edmond W. Morin of Westbrook and Paulette Bonneau of Biddeford for reappointment, and Xavier E. Botana of South Portland and Michael Thurston of Augusta for appointment to the State Board of Education.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, M.R.S.A. §401, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Anna Perna of Holden and Beth R. Campbell of Hermon for reappointment, and Lanet Anthony of Gardiner, Nicholas J. Weightman of Falmouth, and Christy M. LoCicero Mackey of Shapleigh for appointment to the School Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, M.R.S.A. §7407, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Joan W. Welsh of Rockport, Kenneth Colburn of Bar Harbor, Glenn Poole of Monson, Christopher Rauscher of Cape Elizabeth and Mark Isaacson of Cumberland for reappointment, and Patricia Deese Stanton of Scarborough for appointment to the Efficiency Maine Trust.

Pursuant to Title 35-A, M.R.S.A. §10103, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Carlos Javier Barrionuevo of Georgetown, Hannah Carter of Orono, James Carlson of Gorham, Danielle Louder of Cornville, and Michael C. Reed of Palermo for reappointment to the Maine Connectivity Authority.

Pursuant to Title 35-A, M.R.S.A. §9404, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Andrew Butcher of Portland for reappointment as President of the Maine Connectivity Authority.

Pursuant to Title 35-A, M.R.S.A. §9404, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Christopher Gordon of Winchester, MA for appointment, Matthew Webber of Leeds for appointment as the undergraduate student member and Blake Shepherd of Portland for appointment as the graduate student member to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §12004-C, these appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Patrick English of New Orleans, LA to the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5 §12004-C and Public Law 1941, c. 37, §1, as amended by P&SL 1993, c 27, §1, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

on March 11, 2026

Malcolm L. Hunter Jr. of Amherst for reappointment and Benjamin Pearson of Durham for appointment to the Land for Maine's Future Board.

Pursuant to Title 5 MRSA §6204, this reappointment and appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Leigh Weisenburger Albert of Lewiston for reappointment and Jeremy Ray of Saco for appointment to the Maine Charter School Commission.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, MRSA §2405, this reappointment and appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Monique Marie Cornett of Buxton and Marko Melendy of Brunswick for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, M.R.S.A. §13083-H, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

Jared Mills of Augusta for appointment to the State Civil Service Appeals Board.

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §7081, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 850)

MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 10, 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 nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary,

- Andrew Lizotte of Dover-Foxcroft for appointment, as a District Court Judge,
- Sean Ociepka of Belfast for appointment, as a Superior Court Justice,
- The Honorable Harold L. Stewart, II for appointment, as an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court.

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative SATO of Gorham, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1508) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, PUGH of Portland, RANA of Bangor, YUSUF of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AND THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year 2026, ushering in the Year of the Horse, was celebrated starting on February 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year begins on the second new moon following the Winter Solstice, or the first day of the new year according to the lunisolar calendar, and extends until the full moon 15 days later; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year began in China more than 4,000 years ago and is now widely celebrated in East and Southeast Asia, including Seollal in South Korea and Tet Nguyen Dan in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, both those from Asia and those who are part of the Asian diaspora have expanded the Lunar New Year celebration into an annual, weeklong, worldwide event that is celebrated by over a billion people across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year is a time for family and friends to gather, during which elders present red envelopes to younger family members and all extend wishes of good fortune, health, prosperity and happiness; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year increases the visibility of important cultural traditions celebrated widely among the Asian diaspora amid the ongoing struggles that the community faces, particularly regarding the experiences of invisibility, hatred and violence; 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 join in celebrating Lunar New Year, a cultural tradition observed by many Mainers and over a billion people worldwide; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature recognizes the importance of celebrating and uplifting the traditions, customs and values of Lunar New Year in order to provide visibility and safety to a community that experiences ongoing marginalization; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature encourages local, state and national observances of Lunar New Year and the promotion of educational programs to inform the public about the history, symbolism and cultural significance of this holiday; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to recognizing and respecting cultural traditions that enrich the social fabric of Maine and contribute to its vibrant multicultural identity.

READ and **ADOPTED**.

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 43)

ORDERED, that Representative Lynn Holland Copeland of Saco be excused Feb 24 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Valli D. Geiger of Rockland be excused Mar 3 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Randall Adam Greenwood of Wales be excused Feb 24 and 26 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Lucas John Lanigan of Sanford be excused Feb 24 and 26, Mar 3 and 5 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative William D. Pluecker of Warren be excused Mar 3 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative David M. Rollins of Augusta be excused Feb 26 for health reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Honorable Patrick Keliher, of Alna, former Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, who received the 2025 Captain David H. Hart Award from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for his longstanding contributions to and exceptional leadership towards the sustainable management of marine resources along the Eastern Seaboard. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1729)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. At its winter meeting in Arlington, Virginia, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, ASMFC, presented Patrick Keliher, former Commissioner with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, the Captain David H. Hart Award for 2025.

The Commission instituted the Hart Award in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts to improve Atlantic Coast Marine Fisheries. The Hart Award is named for one of the Commission's longest-serving members, Captain David H. Hart, from the State of New Jersey.

As Commissioner of Maine DMR and, in addition, Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC in 2012, Commissioner Keliher supported marine fisheries stakeholders both in Maine and along the Atlantic coast. It may surprise you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, that fisheries management is a political organization. It kind of surprised me. And especially an organization that spans the entire eastern seaboard, reaching agreement on the diverse fisheries within ASMFC's jurisdiction can be a master class in patience and collaboration and trust. Commissioner Keliher navigated it well. I'm especially grateful for his collaborative effort to secure a six-year pause on federal whale regulations and to provide millions in Federal funds to marine mammal research earlier in this decade. It has benefited both Maine's lobster industry and the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Personally, I'm also grateful to Commissioner Keliher for answering all of my many, many questions throughout my many years on the Marine Resources Committee and my three years on ASMFC. It was a nice surprise to be on hand to see this award presentation at the ASMFC meeting.

I invited the former Commissioner to be here this morning, but he told me he was tending a dog food delivery at his house. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** in concurrence.

Recognizing:

the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School Cheer Team, of South Paris, which won the Class A State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 599)

Presented by Representative LANCE of Paris.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative LANCE of Paris, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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, March 10, 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 in Memory of Gary Getchell, of Dresden

(HLS 579)

TABLED - March 3, 2026 (Till Later Today) by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

PENDING - **ADOPTION**.

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

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I hope you have a Gary Getchell in your community. I hope all Members in this Body have a Gary Getchell in their community.

As you can tell from the Sentiment, Gary had a full career in education in Massachusetts before he retired to his ancestral home in Dresden and immediately got involved, as we heard, in the often thankless and complex job of public education in a small town and, in particular, helping to create the RSU, making sure that the small town school was not lost. At the age of 88, he put his money where his mouth is. After expressing several concerns with local government, he ran for Select Board and won, retiring after one year due to his health. As I approach my own retirement from this Body at the comparatively tender age of 70, I'm feeling a little lazy. Thank goodness there are people like Gary in our communities.

The other thing I wanted to tell you that's not in the Sentiment is that Gary and Judy Getchell collected people that we came to call ourselves the Getchell Gang. We were collected from everywhere; the town historical society supper, The Old Goat bar, the transfer station and even people like me who drove up their long driveway one day seeking their vote. That visit, by the way, lasted two hours. I became part of a group that met weekly in the summer for *bocce*, beverages and barbecue. He didn't invite me because I was a politician, but despite being a politician, and it was often a welcome respite for me after a long week.

One of the regulars, Ryan Cote, wrote this last year on Facebook about the Getchell Gang and it seems appropriate here. Some days we gathered at the Getchell's, two, three dozen of us, all ages, conservatives, liberals, Catholics, protestants, Jews, Masons, Shriners, teachers, boatwrights, lawyers, EMTs, farmers, politicians, nurses, retired business owners, Vets, pets, school superintendents, DJs, Harvard and Wellesley grads, Yale runaways, State university, high school and trade school grads, goatherders, boat builders, hippies, dippies but no ego trippies. The conversations are loud, lively, often people talk over each other, they argue, tease, laugh and commiserate. We all bring food, ideas, pictures of our family events, new grandchildren. Dogs and *bocce* balls run loose. In this space, in this convivial shrine the Getchells have given us, we come together as a family, a climate of the heart. If issues get testy, they are gotten over and apologized the next week. It is as small town, big heart, as the America I grew up used to be, he writes.

Gary called us his non-DNA family. May we all have a Getchell Gang in our communities. Thank you.

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

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

Representative **MINGO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It is a true honor to rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from Eastport who has reached a milestone most athletes only dream of.

Just recently, in a hard-fought victory over Deer Isle-Stonington, Jonathan Andrews of Shead High School etched his name in the history books, scoring his 1,000th career point on Senior Night in front of his home crowd. Reaching the 1,000-point mark is a testament of the years of relentless discipline, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to his teammates in the Tigers program and a true commitment from his parents, John and Jessica Andrews. Jonathan hasn't just fulfilled the stat sheets, he has served as a leader on the court and a role model for every aspiring athlete in Washington County and we've had many of them. Today, we join his family, his coaches and the entire Shead community in applauding this incredible achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating Jonathan Andrews on his historic career, of wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

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 wishes to thank the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kessler, for his four consecutive terms of service and his service as Speaker Pro Tem.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Refer to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Pursuant to Joint Order

Representative MATHIESON for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services** on Bill "An Act to Combine the Board of Licensure in Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Licensure into a Single Licensing Board for All Physicians and Physician Associates"

(H.P. 1509) (L.D. 2233)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** pursuant to Joint Order 2025, H.P. 1486.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Provide an Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service Between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia"

(H.P. 969) (L.D. 1477)

Minority (3) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on March 3, 2026.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (9) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-800)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

Representative **BISHOP**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've spoken to this bill in the past, and the fact that this Body has voted this down in the past 105-39, it just shows the power that corporate money is using within this building to get what they want. There's 35 Members in the Other Body. That makes them an easy target compared to us.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind the Member not to speak of the actions of the Other Body to influence the Members in this Body.

The Chair advised Representative BISHOP of Bucksport that it is inappropriate to refer to the potential action of the Office of the Executive or the Other Body in order to influence the vote of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BISHOP**: Maine waters shouldn't be controlled by out-of-state money. This bill isn't even the same bill that we had a public hearing on. The content is all different.

The lobbyists for this wanted to strike and replace the bill and this bill is now a subsidy. How can we set a precedent that would allow an entity from out of State to receive Maine tax dollars for one entity that operates and allow the others to continue to start a process that would allow them to do the same thing, all over our waterways, paid for by us? Mr. Speaker, there's a year of time allocated to doing this correctly, and then to drag this out so that the lobbyists could just get paychecks out of this and then bully us around into getting what they wanted without content is unacceptable.

This Body needs to uphold its previous position and get rid of this for the purposes of transparency for this Body and the accountability to our public hearing process. As a result, this bill never actually received that with what we have in the language. Thank you.

Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle **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 Newcastle, Representative Crafts,

Representative **CRAFTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Maine State Ferry Service currently has an operating budget of about $58 million a year, with nine million dollars of State funds. I would encourage this Body to support this motion, because while the Cat Ferry is subsidized by the Nova Scotian province, over 75% of the 45,000 riders of the Cat Ferry each year come from the United States.

I think that we have a lot of competing financial priorities in this State currently, but the bill before us was a compromise we requested, both Bay Ferries and the Pilotage Commission, to work on, and this is what they found agreement with. It does nothing to change or provide any exemptions, it keeps our waters safe and it allows for the economic travel of both U.S. and Canadian visitors between Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, each year.

I would encourage the Body to support the motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Sayre.

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak briefly to this as well, in favor of the Recede and Concur motion.

I became aware of this through my service on the bipartisan Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission. We've heard about it in detail and that is why I rise. There were some things said on the floor this morning that I don't think characterize the situation accurately. This is not about corporate money; this is about money being paid to individuals who are Mainers. The notion that this strike-and-replace is somehow nefarious; this is the result of a compromise. A compromise to take the safety considerations into consideration and keep the pilots operating.

The Bay Ferry is a very important channel for tourism dollars flowing into this State. The contention was made that this is about money, and indeed it is, it is about keeping money flowing into Maine. Canadian tourism is highly valuable to our economy, this is an important channel for that. This would put $325,000 of Maine dollars into employing five Maine people to continue to serve as pilots for a service that is already subsidized by the government of Nova Scotia to the tune of $20 million per year, plus an additional million that they pay to subsidize the Customs and Border Patrol individuals that serve at the ferry terminal. I think $325,000 is a fair contribution to a total subsidy of in excess of $21 million and I support the Recede and Concur motion.

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

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am still in opposition to this bill. I believe that Maine tax dollars should go to more of the safety and concerns and investment in Maine businesses. This is a business that runs and can set its own ticket prices, it can set its own fees and it also comes into Bar Harbor and Bar Harbor itself as an entity of receiving these ships could also put something forth or support that. The pilot program is very important for safety and it should be supported by the companies that are coming through. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Canadian government is already subsidizing this ferry $20 million, I suggest that they kick in another $325,000. Maine taxpayers should not be subsidizing a Canadian corporation and if this Canadian corporation wants Maine taxpayers to start subsidizing their business, I suggest they go to the Canadian government and advocate that they remove their flag from Machias Seal Island, which is on United States territory, take their two Canadians out of there, take their flag with them and then go advocate to the Maine

government that we should be subsidizing their corporations. Until then, no Maine taxpayer dollars to pay for these pilots.

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. 643

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Harriman, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, McCabe, Meyer, Mitchell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Yusuf, Zager.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, Dill, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Golek, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Matlack, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rielly, Rudnicki, Sachs, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Campbell, Chapman, Eaton, Julia, Pluecker, Roberts, Underwood.

Yes, 56; No, 86; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

56 having voted in the affirmative and 86 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Online Data Privacy Act"

(H.P. 1220) (L.D. 1822)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-716) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-788) thereto in the House on February 10, 2026.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-716) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-528)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Require General Public Notification of Oil Terminal Facility Transfer Activities"

(H.P. 991) (L.D. 1507)

Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on February 10, 2026.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-794)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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-526)** on Bill "An Act to Improve Localization of Emergency Broadcast Messaging" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 819) (L.D. 2003)

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-526)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-526)** 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-526)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "C" (S-504)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Energy Fairness"

(S.P. 756) (L.D. 1949)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

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

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 "C" (S-504)**.

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 "C" (S-504)** 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 "C" (S-504)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-508)** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Activities Allowed Under the Natural Resources Protection Act"

(S.P. 851) (L.D. 2063)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-509)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

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

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-508)**.

READ.

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

Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips **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 Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to oppose LD 2063 as Amended.

The Amendment narrows the Natural Resource Protection Act in a way that reduces the DEP's ability to review work occurring directly beside streams, wetlands and other protected resources. While the Bill is framed as a clarification, the Amendment language effectively exempts more road-related activities from oversight including ditching, culvert resets and shoulder work that can significantly increase sediment and alter water flow.

The problem is simple. Site-specific conditions matter and Statute cannot capture them. Two roads may look identical on paper, but one may sit on a cold-water fishery, another beside a perched wetland, another in a flood prone corridor. DEP oversight is what ensures those differences are recognized before damage occurs. When we remove or narrow that oversight, we lose the ability to catch the subtle but critical red flags; unstable banks, undersized culverts, failing ditches and hydrological conditions that only a trained field review can identify. These impacts are rarely dramatic in a single project, but they are cumulative and longstanding. NRPA was designed to prevent exactly that kind of incremental harm. By tightening Statutory definitions, the Amendment shifts judgments away from the DEP scientists and into rigid language that cannot adapt to the realities on the ground.

This is not about burdening towns, it is about ensuring that work near sensitive natural resources receives the level of scrutiny needed to prevent avoidable harm. When we reduce oversight, we increase risk to water quality, to the fisheries and to our ecosystems NRPA was enacted to protect. For these reasons, I urge the Body to reject LD 2063 as Amended. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, other than the addition of a cross reference to a definition for an existing term, this Report before us is identical to one that the Department of Environmental Protection, their original proposal for this legislation.

So, and merely what it's doing is offering some very thoughtful, science-based adjustments to the Natural Resources Protection Act. And the only difference between the two Reports between us here that our Committee voted on is the Majority Report includes significant impacts to great ponds. And I think we would all agree here that great ponds are one of our State's most valuable resources and that we want to do what we can to protect them. It gives the DEP more tools, it doesn't make them use it, but it's something that will help them to keep our lakes and ponds healthy. 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. 644

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

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

ABSENT - Campbell, Chapman, Eaton, Julia, Pluecker, Roberts, Underwood, Zager.

Yes, 73; No, 68; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 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-508)** 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-508)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-524)** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Annual Cap on Funds Assessed for the Safety Education and Training Fund"

(S.P. 806) (L.D. 1993)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-525)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-524)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes increasing the current rate from one percent to two percent. At first glance, one might ask, who could be against a bill that would promote safety, training and education? These are goals we all support. However, we must consider the financial impact.

Currently MEMIC, the largest supplier of Workers' Comp in the State of Maine, spends more than five million dollars annually on these programs, more than twice the industrial standard. In 2025 alone, approximately $900,000 was paid by MEMIC to the Department of Labor. Under this bill, that amount could double to $1.8 million. These added costs will be passed onto the consumers.

During the public hearing, it became clear that the Department of Labor could not provide a clear answer as to how many safety programs are currently offered through Workers' Comp insurers and through companies that self-insure. Before we improve an increase like this, we should have a clear understanding of what programs already exist and how effectively these funds are being used. Our concern is that this proposal could once again push Workers' Compensation costs to levels that become unaffordable for many businesses.

We have seen this before. In 1991, then-Chief Executive McKernan shut down State government during a crisis that included extremely high Workers' Compensation costs. Following that shutdown, Maine's Workers' Comp system was overhauled, bringing much-needed relief to the business community.

Mr. Speaker, Maine's business community is largely made up of small businesses. What many of them are experiencing today is what I describe as a death by a thousand cuts. There are so many costs and regulations being placed on them; the Paid Family Medical Leave payroll tax, increases in Workers' Comp rates, rising commercial electric rates and higher property taxes. President Donald J. Trump has brought billions of dollars in new investment and economic development commitment into the United States. Companies are choosing to expand here, build here, create jobs here. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any of that investment coming into the State of Maine, which raises important questions we should be asking ourselves. Why not Maine?

At the same time, we have developed the reputation for raising taxes and fees without first analyzing whether costs can be reduced. Before asking employers to pay more, we should ask the Department of Labor to examine its programs, eliminate duplication and ensure taxpayer dollars are being used effectively. Fraud and waste found in some non-government organizations receiving public funds show the need for stronger oversight. I have not yet met a single citizen who says the answer is to keep throwing more money into the problem. What people are asking for is accountability, efficiency and results.

Mr. Speaker, our responsibility should be to promote safety and training while also protecting the economic viability of the businesses that provide jobs across our State. For this reason, I respectfully request that this Body reject the motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can tell, the Good Representative from Milford and I are suffering the same cold.

LD 1993 is a very straightforward bill. It updates the cap on the assessment that funds the Department of Labor's Safety, Education and Training Fund, a fund that we all agreed in Committee was necessary and very helpful. And it funds it so that the program can keep doing what it was created to do; help Maine employers and workers prevent injuries before they happen. The fund pays for safety consultation, training and education across Maine workplaces. That work saves businesses money, keeps workers safe and reduces injuries before they turn into costly claims.

The SafetyWorks program operates with a clear focus on prevention and cost savings for employers. The Amendment increases the cap by only a very small percentage. If we do not increase it to that two percent, we are almost guaranteeing that the Department will have to come back to this Legislature again next year, asking for another adjustment. That doesn't serve employers, workers or this Body particularly well.

And I just wanted to mention also that the bill is not saying that this fund is not funded from employers, it is funded from each insurance carrier licensed to do Workers' Compensation business in the State, and each group and individual self-insured employer authorized to make Workers' Compensation payments. It's not coming out of the employer's pockets, it's coming out of those insurance claims. It simply updates the cap in a way that allows the program to remain stable and continue providing the safety training and consultations that businesses rely on. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise in opposition of LD 1993 as Amended.

The bill does more than just adjust a cap. As Amended, it authorizes a substantial increase in assessment on Workers' Compensation insurers and self-insured employers and then immediately appropriates $2.23 million in new spending from the higher cap. That is not a technical correction, it is a significant expansion of a mandatory assessment that ultimately flows back to Maine employers.

We all support workplace safety, but this bill increases the assessment authority first and then spends the money automatically, without requiring any demonstration of need, measurable outcomes or accountability for how those funds will improve safety. The Amendment simply writes a $2.3 million check, calling it training. There is no performance requirement, no reporting requirement, no evidence that the current program is underfunded or unable to meet its demands. No assessment that this new money will reduce injuries, lower premiums or improve outcomes for workers.

At a time when employers, especially small and rural employers, are already struggling with rising costs, this bill adds another mandatory assessment with no guardrails and no clear justification. We should not be increasing assessments and appropriations simply because the Statute allows it. We should be asking whether the Department of Labor has demonstrated a need, whether the existing program is effective and whether this level of expansion is warranted. LD 1993 as Amended does not answer those questions. It simply raises the cap and spends more money. For these reasons, I urge the Body to reject LD 1993 as Amended. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you for allowing me to rise for a second time, Mr. Speaker.

I believe my friend, the Good Representative from Phillips, missed the last line of the Fiscal Note, which says the fiscal estimate assumes that the Department will assess a levy equal to the cap; assumes that it will, but the Department has not indicated that they will reach that cap at all. It's not their intention per their testimony that they would automatically apply that two percent. And as we know, as I think we're all familiar with, sometimes those Fiscal Notes are the worst-case scenario. 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. 645

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

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

ABSENT - Campbell, Chapman, Eaton, Hymes, Julia, Pluecker, Roberts, Underwood.

Yes, 74; No, 67; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 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-524)** 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-524)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-502)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Inclusion of Racial and Other Demographic Data from State Agencies in the Legislative Process"

(S.P. 274) (L.D. 590)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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-502)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-502)** 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-502)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-838)** on Bill "An Act to Define 'Public Education' and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State"

(H.P. 1424) (L.D. 2109)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-838)** 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-838)** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR
First Day

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

(H.P. 1345) (L.D. 2015) Bill "An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-839)**

(H.P. 1426) (L.D. 2111) Bill "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-840)**

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

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

ENACTORS
Emergency Measure

An Act to Clarify the Prohibition on Paper Billing Statement Fees

(S.P. 847) (L.D. 2061)
(C. "A" S-519)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, March 10, 2026, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

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

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

TABLED - March 5, 2026 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as you may recall, this was a bill that I spoke against on the floor a couple days ago. Since that time, I have spoken to many people who have convinced me in the rightness of the passage of this bill today. And part of that is really based upon, as an attorney myself, sort of this concept that was created back in 1215 under the Magna Carta, which essentially said that no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay right or justice. And that concept, which is now over 800 years old, really became part of the foundation of our Bill of Rights and our own Constitution.

And so, this particular bill, as it relates to payment of attorneys, Mr. Speaker, goes to that very issue. And what that means is, is that in this particular situation, in the most recent past we have had people sitting in jail, waiting for the assignment of attorneys to represent them to maybe have a bail hearing or maybe a final hearing, but to some resolve, to have some due process, which was really talked about in the Magna Carta, which goes to this concept again of, you know, there shall be no kings. Now, that's a great line that many people use in the United States today that we should not have a king. And the concept of due process goes to, particularly in criminal cases, the right of an individual to have the presumption of innocence and due process before they have their liberty taken from them. And in Maine, we've had this backlog, which partly was probably created by COVID and whatnot, and so, we since then have created this public defender system and merged that with what used to be, particularly in rural areas, Mr. Speaker, court-appointed attorneys who are appointed by the court to represent someone.

So, these are bills that have been accumulated, they haven't been paid, we want to keep that system working. Going forward, my understanding is, is that the backlog has been reduced significantly, we probably have complied now for the most part with the requirements of the court that has said that this needs to be done. We certainly don't want to release people into the community. Now, I say that, and I will support this, Mr. Speaker, and I would urge Republicans on this side of the aisle to support this, because I believe that it's important. Due process is important, justice is important.

And I only want to close, Mr. Speaker, with the concept that courthouses represent more than government buildings. They are physical embodiment of the rule of law in a community. Access to courts ensures that disputes are resolved peacefully, rights are protected and justice is administered fully. And I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I believe in this concept of due process and to the extent of being able to go to a courthouse and fight for your freedom and fight for your rights.

I will close in saying, Mr. Speaker, this is important all over the State, but we've had a courthouse in Newport that's been closed for over a year, and LD 1997, which has passed through this Body and sits now down on the Appropriations Table to be exempted, is about that same concept. The Constitution of the State of Maine says that the Legislature shall create our court system and the courts and we have a Statue currently in place that says there shall be a courthouse in Newport where court-appointed attorneys that we are going to fund can go and represent people that can't afford to hire an attorney. But I would only submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that's only part of the story, because people in Newport, where we have already created a Statute under the Constitution that says there shall be a courthouse in Newport, for over a year has not been functioning in Newport. And I want to thank the Judiciary Committee for their hard work on both sides of the aisle on their report back to the Appropriations Committee that essentially says that LD 1997 should be removed from the Special Appropriations Table or that an alternative source of funding be provided to ensure that the existing but closed courthouse in Newport can be reopened. And I appreciate the hard work of the Judiciary Committee in doing that.

And so, my commitment, Mr. Speaker, is to vote in favor of this today. Just so everybody understands the process, that means this will go down to the Appropriations Table and will need to be exempted from the Appropriations Table to then go

on to the Chief Executive for her signature, so that money can go out the door quickly. But I'm also asking this Body, by virtue of their report-back, their unanimous report-back, that LD 1997 be exempted from the Table and also sent to the Chief Executive, so that the Judicial Branch can move forward with bringing a courthouse back to Newport. I think that's critically important, and I think that way, we meet both responsibilities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair provided some latitude, but the Chair will remind Members to not discuss other matters not before the Body.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise just to underscore the importance and the urgency of making sure that these funds are available to PDS as soon as possible.

Following our debate last week on this bill, which called into question the availability of these funds, a large law firm here in Maine notified PDS that they would no longer take any further case assignments or lawyer-of-the-day assignments. This firm is currently involved in more than 800 pending cases. If they were to attempt to withdraw and be allowed to do so, it would be catastrophic for PDS, because there's no ability to replace that number of lawyers.

On Tuesday, PDS notified assigned counsel that it will run out of money and pay final invoices on March 23rd, just 11 days from now. And just as a reminder, this is payment for services that were constitutionally required and already rendered.

This is a system that is working. A year ago, we had 1,100 folks on the unrepresented list, we now believe it is less than 200. That's still 200 too many, but we're making enormous progress and we cannot allow this critical and successful investment to erode and lose all the progress that we have made towards ensuring justice in our State. Thank you.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I, too, was part of the debate last week and was opposed to the Majority Report. But I also was involved in the committee process as well, from the inception of the Bill itself, as well as the last four years of my legislative career have been voting for, working through, putting framework around funding public defense services to ensure that people have their constitutional right to counsel.

This was a pretty important bill that came before us. I was the Sponsor of the Minority Report that has the Amendment on it that reclassifies PDS-employed counsel and removes their ability to enter into collective bargaining agreements. I still feel like that's a very important issue, and it's one that is currently creating an imbalance in our justice system, where we have an entire part of our justice system, the defense piece, that has the ability to enter into collective bargaining agreements, which, as just a rule of thumb, I agree with. I actually support organized labor. But not when there is an imbalance here, because we have ADAs at the DA's office, the AG's office who don't have that ability. And some of them are putting in, you know, four, five hundred more hours a year of caseload work than the PDS-employed counsel are. And that does create an imbalance not just financially, but also in the benefits that employed defense counsel through PDS has.

So, my intent for putting in this Amendment is to simply resurrect and to keep the conversation alive that the Chief Executive had brought in on a previous bill, and to stay germane, I won't mention the LD number, but it was a previous conversation that had to do with emergency funding for PDS. And I didn't want that conversation to die away and to go away, I wanted to resurrect it and keep it alive.

We've come down to a point here now where both Reports fund PDS, both Reports have an Emergency measure, but there is clearly more support for one Report, and that is the Majority Report that simply pays the bill. I have no problem recognizing when the fight is over. And in fact, I came out of Committee ready to vote in favor of this bill, knowing that the important work had been done to keep the conversation alive, to force a conversation. Emergency bills require two-thirds votes of the Legislature, there is no party in this Body that has majority, so an Emergency measure forces a conversation to be had and I wanted to make sure that conversation was held or taken seriously. But this is the very last opportunity that we have to pay this bill in an Emergency measure, so I will be supporting the Majority Report. I encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

I made a statement last week that bothered some, and it was unintentional, but that Republicans pay their bills, and my hope that getting to at least 101 votes today, we can say that the Maine State Legislature pays their bills. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you very much. I wanted to just rise with optimism and thanks. I've been really heartened by conversations on both sides of the aisle intending to uphold our constitutional commitment to due process. I thank everyone for those conversations and I do hope that we will be able to join together to do just that, to protect constitutional rights for every person in our State. Thank you.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I sincerely apologize for standing a second time and briefly speaking, but I do think that there's one caveat to this bill which I think is important for the Body to know and to understand. And that this issue was included in the Chief Executive's supplemental budget which was released in February.

In her supplemental budget, this particular funding, which is roughly $21 million, was to come out of the Budget Stabilization Fund. And that's testimony that we've been hearing down in Appropriations in regards to that funding source. I think what's important here to understand, Mr. Speaker, and I just want the Body to understand, as we move towards the close of session and the change package from the Chief Executive today and a budget being voted out of Appropriations, is that this bill takes the money out of the General Fund. So, we sort of have two separate Bills that address the same issue, one in the Chief Executive's budget, which takes the money out of the Budget Stabilization Fund, and this one which will take the money out of the General Fund. The importance of that, and for the consideration of the Body is, is that if we take that $21 million out of the General Fund, which is not included in the Chief Executive's supplemental budget, my understanding would be is that we are now sort of creating a shortfall in the Chief Executive's proposed budget in terms of where the money comes from for her proposals within that document. So, simply speaking, if there was $250 million in the supplemental budget for spending and the Chief Executive said, this is how I want to

spend it, and then there was another $300 million to be spent out of the Rainy Day Fund, we've now reduced that $250 million to $225 million.

So, I only say that so that the Body understands going forward that that's going to create a shortfall in terms of what's going to get done down in Appropriations for a budget in the near future to report back to this Committee, we are going to see $21 million less; at least, that's my understanding; in the General Fund portion and the anticipated revenues to resolve. And I only say that, again, in continuance of support of this bill, but it's from a different bucket of money than what the Chief Executive was proposing and we're going to have to be dealing with that and talking about that in the future. So, I just wanted to make sure at least that's my understanding of this rather complex issue, Mr. Speaker.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 120 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

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

Representative **MONTELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud and excited because today in the Gallery we have the Gardiner Area High School Boys' Basketball Team. Last month, they won the Class B State Championship, the team's first ever Title. I just want to thank them and their coach, Aaron Toman, for bringing the Gold Ball home. This is our first Gold Ball, and I know it's extra special; first of all, I am a Gardiner Tiger and I was a basketball cheerleader and basketball in Gardiner has always been a fantastic spectator sport, we've always had great, hardworking teams and coaches and it's tribute to that.

And I know that Coach Toman was part of the last matchup with the Yarmouth Clippers back in 2012 when Gardiner did not win, so, this win is just super extra special, I'm so proud of all of the players, the coaches, parents and the Gardiner community for supporting such a wonderful team. Thank you.

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

Representative **SHAGOURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the Gardiner Boys' Team on their first-ever Gold Ball and I'd like to offer, at the request of my wife, a special congratulations to Brayden Elliot, Colin McCormick, Isaac Madore and Luke Whalen, whom she had the pleasure of teaching when they were much, much shorter.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Exempt from Sales Tax the Sale and Delivery of All Residential Electricity

(H.P. 1393) (L.D. 2078)
(C. "A" H-816)

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 646

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

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Adams, Blier, Campbell, Collamore, Eaton, Julia, Lanigan, Montell, Pluecker, Roberts, Shagoury, Skold, Underwood.

Yes, 136; No, 0; Absent, 13; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

136 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 13 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Sustain Access to Children's Residential Care Services

(H.P. 1440) (L.D. 2125)
(C. "A" H-821)

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 647

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

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Adams, Campbell, Collamore, Eaton, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Roberts, Skold, Underwood.

Yes, 139; No, 0; Absent, 10; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

139 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 10 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Create an Exception to the Prohibition of Tobacco Sales in Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies for Certain Small Grocery Stores

(S.P. 832) (L.D. 2134)
(C. "A" S-521)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 121 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Improve Affordability, Stability and Access in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program

(S.P. 674) (L.D. 1728)
(C. "A" S-520)

An Act Regarding Vacancies in the Office of Sheriff

(H.P. 1159) (L.D. 1741)
(C. "A" H-818)

An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

(S.P. 745) (L.D. 1904)
(C. "A" S-523)

An Act to Increase the Fee Cap for the Board of Licensing of Auctioneers

(H.P. 1365) (L.D. 2035)
(C. "A" H-822)

An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training

(H.P. 1398) (L.D. 2083)
(C. "A" H-819)

An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2027

(H.P. 1441) (L.D. 2152)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Improve the Availability of Child Care by Increasing Certain Reimbursements Under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program and Establishing a Grant Program to Facilitate Off-hours Care

(S.P. 554) (L.D. 1414)
(C. "A" S-518)

Resolve, Requiring a Review and Assessment of the State's Invasive Species Management Efforts

(H.P. 1102) (L.D. 1661)
(C. "A" H-814)

Resolve, to Authorize the State Tax Assessor to Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory

(H.P. 1388) (L.D. 2075)
(C. "A" H-817)

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

An Act to Protect Private Wells from Hazardous Substances

(H.P. 1430) (L.D. 2115)
(C. "A" H-805)

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

On motion of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, was **SET ASIDE**.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 648

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

NAY - Adams, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P.

ABSENT - Campbell, Eaton, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Roberts, Skold, Underwood.

Yes, 104; No, 37; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

104 having voted in the affirmative and 37 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 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**.

Resolve, to Study Food Insecurity Measures in Maine

(H.P. 1370) (L.D. 2040)

(C. "A" H-815)

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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 Final Passage. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 649

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hall, Harriman, Hasenfus, Henderson, 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, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Daigle, Ducharme, Eder, Foster, Fredette, Haggan, Lance, Lemelin, Lyman, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Schmersal-Burgess, Swallow, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P.

ABSENT - Campbell, Eaton, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Roberts, Skold, Underwood.

Yes, 116; No, 25; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

116 having voted in the affirmative and 25 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent and 1 excused, 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**.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Vinalhaven Water District" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1510) (L.D. 2234)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 397)

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

March 12, 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 Christopher J. Kessler, of South Portland to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Thursday, March 12, 2026.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 914)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 17, 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**.

On motion of Representative ALBERT of Madawaska, the House adjourned at 12:07 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 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. 914) and in honor and lasting tribute to Joseph W. LaChance of Madawaska.