# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
15th Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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

Prayer by Nic Benner, Granite Hill Church, Hallowell.

National Anthem by Carsyn Session, Hall-Dale Middle School, Farmingdale.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Amy Madden, MD, Rome.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

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**SENATE PAPERS**
**Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 875) (L.D. 2156)
(C. "A" S-510)

**PASSED TO BE ENACTED** in the House on March 5, 2026.

Came from the Senate **FAILING** of **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE**.

Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-864)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-510)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this House Amendment simply removes the Emergency measure from this bill. This is an important housekeeping measure that we want to make sure passes, and so, that's the only reason we're doing the Amendment. Thank you.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "B" (H-864)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-510)** was **ADOPTED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-510) as Amended by House Amendment "B" (H-864)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

The Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-510) as Amended by House Amendment "B" (H-864)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

**ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 402)

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

March 18, 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:"

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 2113 An Act to Align Long-range Grid Strategy with the State Energy Plan and Strengthen Integrated Grid Planning

State and Local Government

L.D. 849 An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members

L.D. 1383 An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 403)

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

March 18, 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 Environment and Natural Resources has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Campbell of Orrington, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 605 An Act to Provide Solutions for Sustainable Management of Municipal Solid Waste

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Transportation has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Nangle of Cumberland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 393 An Act to Designate Certain Bridges as Veterans Memorial Bridges

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Transportation has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Nangle of Cumberland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 394 An Act to Improve Transportation Infrastructure in Maine

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 883)

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

March 17, 2026
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report and Engrossed 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) and all accompanying papers in non-concurrence.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**Recognizing:**

Jesse Booker, of Winterport, a member of the Bangor Christian Schools boys basketball team, who recently scored his 1,000th career point. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 615)

Presented by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon.
Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo, Representative PAUL of Winterport.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative QUINT of Hodgdon, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ**.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Good Representative from Winterport, who allowed me to steal this Sentiment from her, so that I myself can say congratulations to my nephew, Jesse Booker. Thank you.

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

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

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

**ENACTORS**

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Update the Requirements for Social Worker Licensure

(H.P. 1387) (L.D. 2074)
(C. "A" H-833)

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

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Licensure of American Sign Language Interpreters

(H.P. 1402) (L.D. 2087)
(C. "A" H-832)

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

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Establish the Suicide Mortality Review Panel

(H.P. 1423) (L.D. 2108)

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. 102 voted in favor of the same and 7 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to Federal Funding Cuts

(S.P. 835) (L.D. 2136)
(C. "A" S-534)

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. 77 voted in favor of the same and 59 against, and accordingly the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-534)**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-865)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-534)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Elliot, Representative Meyer

Representative **MEYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment removes the Emergency Preamble and the Emergency Clause.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-865)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-534)** was **ADOPTED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-534) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-865)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

The Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-534) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-865)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

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**Acts**

An Act Regarding Synthetic Media in Campaign Advertising

(H.P. 335) (L.D. 517)
(C. "A" H-837)

An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws

(S.P. 815) (L.D. 2001)
(C. "A" S-536)

An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

(S.P. 827) (L.D. 2008)
(C. "A" S-537)

An Act to Enhance the Safety of Public Transit Bus Operators Through the Installation of Vehicle Security Barriers

(S.P. 849) (L.D. 2062)
(C. "A" S-532)

An Act to Include a Certain Emergency Communications Position at the Department of Public Safety in the 1998 Special Plan

(H.P. 1400) (L.D. 2085)
(C. "A" H-830)

An Act to Reorganize the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

(S.P. 817) (L.D. 2128)
(C. "A" S-530)

An Act to Transfer the Responsibilities of the Governor's Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources

(H.P. 1442) (L.D. 2153)
(C. "A" H-835)

An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange

(H.P. 1443) (L.D. 2154)
(C. "A" H-834)

An Act to Improve the Public Employees Disability Retirement Program by Modifying Provisions Controlling the Reduction of Benefits and Clarifying Terminology

(S.P. 879) (L.D. 2169)
(C. "A" S-527)

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.

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**Resolves**

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Employment Practices and Operations of Transportation Network Companies Operating in the State

(H.P. 563) (L.D. 877)
(C. "A" H-831)

Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries

(S.P. 862) (L.D. 2144)
(C. "A" S-531)

Resolve, to Name a Bridge Between the Town of Hiram and the Town of Cornish Warren's Bridge

(S.P. 889) (L.D. 2184)
(C. "A" S-535)

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

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

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**
**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Make the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy an Appointed Position Subject to Confirmation by the Legislature"

(S.P. 267) (L.D. 584)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
HYMES of Waldo
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-554)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford

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

**READ**.

Representative MALON of Biddeford moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand against the pending motion.

This is a good bill. This is a Bill that asserts our power as a Legislative Branch of government. Basically, all the bill does is say the Director of BABLO, OCP and GCU; so, that's alcohol, cannabis and gambling; would have to be confirmed by the committee of jurisdiction, the VLA Committee. The Chief Executive would still get to appoint these people, but it would allow some legislative oversight to the process.

We've had issues in OCP, we've had less issues than these other Departments, but I would say that, you know, these three Departments put together bring in over a billion dollars in sales and revenue for the State, hundreds of millions in tax dollars for our State, so, a little, advising consent by the Legislature is really not asking for much.

And I guess I would just say, you know, this bill goes into effect next year, it doesn't affect our current Chief Executive and to the folks on the other side of the aisle, you guys might not always inherit the second floor, so, let's have some checks and balances on the power on the Executive Branch. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like a Roll Call.

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

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion, which is the Majority bipartisan Ought Not to Pass Report. The bipartisan majority of the Committee listened to feedback on this matter and determined that putting so many different positions up for Senate confirmation would gum up the works for positions that are essentially civil service in nature and should not be overly politicized, in our view.

I will also note that the bill's Sponsor joined us in that Majority Report, seeing the wisdom of those arguments, so, I hope folks will follow my light and vote for the pending motion.

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 think that this is an opportunity for the Legislature to have a very small part in being able to have some say in, you know, essentially, who's running these organizations. My guess is for the most part it's pretty rubber-stamped. And I'd like to ask a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: My understanding, for example, Mr. Speaker, is that the newly created Office of Energy, the individual there, Commissioner, was to be appointed, needs to be confirmed by the Senate, and why would this be any different? I understand that this is a Director, not a Commissioner, but I see it as the same exercise and the same sort of consistency. And so, if someone could explain to me why we need to confirm one and not another, that'd be helpful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Malon.

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the Department of Energy Resources is a Department, as opposed to an Office, and the positions considered in this bill would be inconsistent with other Director positions throughout State government, and so, we decided to keep that consistency with the Majority Report. Thank you.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just add; Director, Commissioner; semantics. These positions have huge policy-making influence on our Body. We're struggling right now with the OCP pushing policy that would hurt our small businesses and our mom-and-pop operators.

So, again, this is for the next Chief Executive, it doesn't affect the current one, just a little extra oversight. We have it with the Fire Marshal, we have it with other things and these are huge budgets, huge organizations that bring a lot of revenue to our State. And so, again, I don't see the harm in asserting our Legislative power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 660**

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

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, 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, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Brennan, Lanigan, Roberts, Underwood, Yusuf.

Yes, 79; No, 64; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-863)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age"

(H.P. 1429) (L.D. 2114)

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**.

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

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

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

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

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise in opposition to this pending motion.

The purpose of this bill is to expand public preschool so that three-year-olds who have been identified as having special needs can attend. Our Committee has asked on several occasions to meet with the Child Development Services to better understand how these three-year-olds are identified as having special needs. We want to know who is making these determinations and what tools are being used to make that determination. We're now nearing the end of the 132nd Legislature and we still have not received clear answers. That raises a serious concern. How can Members of our Committee, Education Committee, support this bill without that information?

This bill also establishes that only those three-year-olds identified with special needs will be funded by the State. At the same time, in order to meet federal requirements for the least restrictive environment, the bill allows three-year-olds without identified special needs to attend these programs as well, but without funding, leaving the cost to local school districts. That creates pressure on local schools and our taxpayers who are already feeling a lot of pressure.

The bill is just not ready. We still don't have clear answers on how it will work, how it will be paid for or how it will impact our children in our schools. We need the opportunity to fully understand this process and work with Child Development Services to ensure these children are placed in the right programs. For those reasons, I urge this Body to vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill does not create a mandate at all. It's fully optional for districts to accept typically developing three-year-olds into their public pre-K programs.

The Good Representative from Hampden is exactly right that the State subsidy would only apply to those students with special education needs. This is completely at the discretion of districts. If they want to include three-year-olds to create a least restrictive environment or if they just want to enroll three-year-olds. It's not necessary, however, for a district to enroll the three-year-olds. If they do want to create a least restrictive environment, they could blend their typically developing four-year-olds with their three-year-olds that have special education needs. It's completely at the discretion of the districts. Costs are completely covered by the district if they choose to do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise today because rural Maine is facing a financial breaking point, and every bit that expands the scope of public education, no matter how well intended, must be examined through the lens of what towns can actually afford.

For years, rural communities have watched education costs rise at a pace that far outstrips local income, enrollment and outcomes. Budgets climb, taxes climb and yet, academic results do not. In many districts, spending has doubled while enrollment has fallen by a third. And the people paying the bill are not wealthy suburban families, they are the elderly residents on fixed incomes, they are working families living paycheck to paycheck, penny to penny, they are small town taxpayers who have already reached the limit of what they can sustain.

LD 2114, even as Amended, opens the door for school districts to expand into services traditionally provided by parents or private child care providers. Let's be honest about what this means in practice. If a district chooses to offer a program for three-year-olds, many parents will understandably choose it over paying for daycare. This is not criticism of parents, it is recognizing the basic economics. If the State authorizes a free program, families will use it, but the cost does not disappear. It simply shifts from the household budget to the property tax bill. And that shift is not small. Rural districts already struggle to fund transportation, special education and basic classroom operations. Adding another year of publicly funded care, because that is what this becomes, adds staffing, space, transportation and regulatory costs that will fall directly on the towns; not the State, not the Department; the towns.

We also cannot ignore the impact on the few child care providers who still operate in rural Maine. These small businesses are already hanging on by a thread. When the State authorizes schools to expand downward into the age group they serve, we risk putting them out of business entirely. And once a rural daycare closes, it does not reopen. Families lose options, employers lose workers and community loses capacity.

Colleagues, we must be clear-eyed about the cumulative effect of every new educational expansion. Rural taxpayers are not bottomless wells, they are not invisible, they are not disposable. They are the very people we represent and they are telling us loudly they cannot absorb one more cost. This Amendment may clarify eligibility, but it does not change the underlying reality. Expanding preschool to three-year-olds will increase local spending, increase local taxes and further strain the fragile child care ecosystem in rural Maine. Before we authorize another expansion of public education, we must ask a simple question, can our rural towns afford it right now; the answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. We've all heard the saying, the cart before the horse. Well, this piece of legislation is missing the horse, the cart and most of the wheels.

Bottom line, three-year-old toddlers; let me emphasize, toddlers; do not belong in a general education program within a public school. They belong with their family, or the closest setting to the family, during their most impressionable years of development. This bill has the potential to cause harm. Could it put into practice ineffective screening of three-year-olds' development? It certainly could. Could it come up short of providing and establishing the least restrictive environment as required by law? It certainly could. Subsidizing three-year-olds identified with a disability and not their three-year-old could have unintended consequences that negatively impacts the least restrictive environment. Does this piece of legislation take into account all the necessary needs that housing three-year-olds in a public school requires? It does not. Needs in regard to physical space, age-appropriate equipment, staffing, screening, general education curriculum, developmental considerations. This list could go on. And funding issues? There are many. Each of these areas I just named are very costly. This State doesn't even have a clue as to the level of funding needed to implement this legislation. But here's the unpopular issue regarding this piece of legislation; should three-year-olds be raised within a public school setting? They should not.

As lawmakers, we are supposed to pass laws that benefit the people of our State. This one will not. It threatens parental responsibilities and robs children of their most loving and nurturing environment. The laws we pass should encourage and support families in raising their children in the least restrictive environment. And for three-year-olds, it is not, not a public school setting.

Mr. Speaker, it should be the parents and the family and the people who love them most to teach the principles and fundamental understandings that will guide and carry these precious young souls through their life.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've heard one person say this is a mandate and one person say this is not, but when I look at the Fiscal Impact Statement, it says unfunded State mandate, moderate limited scope affecting the schools. So, I'm confused, is it a mandate or not?

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

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to rise again, and I'm happy to answer that question. This is not a mandate. This simply allows districts to enroll three-year-olds if they choose, entirely at their own cost.

The earlier students with special needs receive interventions, the more successful they are in their future as students. Science bears this out. And four-year-olds with special education needs are paid for entirely by the State, at no cost to the local districts. That's part of the law that was passed last session. Additionally, as part of that law, districts are permitted and, in fact, encouraged to contract with private providers; child care centers, private pre-Ks; in the districts to provide the pre-K services for the students.

So, I appreciate the concern about local private providers, including child care providers, especially in rural areas, but that was considered when the law was passed last year, moving special education needs for three- and four-year-olds from CDS to the Department of Education. It specifically allows students to receive public pre-K services in private settings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for letting me rise again. First time ever, in three sessions.

This particular bill, I just feel it's important to stress that this particular bill is before us because it is not in Statute for three-year-olds identified with special needs to attend general education public schools. No matter what your opinion is on three-year-olds being placed in a public school, this is an opportunity to put the brakes on for further consideration and analysis of this matter. It's an opportunity to make sure that best practices are in place for the screening and potential diagnosis of three-year-olds with handicapping conditions. We certainly do not want to over-identify or misdiagnose. After all, we're all well aware of the sudden developmental changes a three-year-old toddler can demonstrate in just a few weeks, even a few days.

This is also an opportunity to further consider and analyze matters concerning, as I said earlier, the physical environment, least restrictive environment. Fiscal responsibility that such an endeavor involves. Again, as lawmakers for the State of Maine, I respectfully ask you to consider a pause for the benefit of our little toddlers. This decision is not about party affiliation or winning a debate. It needs to be about our treasured three-year-old souls. Please visualize that little child that places their head on their loved one's shoulder as they raise their three fingers when they're asked their age. Imagine that three-year-old hugging tightly the legs of their trusted loved one or as they reach up to be picked up and held closely. Could we please vote to allow further analysis, further planning and vital considerations for this very vulnerable and precious population of our children?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not crazy about three-year-olds being educated, but that's not why I'm standing. Why I'm standing is with my 30 years' experience dealing with special needs, I see a red flag here. Most schools do their best at educating special ed, but they're not great at it even to this day. And to add more, especially a three-year-old, it's very, very difficult at the younger ages to deal with the needs of special needs and if you're talking about putting special needs children in a specialized school who are

capable of dealing with the situation, you got my vote. But to place them in a regular school, I see red flags. I think this is a mistake. I'm going to be voting against it because after reading the bill and using the knowledge I have with my 30 years' experience in this, I just don't think this bill is ready and I think there's a possibility of some of these sweet little kids falling through the cracks, and that's devastating to me.

So, if there weren't the red flags, I don't care either way. But I know there's red flags as some of my Colleagues in this Body don't fully understand because they haven't lived it. I have. 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. 661**

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

NAY - Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, 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, 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 - Adams, Chapman, Dodge, Lanigan, Roberts, Underwood, Yusuf.

Yes, 75; No, 67; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 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-863)** 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-863)** and sent for concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1403) (L.D. 2088)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-860)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

**READ**.

On motion of Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, 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.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-861)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting the Use of Credit Cards in Sports Wagering"

(H.P. 1395) (L.D. 2080)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
HYMES of Waldo
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn

**READ**.

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise against the pending motion.

I stand on behalf of everybody who likes to use credit cards and get points and, you know, we're fiscal conservatives, so, any extra dollar you can make, we take that advantage. We've legalized i-gaming, we've legalized sports wagering. The horse has left the barn. Let's let adults be adults and if they want to use a credit card to gamble, they can do it with the lotto now here with the State of Maine, many other apps, DraftKings and whatnot, they already prevent credit card use, so, I'm all for private businesses setting their own standards, but I don't think this is the role of government. And I'd like a Roll Call. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative BOYER of Poland **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. 662**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Foster, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Harriman, Hepler, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Soboleski, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Wood P, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Eaton, Lanigan, Roberts, Underwood, Yusuf.

Yes, 90; No, 53; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 1.

90 having voted in the affirmative and 53 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 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-861)** 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-861)** and sent for concurrence.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**
**First Day**

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

(S.P. 861) (L.D. 2143) Bill "An Act Facilitating the Reconstruction or Replacement of Storm-damaged Commercial Fisheries Facilities and Infrastructure" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1353) (L.D. 2023) Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Identify Ways to Manage Moorings on Inland Waters Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-859)**

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

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

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**
**Refer to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**
**Pursuant to Resolve**

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety** on Bill "An Act Permitting the Use of Oral Fluid Testing in Determining the Intoxication of Drivers, Aircraft Operators and Hunters"

(S.P. 915) (L.D. 2237)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 87, section 4.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

**READ**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORT** and later today assigned.

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

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I request to speak on the record.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I learned early this morning that the Honorable Mary Sullivan from Bangor passed away.

Mary Sullivan was a pillar of the community. I first met her when I was on the Board of Trustees for John Bapst Memorial High School. She was a teacher there, well liked and just one of the greatest people that I've ever met. She was the first woman Mayor of Bangor way back in the early years when the Good Representative from Portland, the Good Representative from Bangor, Representative Brennan, Representative Faircloth and I ran for the Legislature in 1992. Mary was one of the Bangor legislators. So, as we as freshmen served in the 116th Legislature, we really became good friends and colleagues and obviously, me included with those three, working across the aisle, were quite successful.

So, as we adjourn today, I request that we adjourn in memory of the Honorable Mary Sullivan.

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

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On motion of Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington, the House adjourned at 11:44 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 19, 2026, in honor and lasting tribute to the Honorable Mary Sullivan of Bangor.