

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL AND RECORD OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Wednesday
December 4, 2024

Pursuant to the Provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Maine, the Senators-elect of the One-Hundred and Thirty-Second Legislature convened in the Senate Chamber and were called to order by **DAREK M. GRANT**, Secretary of the Senate of the One-Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature.

Prayer by Dr. Kharma Amos of Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick.

DR. KHARMA AMOS: It is a great honor to be with you today as a new State Senate and Senate leadership are sworn in for a new session of work on behalf of all the people of Maine. I'd like to thank Senator Daughtry for the invitation to be in prayer with you and for you as you begin this new session of work.

Let's begin. Some of you might be nervous. Let's begin by something that connects us to our shared humanity and take a deep breath together. And let's join our hearts together as we pray.

Spirit of life, we gather on the cusp of a new legislative session, giving thanks for the privilege of living and loving and working here on the unseated lands of the Wabanaki people which we now call the state of Maine. We give thanks for these elected officials who have invested their hearts, their intellect, their time, and their energy to work for others. Election season is now over, and the work begins in earnest. May their work be characterized not by the polarization that is damaging our country, but rather by a spirit of compassion and collaboration and creativity that allows them to work together to meet the critical needs of this moment. May the decisions made in these halls truly be for the benefit of all of the people of Maine, and especially those most at risk, including seniors living with insufficient resources, families and children with inadequate shelter and food and healthcare that is inaccessible, our LGBTQ and especially trans and nonbinary neighbors who have been so unfairly vilified, our asylum-seeking neighbors who contribute so much to our community even as they are recovering from things most of us cannot fathom, our immigrant neighbors, whether their arrival took place generations ago or last week, the unemployed and working people in cities and small towns who get up day after day and give their best while consumed with worry that they won't have enough to make ends meet.

Spirit of ingenuity and innovation be set free in the hearts and minds of these leaders, that they may imagine fresh ways to legislate. May they prioritize listening as a path to understand the experiences of those different from themselves. May they maintain clarity about the values that have inspired them to public service. May they have enough time and space in their schedules for genuinely good ideas to take shape and take root. May they remember always that as a people, we are stronger, braver, and wiser when we do things together, honoring our differences in perspective and power.

Spirit of humility and service, in all they do may they lead with love, and may their actions and decisions bring about more

justice for all of the people of Maine.
In the name of love and all that is holy, we pray. Amen.

National Anthem Performed by Julia Gagnon of Cumberland.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator-elect Mark W. Lawrence of York County.

Off Record Remarks

The Following Senate Communication:
S.C. 1

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

December 2, 2024

To Darek M. Grant, Secretary of the Senate in the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRS, Section 1, hereby certify that the following are the names and residences of the Senators-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on November 25, 2024:

District 1	Susan Y. Bernard, Caribou
District 2	Harold L. Stewart III, Presque Isle
District 3	Bradlee Thomas Farrin, Norridgewock
District 4	Stacey K. Guerin, Glenburn
District 5	Russell J. Black, Wilton
District 6	Marianne Moore, Calais
District 7	Nicole C. Grohoski, Ellsworth
District 8	Michael Tipping, Orono
District 9	Joseph M. Baldacci, Bangor
District 10	David G. Haggan, Hampden
District 11	Glenn Chip Curry, Belfast
District 12	Anne H. Beebe-Center, Rockland
District 13	Cameron D. Reny, Bristol
District 14	Craig V. Hickman, Winthrop
District 15	Richard T. Bradstreet, Vassalboro
District 16	Scott Wynn Cyrway, Albion
District 17	Jeffrey L. Timberlake, Turner
District 18	Richard A. Bennett, Oxford
District 19	Joseph E. Martin, Rumford
District 20	Bruce Bickford, Auburn
District 21	Margaret R. Rotundo, Lewiston
District 22	James D. Libby, Standish
District 23	Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, Brunswick
District 24	Denise Tepler, Topsham
District 25	Teresa S. Pierce, Falmouth
District 26	Timothy E. Nangle, Windham
District 27	Jill C. Duson, Portland

District 28 Rachel Talbot Ross, Portland
 District 29 Anne M. Carney, Cape Elizabeth
 District 30 Stacy Fielding Brenner, Scarborough
 District 31 Donna Bailey, Saco
 District 32 Henry L. Ingwersen, Arundel
 District 33 Matthew A. Harrington, Sanford
 District 34 Joseph E. Rafferty Jr., Kennebunk
 District 35 Mark W. Lawrence, Eliot

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, given under my hand at Augusta this second day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four.

S/Shenna Bellows
 Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

QUORUM CALL

33 Senators-elect having answered the Call, the Assistant Secretary declared a quorum present.

On motion by Senator-elect **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
 S.O. 1

ORDERED, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills, informing her that a quorum of Senators-elect is present in the Senate Chamber, ready to take and subscribe to the oaths of office required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

READ and PASSED.

The Secretary appointed the Senator-elect from Cumberland, Senator-elect **PIERCE**, to deliver the message to the Governor. The Senator-elect was escorted to the Governor's Office.

Subsequently, the Senator-elect from Cumberland, Senator-elect **PIERCE**, reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SENATE

The Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, entered and addressed the Senate.

Governor **MILLS**: Good morning, and welcome to you, welcome back, welcome family and friends of newly elected, duly elected,

returning Members and new Members all. I look forward to this session and to working with each and every one of you. So many areas to cover and I love the fact that you bring such diverse knowledge, experience, and talents from all part of the State of Maine. That's what I love about our democracy and about our beautiful state. We're going to do our best together this session to make progress, to build on the progress we've made, and to make sure that the people of Maine have a safe and healthy place to live, to work, to raise a family. I know we share those goals.

So, first off, if you'd please stand, the Members -- duly elected Members of the State Senate of the State of Maine and raise your right hand, please. Now, repeat after me: I, state your full name, do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this state, so long as I shall continue a citizen thereof, so help me, God. I, state your full name, do swear that I will faithfully discharge, to the best of my abilities, the duties incumbent on me as a Senator in the 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine, according to the Constitution and laws of the state, so help me, God.

Thank you. Congratulations. Good luck.

The Senators-elect took and subscribed to the oaths of office required by the Constitution.

The Governor withdrew from the Senate Chamber.

Off Record Remarks

ELECTION OF SENATE OFFICERS

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin **NOMINATED** Senator **MATTHEA ELISABETH LARSEN DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland for the Office of President of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

Nomination seconded by Senator **FARRIN** of Somerset.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, nominations ceased.

On further motion by the same Senator, one ballot was cast on the part of the Senate in favor of Senator **MATTHEA ELISABETH LARSEN DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland for the Office of President of the Senate for the 132nd Legislature.

This being done, Senator **MATTHEA ELISABETH LARSEN DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland was duly elected President of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

The Senate considered the following additional paper:

ORDERS

Senate Order

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 2

ORDERED, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills, informing her that the Senate has elected Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry of Cumberland County as President of the Senate for the 132nd Legislature, and that President Daughtry is present in the Senate Chamber, ready to take and subscribe to the oaths of office required by the Constitution to qualify her to enter upon the discharge of her official duties.

THE SECRETARY: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Colleagues of the Senate, it's a great honor for me to place Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry's name in nomination to serve as President of the Senate.

I had the honor of nominating Beverly Daggett in 2002 as the first woman to serve as Senate President, and I had the honor of nominating Beth Edmonds in 2004 as the second woman to serve as Senate President. It's very exciting for me to have the pleasure of nominating yet another enormously talented woman who will join this parade of strong and effective female leaders who have presided over this Chamber with skill, strength, courage, integrity, and compassion.

We have come a long way since women in Maine got the right to vote in 1920, and since the first two women, Dora Pinkham of Fort Kent and Katherine Allen of Hampden, served in the Maine Senate in 1927. Women in the Senate - Republicans, Democrats, and Independents - have been breaking down barriers for years. We've moved beyond the tasks that were assigned to female Senators until the mid-1970s; tasks that included collecting money for flowers and gifts, selling tickets for the annual spring dance, and choosing the color for the license plates for legislators.

Senator Daughtry will make history in another way once elected this morning. She will be the youngest person ever to preside over the Senate. While she might be the youngest, she comes to this leadership position exceptionally well qualified. During the 12 years in which she served in the Legislature, she has demonstrated her ability to bring people together to bridge policy and political divides. She is a hard worker, creative problem solver, a doer, an optimist, and a good listener. She possesses generosity of spirit as well as a wonderful sense of humor, with the ability to engage others to step back to gain perspective. I know that Senator Daughtry will be fair as she presides over this Chamber and will be inclusive of everyone in it.

One of the things that I particularly appreciate about Senator Daughtry is her love of and deep respect for this institution. Her experience serving in both Chambers has given her a perspective on how to make the Legislature work better for everyone involved, including the general public. In interviews that Senator Daughtry has given recently, she's emphasized her desire to modernize the Legislature to make it more accessible to the public and to make it more efficient. I know that with the energy and determination that Senator Daughtry possesses, she will succeed, working with all of us to make this happen.

I am proud to place Senator Daughtry's name in nomination and ask that you join me in supporting Senator Mattie Daughtry as the next President of the Maine Senate. Thank you.

THE SECRETARY: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **FARRIN:** Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, family and friends, it is my pleasure today to second the nomination of Senator Mattie Daughtry for the position of President of the Senate.

Over the course of ten years, I've had the opportunity to work alongside Mattie and have come to appreciate her thoughtful approach to leadership. While she is relatively young - well, at least compared to the majority of us in here, and specifically this fossil delivering this nomination - her maturity and capacity to understand the complexities of policy and governance are beyond her years. She brings a refreshing perspective that I believe is crucial for the continued growth of our state. Her leadership represents the next generation of public service.

The role of Senate President demands someone who can balance experience with the ability to adapt to new challenges. Senator Daughtry has consistently shown that she is not only capable of making sound decisions but also can bring new ideas and energy to a complex table. Her approach is one that encourages collaboration, open dialogue, and a willingness to consider all sides and viewpoints. The latter is so important. Throughout my time in the Maine Legislature, I think we as a body have lost that spirit of collaboration, that willingness to reach across the aisle in pursuit of the best possible outcome for the citizens of the State of Maine.

As a former command chief in the military, I always valued the prospect of what good leadership is, and the hopes represented by those coming up through the ranks below me to someday be leaders themselves. As the next generation of leadership, I think Mattie represents those values and is well positioned to carry this body forward. She has the qualities of a strong leader, integrity, determination, and a deep commitment to the people she serves, to address the issues of today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

For these reasons, I proudly second her nomination for the President of the Maine State Senate. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

THE SECRETARY: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, and guests who are gathered here today. It is my honor, too, to rise today in support of Senator Daughtry's nomination for the office of Senate President.

This is a big deal. She should be very proud of this accomplishment, and as a fellow young person who's kind of grown up in this institution alongside her, I'm very pleased to see her there and am excited about the prospect of what we can accomplish together. And I'd be remiss if I did not bring up the fact that as the minority leader, it is incumbent upon us in the minority to continue to strive for that collaboration. There are a lot of things I think that resonated with Maine people that are important for us to not forget as we embark on this two-year journey together. We've got to get a handle on our energy prices in Maine, we've got to get a handle on what's happening with property taxes across the State of Maine, we've got to get a handle on what's happening with our state's finances and this tumultuous period of budgeting that we're about to head into, and we have certainly got to continue our focus on protecting Maine's children. Those are all things that we can't do without your leadership, and we can't do it without your collaboration. And our pledge to you, my pledge to you, is to continue to be at the table with you every step in this process and really look forward to the great things that I know we'll be able to accomplish together.

You're modernizing the Legislature, as a fellow young person, that's very exciting to me in this old, old institution that we have, and it has been a really exciting venture to even just be, you know, talking about some of these things that are so important to do. You get it, I can't underscore how important that is as we head into some new challenges and a new way of hopefully governing and it's really a testament to the great things that you'll do for this institution, which I think has kind of taken a back seat in state government for too long. And I appreciate that you share that perspective here as this is the peoples' branch of government, this is the peoples' house, and it should be treated and structured and operate as such.

So, my congratulations again to you. I can't tell you how excited I am to work with you here, and on behalf of my colleagues, thank you for your leadership and best of luck with the new position. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

READ and PASSED.

The Secretary requested the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **ROTUNDO**, the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN** and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART** escort the Governor to the Chamber for the purpose of administering the oath of office to President-elect **MATTHEA ELISABETH LARSEN DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland. The Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **ROTUNDO**, the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN** and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, to the Governor's Office.

Subsequently, the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, entered and addressed the Senate.

Senator **MATTHEA ELISABETH LARSEN DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland took and subscribed to the oaths of office required by the Constitution to qualify her to discharge her duties as President of the Senate, pursuant to the Rules of the Senate.

The Governor withdrew from the Senate Chamber.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Congratulations and welcome to my Fellow Senators, and also to the friends and family who helped get us here. I stand here before you humbled and honored by your trust and faith in me, and so motivated by the work ahead of us.

With your help and with your expertise, and with the backing of the supportive, loving people and the amazing staff in this room, I am filled with the faith that we can accomplish meaningful work for those we serve. Thank you first to Kharma for the beautiful prayer and Julia, for the absolutely stunning National Anthem. And thank you to Senator Rotundo for your trust and nomination. You've been a role model for myself for so long and for so many others. Thank you for your constant words and your wisdom. And thank you, Senator Farrin, for your kindness and your friendship. The Good Senator from Somerset's district is one of my favorite places outside of my own home - don't tell Brunswick - including my favorite beer festival in the state, and often my favorite place to find a Christmas tree as well. Importantly, it's an honor to be nominated by a colleague outside my own party. Brad, I deeply value our friendship, and I still remember getting to know you when we were both in the House. And thank you to

Senator Stewart, who I've had the pleasure of working with since our early days on the Education Committee. Look how us young'uns, as Representative Kornfield used to say, how far we've come today.

And to everyone in this room, all of our friends and family who are able to be here, a heartfelt thank you for supporting our dedication to this institution and for being a part of this day. None of us would be here without all of you. While us Senators are getting to take the oath, this moment is only possible with the love and support and so much more from all of you. Behind every single Senator is a loving support team, and we literally could not be here without every single one of you. And I wouldn't be standing here today without my incredible family and village. I literally wouldn't be here without my incredible parents, who taught me more than I can express in a few short words. To my fiancé, Philip, we've come a long way since you became the drummer for our high school rock band. Thank you for always keeping the rhythm of our lives going, even if you can never keep me on time. And thank you to Angelyn and all of my family who's here, from my Oakridge family to my Smith College sister, to my Moderation Brewery crew, to my Bath crew, to my dream team, and to the incredible Senate Majority Office family. I am eternally grateful for your love, your support, and your guidance.

And now, I want to welcome everyone to the Maine Legislature, but especially welcome you to the Senate Chamber. If this is your first time in the building, I hope you'll take some time to explore. Try finding the fossils in the marble floors, not just those of us sitting here in our seats. If you've been here before, welcome back. Every time I step through those doors, especially on days like today, I get a little chill recognizing the history that has occurred here between these walls. I think about the leaders who stood here before today. A hundred and thirty-one legislatures have come before us, just enough that we have collectively worn down those white marble stairs. And when I come into this building, what always grounds me is knowing that this is the peoples' house, and that 24,000 or so, roughly, Maine legislators who have come before us have tried to do what we will attempt; ensure our constituents' voices are heard in this capitol and by our government.

So, I read through many inaugural speeches from this Chamber in preparation for today. I'm sure you're all shocked I did a little too much homework. Senator Bennett described the political moment the Senate found themselves in, Senator Lawrence and Senator Mitchell made several good jokes to which I hope to live up to, and in 1955, Senate President Haskell ended with this promise; "to these objectives, I pledge my sincere efforts, still humble in my thanks for the honor that you have given to me." I read about the troubles of our state and what was keeping folks up at night through the decades from 1820 until now. And I read about the hope shared amongst each new class of legislators. We have so much to learn from those who came before us. There's something both reassuring and wild thinking that we walk amongst those prior experiences, but that is what makes this the peoples' house.

I ask you all, what did it feel like when you entered this building? What did you notice? What did you see on the walls? Who greeted you? How did it make you feel? When I first walked into this building, I vividly remember it, and I remember passing through those big doors. I was all dressed up, I had a beautiful red plaid dress on, and I had two perfect long braids. It was a huge day for me; I was an honorary page in the House for one of the women who helped raise me, Charlene Rydell, and I was

roughly six years old. Everything felt so big. Crouched next to the board, a chamber staff member showed me how to dash to pass notes to people making laws and debating and taking votes. I watched the day's work with awe. I remember Millie MacFarland sneaking me my first piece of white chocolate. And I was completely and utterly mesmerized by the magic of it all. And that magic has stuck with me ever since. And I hope for all of us gathered here today, that you can feel a little bit of that magic, too. However, I haven't only felt awe in what is possible in my relationship with this building. Later, I was motivated to return by a little, well, disappointment. Disappointment in our systems. You see, I first ran for office when I was 25 years old, when I was working three jobs and I still couldn't afford health insurance. Most of my peers could not afford to buy a home in Maine, and I came to this building with a strong desire to push for fairness and the sense that if we as a body were more representative of the diverse experiences of Mainers, we could better serve them. And as I reflect on my own past here in the building, 12 years ago since I was elected, I've spent a lot of time listening. I come to my work with an open mind, and I've made friends with those who I expected to oppose. I accepted the death of some of my bills - well, let's be frank, a lot of my bills - and committed to learning and continuing to make them stronger in the future. My goal was to learn what I could from every corner of the state and represent it here. We can learn so much from each other and so much from the past. But the past also shows what's been missing if you take the time to look clearly. And so do elementary school groups. We have a lot of school tour groups that come through this chamber, and I recommend if you haven't done this as a senator, please join them. And what I've been struck by is what the children always notice in this building. All of them notice and point out that there are very few portraits of distinguished Maine women. There are only two. I challenge you after this to go find them. There are no portraits that feature Mainers of color, and only one portrait features Maine's Wabanaki history here in our Chamber. When you enter a space that doesn't look like you or welcome you, how can you expect government to work for you? Our past can inform our present only if we notice where we come up short.

But now, I want to talk about the future. Like those who came before us, I know that there's a lot that binds us together now. It can be all too easy to get -- let oneself get swept up in the rancor, just turn on the radio or the news, and be convinced that we have insurmountable divides. Often, we hear about two Maines, which I feel couldn't be further from the truth. I challenge us all gathered here today to think beyond those myths and those gotcha headlines, because in my 37 years, and especially over the last few years, I have seen there's a lot more that brings us together and that there is a common thread. Stop and think about what the last few months of your life was like. Think of all of the Mainers that you met on your journey to this Chamber. I think of the family that I met in Senator Bradstreet's district, whose drinking water was contaminated by PFAS, or an elderly man with a home health nurse with no access to internet or cellphone access in Senator Reny's district, who couldn't reach her outside of normal hours. I think of a man who lived in a camper in Senator Curry's district who was having trouble getting the heating assistance that he needed because his home was not a traditional structure. And I think of the mother in Senator Nangle's district fighting for care for her young teenager with mental health struggles. And I think of all the Mainers that I have met when they sit down across from me at my bar and share their

story. We all have those stories, and I know that there's a lot more in those stories that unites us than divides us. In this room, we have common concerns for Mainers. We know folks are struggling with the cost of housing and heat, we know parents need to get to work but struggle to access childcare that is open as long as their workday. We know how many jobs folks are working just to get by. Heck, I'm excited to be down to just two now. Being able to thrive in Maine is not simple. If you were to go back to any of those conversations with voters, family, and friends in your own district, I bet those common themes, regardless of the party they belong to, would be there. What they want to know is how we, the 132nd, are going to work to make their lives a little better. What I have learned is that here in the Maine Legislature, we're willing to work together to fix what's broken, and we get creative about the solutions. Some of us take pride in working on a bill, a single bill for over a decade, just to get it right. We're skeptical of people who claim to have all the answers and a magic wand to solve problems. We're rightly skeptical of longwinded speeches - I'm sorry. And as Mainers, we know from our town meetings that governing isn't easy and that only when we have transparent discussions where listening is central can we get anywhere.

This Chamber is where we can build strong consensus. It's where we can learn from everyone's shared lived experiences. But out in our communities is where we should take our work. I'm going to challenge everyone in this Body and everyone in the House and in the Senate to join me in that. This institution is important, but we must remember that we have to meet Mainers where they are. Our work is not top-down, and our work is successful when the people in our areas contribute, when we listen, when we talk with, not at, the Maine people that we represent. We need to make government work for all Mainers. Policy can't happen in a vacuum, and I will serve as a constant reminder this session that we need to be talking with folks, not talking at all of our constituents. What I will always be grounding myself with is if the average customer sitting at my bar, with me passing them a beer, can't feel an impact from our work, then we've not learned from the past.

I want to make sure that we are not an ivory tower on the hill; that we open those big doors, that we get out and we make sure that we're doing the work. Learning about the past has made me so excited about the future, but only if we can accomplish what's missing. My biggest goal and my big policy that everyone's been asking me about when I seem to get a mic, you know, put in front of me over the last couple of days, is to leave this Legislature a better place than I found it. I will be devoted to making the Maine Senate effective, respectful, inclusive, and accessible. This will be my full focus. But most importantly, I want to make sure that everyone who walks into this Chamber and this Legislature knows that this place is for them. This is a citizens' legislature. And what I really hope is that maybe, just maybe, one of the honorary pages that we host over the next two years will be standing right where I am today in 30 years, because they also saw that little bit of magic that exists between these walls. Thank you.

At this point, the President noted the presence in the Senate Chamber of Senator-elect from Franklin, Senator-elect **BLACK**. The President requested the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, escort the Senator-elect from Franklin, Senator-elect

BLACK, to the Governor's Office for the purpose of taking and subscribing to the oaths of office required by the Constitution.

The Senator and Senator-elect were escorted to the Governor's Office.

Subsequently, the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, reported that he had attended to the duties with which he was charged and was pleased to report the Senator from Franklin, Senator **BLACK**, had taken and subscribed to the oaths of office required by the Constitution.

Thereupon, Senator **BLACK** of Franklin took his seat in the Senate Chamber.

Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland **NOMINATED DAREK M. GRANT** of Augusta for the Office of Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Madam President. Good morning colleagues and friends. It is my privilege to stand here today to nominate Darek Grant for another term as Secretary of the Maine Senate.

Darek has served in this role with unwavering dedication, unmatched professionalism, and a deep commitment to the integrity of this institution. Darek's connection to Maine and its people runs deep. Born and raised in Augusta, where he still resides with his wife, Jen, their two wonderful children, Libby and Callan, and their two senior rescue dogs, Aidan and Beau. Darek has devoted his life to giving back to the community that shaped him. From serving on the school board and the city council, to leading Augusta's Little League and organizing the local back-to-school backpack program for kids in need, Darek has proven time and again that he is a leader who shows up for his neighbors. Darek's journey in this Chamber began 20 years ago as an intern, and since then, he has held nearly every position - not yet Senate President. He's been chamber staff, a legislative aide, chief of staff, and now, for nine years, our Secretary of the Senate. His tenure in this role is marked by a steadfast commitment to fairness, reliability, and transparency. Whether we've been in the majority or the minority, Darek has been a constant, a resource, and a guide for every member of this body. Darek's work as the Secretary goes beyond the day-to-day operations of this Chamber. He is a talented parliamentarian and a steadfast steward of parliamentary procedure. When debates are intense, Darek is calming and an impartial presence, skillfully guiding us through our most complex procedural questions with confidence and clarity. As Secretary, Madam President, Darek has not only ensured the smooth operation of our legislative process, but he's also embraced some unique challenges. For example, he's mastered the pronunciation of complex terms like per and polyfluoroalkyl substances. A testament to both his thorough preparation and his ability to dive headfirst into even the most technical aspects of the work. Darek is more than the Secretary of the Senate; he is a leader, a mentor, a true guardian of the institution's values, and it is with immense pride, Madam President, that I nominate him to continue serving in this role. Thank you.

Nomination seconded by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Madam President. Good morning, esteemed colleagues of the Senate, and our very many honored guests who have joined us here today. I am pleased to second the nomination of Darek Grant to continue serving this Chamber as the Secretary of the Maine Senate.

Darek has many admirable qualities, too many to list here today, but I will gladly highlight a few. Firstly, and most telling, is that he and his family love to adopt senior rescue dogs. Adopting a rescue dog, especially an older one, requires patience, consistency, and caring; qualities that are also key for a successful Senate Secretary.

Darek demonstrates patience daily in a place that is not designed to move quickly. He stands in front of this body quiet and attentive during long debates and late-night Senate sessions, ensuring a fair process for all. He is patient with every one of us, each at different places along our learning curves, as we become the best Senators that we can be. Darek is a model of consistency and reliability. Not only is his knowledge of the rules of this Chamber unparalleled, but he is helpful to every member seeking to understand them, regardless of party affiliation. I have benefited from his procedural prowess and from my seat, I have watched him help many others. In fact, when I told my predecessor, Senator Luchini, about my seat assignment on the floor, he told me it was the best seat because of the proximity to Secretary Grant, who could help me learn the rules to stay out of trouble or to get in it, depending on my aim.

Darek cares deeply about the institution of the Senate and the Legislature. This is evident as he warmly welcomes new visitors to our Chamber like the youth honorary pages, and as he works on our behalf under challenging circumstances. I can think of two unprecedented instances in the 130th Legislature - 31st, excuse me - when the self-determination of the Legislature was called into question by other actors. Darek diligently reviewed rules and consulted legal experts, and in both cases, he stood up for us, the branch of government that is the closest to the people. He knows that it is no accident that the Maine Constitution lists the legislative department first regarding the distribution of powers. As Secretary of the Senate, Darek has served with integrity and proven his patience, consistency, and care, provide a great service to this Body and the great State of Maine. We are fortunate that he has once again stepped up to serve, and that his family supports and encourages his commitment to this demanding position. We thank you for sharing Darek with us. I hope you will join me in enthusiastically supporting Darek Grant to serve as the Secretary of the Senate for the 132nd legislative session.

Thank you, Madam President.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, nominations ceased.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President. I noticed the facial expression on Mr. Grant here a second ago. It's because I told him earlier I wasn't going to do this, but I -- I think he might be a little bit nervous. So, it -- I just had to take an opportunity here

because I would really like to underscore some of the points made by my colleagues about Darek's ability to serve us. And while we're on opposing sides of the political spectrum, I have always found and appreciated how fair Darek is as he plays this role. And for those that are wondering what the heck it is the Secretary of the Senate does, there are times when he needs to be an umpire, and there might be a disagreement between folks in here as to - or, as my colleague from Hancock mentioned - folks in different branches of government, even, might think is the right thing to do or the proper parliamentary move. And I have always appreciated how thorough Darek's knowledge is of the rules of this institution and the Legislature as a whole that govern us and that keep us between the lines here so that we can get through a debate that might be challenging or a vote that might be challenging, and still come out on the other side, you know, as a body and able to continue to work together on the next thing that's coming our way. And that's critically important, and he does so -- sometimes, he can even tell a joke - they're usually not very good, but we appreciate the effort, anyway. But he keeps it lighthearted as well, and it takes a special type of person to be able to do that, that has the knowledge, the personality, and the balance that this Chamber desperately needs. And so, I am happy to cast this one ballot here in -- on behalf of Darek Grant to continue his role and look forward to continuing to work with you. I hope the jokes get a little better, though.

On further motion by same Senator, one ballot was cast on the part of the Senate in favor of **DAREK M. GRANT** of Augusta for the Office of Secretary of the Senate for the 132nd Legislature.

This being done, **DAREK M. GRANT** of Augusta was duly elected Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

The Chair requested the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **BRENNER**, the Senator from Hancock, Senator **GROHOSKI**, and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, escort the Secretary-elect to the Governor's Office for the purpose of taking and subscribing to the necessary oaths of office required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of the duties of the office of Secretary of the Senate.

The Senators and Secretary-elect were escorted to the Governor's Office.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Subsequently, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **BRENNER**, the Senator from Hancock, Senator **GROHOSKI**, and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, reported that they had attended to the duties with which they were charged and were pleased to report that **DAREK M. GRANT** of Augusta had taken and subscribed to the necessary oaths of office to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of the duties of the Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec **NOMINATED JARED T. ROY** of Winterville Plantation for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. The sunlight is making this very difficult right now. Good morning, colleagues, family, and friends. I am pleased to rise and place in nomination the name of Jared T. Roy to serve in the Office of Assistant Secretary for another term.

Born and raised in his beautiful and beloved Aroostook County, Maine's largest county, and the second largest county in the United States of America east of the Mississippi River, Jared has been active in his community, serving in local government as the Winterville Plantation assessor, budget committee member, and owning and operating Eagle Lake Pub. I met Jared in 2016 at the state convention in Lewiston. He is a proud graduate of what he calls the John Martin School of Parliamentary Procedure, which has served him very well in his role here in the State House. Outside of this Chamber, Jared enjoys the outdoors, loves acquiring fresh and prepared food from our farm in Winthrop, and adores Annie, his beautiful, big Saint Bernard, who also loves chasing chickens around our farm.

Jared has served as senate staff since 2018, beginning his service running the board and then moving up to Assistant Secretary of the Senate in 2022. A hardworking, reliable and consummate professional with an unassuming demeanor, he works extraordinarily hard and well with Secretary Darek Grant, even though Secretary Grant is a Red Sox fan while Jared remains a diehard Yankees fan. But you wouldn't know it by the way they can almost finish each other's proverbial sentences when it comes to running this Chamber seamlessly and honoring the institution of the Maine Senate. Whenever I need help getting my computer hooked up to the printer, Jared is there. And so, it is my honor and privilege to place in nomination the name of Jared T. Roy for reelection to the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Senate for the 132nd Legislature. Please join me in supporting Jared for his continued service in this essential role. Thank you, Madam President.

Nomination seconded by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** (French) Je connais Jared depuis six ans. Il est une personne du nombreuses réalisations. Mais plus que cela, il est un fils de comté d'Aroostook et un Francophone. I've known Jared for six years. He's a person of many, many accomplishments. And more than that, he is a son of Aroostook and a francophone. And for those here who don't know, Maine is one of the two states in the country that has, when it was created, had native speakers of French in our country, and we -- in our state, and we are the highest in percentage of people who speak French at home in the U.S.

(French) Je l'ai connu le mieux en tant qu'organisateur de la - excuse me - de la célébration de francophone ici dans la chambre des représentants. Il y a un organisateur extraordinaire et c'est un grand plaisir d'être accord avec la nomination de Jared T. Roy.

I have known him best as the organizer who's assigned from the Senate to help us organize the Franco-American Day here at the State House and he's an incredible organizer and it's a great

pleasure of mine to second the nomination of Jared T. Roy of Winterville Plantation for Assistant Secretary of the Senate. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, nominations ceased.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President. It is my pleasure to cast a ballot here for Jared Roy. I would echo the remarks not in French but in English of my colleague from York. He, actually, my first term said that I had to do the Pledge of Allegiance in French during the first Franco-American Day in front of my French teacher, so it's a fun game we have here. And I would certainly concur with him that Jared really goes above and beyond in these events and these things that we do here, beyond just sort of the operations of, you know, the day-to-day but also in the planning and the work that he puts in, and we're very appreciative for that and what you bring to the table, particularly in that event, which is critical, being from Aroostook County as well, that the -- the significance that that has not just in Maine but across the country, really spotlighting that Franco heritage.

And so, we appreciate how you are attentive to our needs here as well and the day-to-day, and whether it's, you know, helping with the printer and getting that squared away, which the technical difficulties in this old building can sometimes be a challenge, or just making sure that our constituents when they come here feel welcome and appreciated and you do a great job of that and look forward to continuing to work with you. I'm happy to cast a ballot for another county boy.

On further motion by same Senator, one ballot was cast on the part of the Senate in favor of **JARED T. ROY** of Winterville Plantation for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Senate for the 132nd Legislature.

This being done, **JARED T. ROY** of Winterville Plantation was duly elected Assistant Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

The Chair requested the Senator from Kennebec, Senator **HICKMAN**, the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, escort the Assistant Secretary-elect to the Governor's Office for the purpose of taking and subscribing to the necessary oaths of office required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of the duties of the office of Assistant Secretary of the Senate.

The Senators and Assistant Secretary-elect were escorted to the Governor's Office.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Subsequently the Senator from Kennebec, Senator **HICKMAN**, the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, reported that they had attended to the duties with which they were charged and were pleased to report that **JARED T. ROY** of Winterville Plantation had taken and subscribed to the necessary oaths of office to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 3

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the House, informing that Body that the Senate has organized by the choice of Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry of Cumberland County as President; Darek M. Grant of Augusta as Secretary of the Senate; and Jared T. Roy of Winterville Plantation as Assistant Secretary of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature and is assembled and ready to transact such business as may come before the Senate.

READ and PASSED.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON**, to deliver the message to the House of Representatives. The Senator was escorted to the House of Representatives.

Subsequently, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON**, reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 4

ORDERED, that a committee of seven be appointed by the President to which the returns of votes for Senators for the political years of 2025 and 2026 shall be referred for examination and report.

READ and PASSED.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:
S.C. 2

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

December 2, 2024

To the President of the Senate in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine, having tabulated the returns of the votes cast for State Senators at the General Election held on the fifth day of November in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS; that the following named persons having received a plurality of the votes cast, appear to have been elected;

District 1

Bernard, Susan Y., Caribou 13,248
McLaughlin, Vaughn James, Fort Fairfield 6,892

District 2

Rush, Matthew J., Houlton 6,999
Stewart, Harold L. III, Presque Isle 13,695

District 3

Brownell, Ethan S., Pittsfield 6,740
Farrin, Bradlee Thomas, Norridgewock 14,088

District 4

Evans, Richard A., Dover-Foxcroft 7,624
Guerin, Stacey K., Glenburn 15,741

District 5

Black, Russell J., Wilton 15,267
O'Donnell, Kathleen B., Wilton 7,926

District 6

Goble, Jonathan C., Cherryfield 7,461
Moore, Marianne, Calais 15,597

District 7

Grohoski, Nicole C., Ellsworth 15,692
Hutchins, Sherman, Penobscot 9,606

District 8

Kenney, Leo C., Orono 10,108
Tipping, Michael, Orono 10,240

District 9

Baldacci, Joseph M., Bangor 11,601
Cyr, Richard R., Hermon 8,196

District 10

Daniels, Michele LaBree, Brewer 10,676
Haggan, David G., Hampden 14,095

District 11

Curry, Glenn Chip, Belfast 13,761
Meyer, Robert Charles, Searsport 10,775

District 12

Beebe-Center, Anne H., Rockland 14,344
Rocknak, William Scott, Camden 9,979

District 13

Harmon, Dale C., Boothbay 11,143
Reny, Cameron D., Bristol 13,896

District 14

Hickman, Craig V., Winthrop 12,763
McDonnell, Shannon, Winthrop 11,491

District 15

Bradstreet, Richard T., Vassalboro 10,820
LaRoche, Raegan French, Augusta 10,621

District 16

Cyrway, Scott Wynn, Albion 10,806
White, Nathaniel J., Fairfield 9,305

District 17

Timberlake, Jeffrey L., Turner 14,751
Watson, Thomas Riley, Lisbon 7,005

District 18

Bennett, Richard A., Oxford 15,206
Miller, Linda Kay, Bridgton 8,310

District 19

Bryant, Bruce S., Rumford 9,793
Martin, Joseph E., Rumford 12,901

District 20

Bickford, Bruce, Auburn 11,174
Sheats, Bettyann W., Auburn 10,187
Ward, Dustin R., New Gloucester 930

District 21

Rotundo, Margaret R., Lewiston 12,599

District 22

Libby, James D., Standish 14,838
McMahon, Anne Marie, Sebago 8,501

District 23

Daughtry, Matthea Elisabeth Larsen, Brunswick 18,898
Lawler, Michael J., Brunswick 8,489

District 24

Andresen, Suzanne, West Bath 1,525
Pierce, Jeffrey K., Dresden 10,320
Tepler, Denise, Topsham 13,406

District 25

Pierce, Teresa S., Falmouth 17,896
Read, James, Falmouth 9,835

District 26

Cianchette, Kenneth J., Windham 11,177
Nangle, Timothy E., Windham 12,124

District 27

Duson, Jill C., Portland 16,500
Holman, Dale Jay, Portland 4,876

District 28

Ross, Rachel Talbot, Portland 18,254

District 29

Carney, Anne M., Cape Elizabeth 17,518
Howell, Christopher M., South Portland 5,884

District 30

Brenner, Stacy Fielding, Scarborough 15,021
Hamill, Donald R., Scarborough 9,875

District 31

Bailey, Donna, Saco 13,107
Pendleton, Craig A., Old Orchard Beach 9,624

District 32

Ingwersen, Henry L., Arundel 12,262
Schutz, Alfred F., Arundel 8,729

District 33

Harrington, Matthew A., Sanford 12,432
Lauzon, Daniel J., Lebanon 8,076

District 34

Ducharme, Bradley Scott, Kennebunk 11,941
Rafferty, Joseph E. Jr., Kennebunk 15,064

District 35

Lawrence, Mark W., Eliot 16,491
Rakic, Julie N., Kittery 9,453

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast for State Senators at the General Election, as reported to me on the returns from the cities, towns, and plantations of the State.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ and REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON SENATORIAL VOTE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 3

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

December 2, 2024

The Honorable Darek Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Dear Secretary Grant:

The following is a summary of the results of the November 5, 2024, Referendum Election, which were submitted to the Governor on November 25, 2024.

Question 1: Citizen Initiative
Number of Votes in Favor 600,191
Number of Votes Opposed 201,034

Question 2: Bond Issue
Number of Votes in Favor 433,394
Number of Votes Opposed 365,100

Question 3: Bond Issue
Number of Votes in Favor 410,979
Number of Votes Opposed 391,176

Question 4: Bond Issue
Number of Votes in Favor 440,560
Number of Votes Opposed 354,626

Question 5: State Referendum
Number of Votes in Favor 358,912
Number of Votes Opposed 451,366

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

ORDERS

Senate Order

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 5

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature in the Hall of the House at 3:00 in the afternoon on December 4, 2024 for the purpose of electing a Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026, a Treasurer of State for the political years 2025 and 2026, an Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026 and a State Auditor for the political years 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028.

READ and PASSED.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON**, to deliver the message to the House of Representatives. The Senator was escorted to the House of Representatives.

Subsequently, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON**, reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 6

ORDERED, that the Rules of the Senate of the 131st Legislature are the Rules of the Senate of the 132nd Legislature. Amendments to the Senate Rules may be adopted by a majority vote on or before the 3rd Friday in January of 2025.

READ and PASSED.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 7

ORDERED, that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to invite the clergy to officiate as Chaplains of the Senate as requested by any member of the Senate; and be it further

ORDERED, that all clergy acting as Chaplains of the Senate shall receive \$30 for each officiation, which is to be approved by the Secretary of the Senate.

READ and PASSED.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 8

ORDERED, that all Bills and Resolves carrying or requiring an appropriation or involving a loss of revenue that are in order to be passed to be enacted, or finally passed, shall, at the request of a member of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs or the Presiding Officer, be placed on a special calendar to be called up for consideration only by the same.

READ and PASSED.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 12

ORDERED, that all Bills and Resolves carrying or requiring an appropriation or involving a loss or gain of revenue that are in order to be passed to be enacted, or finally passed, shall, at the request of a member of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs or the Presiding Officer, be placed on a special calendar to be called up for consideration only by the same.

The Order was **READ.**

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE.**

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 9

ORDERED, that all Bills and Resolves carrying or requiring an appropriation of highway revenue or involving a loss of highway revenue that are in order to be passed to be enacted, or finally passed, shall, at the request of a member of the Committee on Transportation or the Presiding Officer, be placed on a special calendar to be called up for consideration only by the same.

READ and PASSED.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 10

ORDERED, that pursuant to Joint Rule 353, subsection 10, a special study table is established in the Senate.

READ and PASSED.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 11

ORDERED, that the President of the Senate is authorized, at her discretion, to permit radio or sound, television film or live television, or any two or three of these communication media, on the floor of the Senate.

READ and PASSED.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 1

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature are the Joint Rules of the 132nd Legislature, except for the following changes.

Joint Rule 202 is amended by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

All requests for bills and resolves submitted by Legislators for a first regular session must be submitted in complete form, as provided in Joint Rule 208, to the Revisor of Statutes by 4:00 p.m. on January 10, 2025.

Joint Rule 301 is amended by amending the 2nd indented paragraph to read:

There are established 17 joint standing committees, which must be appointed at the commencement of the first regular session and which exercise jurisdiction in the following areas:

- Agriculture, conservation and forestry
- Appropriations and financial affairs
- Criminal justice and public safety
- Education and cultural affairs
- Energy, utilities and technology
- Environment and natural resources
- Health and human services
- Health coverage, insurance and financial services
- Housing and economic development
- Inland fisheries and wildlife
- ~~Innovation, development, economic advancement and business~~
- Judiciary
- ~~Labor and housing~~
- Marine resources
- State and local government
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Veterans and legal affairs

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 2

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 302 to read:

Rule 302. Membership.

~~Each~~ Except for the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, each of the joint standing committees consists of 13 members, 3 from the Senate and 10 from the House of Representatives. The joint standing committee having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs consists of 21 members, 5 from the Senate and 16 from the House of Representatives. The first Senate member named is the Senate chair. The first House member named is the House chair. The Senate chair shall preside and in the Senate chair's absence, the House chair shall preside and, thereafter, as the need may arise, the chair shall alternate between the members from each chamber in the sequence of their appointment to the committee. The sequence of appointment for the biennium is as announced by the presiding officers in each chamber. Every member of the Senate and the House of Representatives is entitled to at least one initial committee assignment.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE**.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 3

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall purchase such services, supplies and equipment as may be needed to carry on the business of the Senate and House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 4

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all printing and binding authorized by the Legislature shall be under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 5

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a sufficient number of copies of the Legislative Record for the 132nd Legislature be printed, one copy for each of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who so desires, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, with the remainder to be deposited with the State Law Librarian for exchange and library use; and be it further

ORDERED, that a suitable index be prepared for such Legislative Record, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 6

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives as advances on account of compensation established by statute, 12 payments on a biweekly basis commencing January 15, 2025, according to lists certified to the State Controller by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 7

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, is authorized and directed to prepare weekly, from expense accounts to be submitted to the Executive Director by the members of the Senate and House, expense rosters showing the entitlement of each member for meals allowance and lodging reimbursement and to transmit the same to the State Controller for processing and payment, in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Interim Committee of the 101st Legislature created to study and report on a method of implementing the administration of the provision of law relating to the mileage and expenses for members of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Executive Director of the Legislative Council is authorized and directed to provide the forms necessary for such purpose and to provide suitable space in the Executive Director's office for the filing and safekeeping of all such expense accounts and other papers and records pertaining thereto.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 8

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules shall convene no later than January 9, 2025 to review, consider and report on the following items as possible amendments to the Joint Rules:

-
1. Elimination of or limitations on the use of concept drafts;
 2. Changes to dates of cloture for first and second regular sessions;

3. Changes to the process of referring legislative documents to committees;
4. Limitations on sponsorship and cosponsorship;
5. Changes to the process of submitting joint resolutions, including reducing the vote to request the calling of an Article V constitutional convention to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to a majority vote;
6. Changes to notices for committee public hearings and work sessions and the availability of sponsor amendments;
7. Improvements to the consistency of processes for public notice, public participation and decorum across all committees;
8. Changes to committee reports and voting hours;
9. Changes to the process regarding fiscal notes;
10. Changes to the processes regarding budgets and appropriations;
11. Other matters considered or identified by the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature; and
12. Any matters referred to the committee.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. I want to say at the outset, and this is germane to the matter at hand, I want to congratulate you, Madam President, on your magnificent remarks this morning. And we -- there are a few of us in this Chamber - three, aside from you - who have had the honor of serving as presiding officer over one of the Houses of the Maine Legislature, and I am pleased to be one of those people. And I -- particularly appreciate your comments about modernizing the legislature, about opening the doors, metaphorically, to more public participation and transparency, and it will be a welcome thing, and I look forward to working with you on those changes. In fact, when I was a first-term Member of the Senate way back 28 years ago, there was a presiding officer that wouldn't even allow us to have laptops at our desks. And so, I think modernization is one of these things that needs to be done, and it's a perpetual thing. Perpetually, we need to be looking at our systems and making sure that we're keeping up with the times and that we're keeping up with the best standards of public participation. I know that this is your commitment, Madam President, and having served on the Rules Committee in the previous Legislature, we have written a letter from that Rules Committee to the new Legislature about many of the items that people spoke about. Rank and file members came to a meeting in July of this past summer, many of them to come and talk about their ideas for improvement about the legislative process. And I know that we all share the desire not to see that work lost and to actually build upon it, and the essence of this order was to carry that forward, and I'm confident that all of these ideas are going to see the light of day in the very near future based on the previous order that was passed and your commitments made publicly and privately. So, with that, I would move that this order be tabled one legislative day. Thank you, Madam President.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **TABLED** one legislative day, pending **PASSAGE**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 9

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

RECESSED until 2:45 in the afternoon.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

At this point, a message was received from the House of Representatives borne by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, informing the Senate that the House had organized by the choice of RYAN D. FECTEAU of Biddeford, as Speaker of the House, ROBERT B. HUNT of Yarmouth, as Clerk of the House, and MICHELLE DUNPHY of Old Town, as Assistant Clerk of the House of the 132nd Legislature and was ready to transact such business as might come before the House.

At this point a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative MOONEN of Portland, informing the Senate that the House concurred with the proposition for a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 3:00 in the afternoon for the purpose of electing a Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026, a Treasurer of State for the political years 2025 and 2026 and an Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Orders

The following Joint Order:
H.P. 1

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Speaker of the House is authorized, at the Speaker's discretion, to permit radio or television in the Hall of the House of Representatives during joint conventions.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **PASSED**.

READ and **PASSED**, in concurrence.

The following Joint Order:
H.P. 2

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that there be prepared by the Legislative Information Office, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, after adjournment of the present session, a compilation of all the Bills and Resolves considered by both branches of the Legislature, showing the history and final disposition of each Bill and Resolve.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **PASSED**.

READ and **PASSED**, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

At this point the Senate retired to the Hall of the House where a Joint Convention was formed.

Following the Joint Convention the Senate was called to order in the Senate Chamber by the President

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.