

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
5th Legislative Day
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

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

Prayer by Reverend Debbie Rogers Duval, High Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Auburn.

National Anthem by Michele Gonya, Winslow.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Joseph D. Sala, MS, PA-C, Portland.

The Journal of Tuesday, January 27, 2026 was read and approved.

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

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Make Changes to the Laws Regarding the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources and the State Civil Service Appeals Board"
(H.P. 1467) (L.D. 2180)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.
Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain State Tax Laws"
(H.P. 1469) (L.D. 2188)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

**Refer to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance
and Financial Services
Pursuant to Resolve**

Representative MATHIESON for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services** on Bill "An Act to Require Prior Notification of Closures of Labor and Delivery Units and Changes in Maternity or Newborn Care Services by Hospitals as Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State"

(H.P. 1470) (L.D. 2189)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 106, section 8.

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

Sent for concurrence.

**Refer to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance
and Financial Services
Pursuant to Resolve**

Representative MATHIESON for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services** on Bill "An Act to Implement Certain Changes in the Certificate of Need Laws Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State"

(H.P. 1471) (L.D. 2190)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 106, section 8.

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

Sent for concurrence.

**Refer to the Committee on Transportation
Pursuant to Resolve**

Representative CRAFTS for the **Joint Standing Committee on Transportation** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Biennial Inspection System for Vehicle Rental Companies"

(H.P. 1472) (L.D. 2191)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 78, section 2.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**.

Sent for concurrence.

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care" (H.P. 1475) (L.D. 2196)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MEYER of Eliot, MOONEN of Portland, Senators: BAILEY of York, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested.

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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

At this point, the Chair recognized the Representative from Madawaska, Representative ALBERT, and he was added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care

(H.P. 620) (L.D. 961)

(C. "A" H-785)

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. 107 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.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1363) (L.D. 2033) Resolve, to Designate Route 3 in Trenton as the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1374) (L.D. 2050) Bill "An Act to Dissolve the Great Salt Bay Community School District" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 94) (L.D. 161) Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Laws Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-787)**

(H.P. 343) (L.D. 524) Bill "An Act to Reduce Trafficking in the State" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-789)**

(H.P. 1371) (L.D. 2041) Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the North Jay Water District" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-792)**

(H.P. 1381) (L.D. 2068) Bill "An Act to Bring the Law Governing Emergency Equipment for Trucks and Truck Tractors into Alignment with the Federal Motor Carrier Laws" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-793)**

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

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

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

Lee B. Silverman, of Brunswick. After working in feature film development and marketing for United Artists and earning his MBA at Harvard Business School in 1990, Mr. Silverman worked for Goldman Sachs, where he was a vice president in private client services. In 2000, he joined Merrill Lynch as a senior vice president in order to work with his brother and to live in Maine. He was a longtime member of Longwood Cricket Club and the Union Club of Boston, Massachusetts. A conservationist, he helped preserve Pennellville and supported The Brunswick Topsham Land Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust. He volunteered in leadership roles for several nonprofit organizations, serving as the second President of the Boston Center for Jewish Heritage and as a board member of the Beacon Hill Civic Association. He also supported the libraries in both Brunswick and Carrabassett Valley and wrote a book entitled "B." Mr. Silverman will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(SLS 1513)

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

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Arford.

Representative **ARFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to recognize Lee Silverman of Brunswick, who very, very sadly is no longer with us, who passed away late December. And I stand today because this is an individual I have known for almost 30 years. Our children grew up together, our children played sports together and he's someone that I miss. And I want everybody in this House to know what a good, amazing human being he was. And I'm just going to read you from a statement about him.

He graduated first in his class, *summa cum laude*, from Bowdoin in 1986, was a Rhodes Scholar finalist, he studied at the London School of Economics during his junior year abroad, he earned an MBA at Harvard Business School, he went on to

be very successful in the financial world. But you know what? Until I read his obituary, I did not know that about him. That's not who he was. He was an amazing father. That's what I knew about this man, what an amazing Dad he was of his four children. We sat on the sidelines of so many soccer games together. He also did amazing traveling that I didn't know about because he never spoke about his accomplishments. He talked about his family, and he talked with you about what was going on in your life.

And I don't know if it's a good thing or a bad thing that I had to wait to learn in his obituary all these truly amazing things this man has done. But I will say something; any community that has the privilege of having a Lee Silverman in it, a father who is one hundred percent behind the schools and their children and what's happening in the community, any community in Maine that's so fortunate, well, you really couldn't ask for more. And I just had to stand up and tell you all about him. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

Beatrice Marie Vlodek, of Waterville. Mrs. Vlodek and her husband Johnny owned and operated the Yardgoods Center, where she was actively involved until her passing. She was a member of the Notre Dame Catholic Church, Corpus Christi Parish and a friend of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and the Oratory St. Joseph. Mrs. Vlodek will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 541)

Presented by Representative NUTTING of Oakland.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec,
Representative DEBRITO of Waterville, Representative JULIA of Waterville.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ROEDER of Bangor,
was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I did not know Bea personally, but since 2021, I have delighted in hearing about her from her daughter, Joyce, every time I stopped into Yardgoods, the business Bea started with her husband in 1949, on my way to or from Augusta.

I first heard about Bea when Joyce looked at my legislative lanyard and said she thought her soon-to-be 100-year-old mother had written down my name after seeing something on the news about the Legislature. I asked her if it was good, and Joyce said, eh.

I heard about Bea, how her life was full of joyful curiosity about the world, and during that first visit, Joyce asked if my mother was still with us. When I told her that my Mom had passed at age 84, Joyce's reply was, wow, so young.

Over the years, I heard so much about Bea every time I stopped into Yardgoods. And now, the business that Bea built is a hub of community, always the kind of place where you'll encounter a friendly face, learn a new skill, find some peace amongst the bustle of the world or even get asked if you wanted to be set up with a single dermatologist.

Bea lived a century of quiet strength and deep generosity, raising her family, building a small business that became part of Waterville's fabric and showing up for her community every single day. She reminds us that the truest legacy isn't fame or power, but a long life, lived with steadiness, love and care for others. Thank you.

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

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

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Readfield or Winthrop, they're one and the same, they're both my homes. And it is with great pleasure that I would like to speak today for the Winthrop–Monmouth–Hall–Dale–Kents Hill Ramblers for bringing home the first State Championship back to Winthrop in 25 years.

Some of the members won't remember, although I'm sure they've had plenty of stories, that it was their parents who brought back the last gold ball to Winthrop. And the game was an incredible game, but I still remember the first drive where we were playing; I say 'we' because, of course, it's my *alma mater* and I have memories with Coach Stoneton and Coach Parks when they first took the helm nearly 20 years ago of this team. And so, the game was great, we kicked the ball off, Winslow took the ball in a double wing; I hate the double wing, it's a miserable offense, but for some teams, it works. And they drove it down, a slow drive, all the way down the field and scored. I couldn't help but think of Boothbay and all those battles that Winthrop has had with Boothbay over the years and that expletive double wing. But, the Ramblers crashed their ends, followed the pulling guard and smashed that double wing back to where it came from and the game ended 41-14, in large part due to the excellent receiver core and passing from Jacob Fife. It was a magnificent game to watch, when our receivers were going out, running great routes, getting perfectly thrown balls and making those touchdowns.

I commend you all on this State Championship, and speaking as an alumni, as the child of an alumni, it means so much to our community to have the gold ball back in Winthrop. We were all in that huddle with you, singing Bula-Bula after that awesome State Championship victory in Lewiston. And it is with great pleasure to present this Sentiment and give a warm and loud Rambler pride once again from the Maine House Chamber.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And remember your accomplishments, because it's something to be proud of the rest of your life. Congratulations.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative DILL of Old Town, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1466) (Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, CRAY of Palmyra, HEPLER of Woolwich, ROBERTS of South Berwick)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 AS FRONTOTEMPORAL DEGENERATION AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration reports that frontotemporal degeneration is a terminal and incurable neurodegenerative disease affecting the frontal and temporal lobes, causing impairments to speech, personality, behavior and motor skills, and that it takes an average of 3.6 years from the start of symptoms to get an accurate diagnosis, with an average life expectancy of 7 to 13 years after the start of symptoms; and

WHEREAS, frontotemporal degeneration may strike people between the ages of 21 and 80, with the largest percentage of those affected being between 45 and 64, and is the most common form of dementia for people under 60 years of age, rendering people in the prime of life unable to work or function normally; and

WHEREAS, frontotemporal degeneration imposes average annual costs associated with care and living with the disease that are approximately double those of Alzheimer's disease and is identified in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease as a related dementia and included as part of the vision of a nation free of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious disease, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize September 20, 2026 to September 26, 2026 as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week.

READ.

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

Representative **DILL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I'd like to talk briefly today about my neighbor, Pam Wells. Pam was a forester and small woodlot owner along with her husband, Bryan, who's here in the Gallery today, and they won several awards for their stewardship. She was also an accomplished nature photographer. I remember a few summers ago, Pam spent several hours a week sitting on a log in my backyard, photographing the escapades and growth of a fox family living under my neighbor's shed.

Pam was also an active walker, walking around the block at least daily. Until one day, I noticed her with her new puppy, Rosy; then it was at least twice a day she had to walk around the block. Not only did she like to walk, but she loved to talk. Every time I was in the yard, she and Rosy would stop by for a chat, Rosy would sit there patiently staring at me until Pam would reach into her pocket, hand me a dog treat to give to Rosy. Then Rosy was happy and we'd finish our chat.

One day in 2024, when Pam stopped to chat, I noticed one side of her face was slightly droopy. She quickly informed me she had frontotemporal degeneration, something, of course, I'd never heard of. She went on to explain it was an incurable neurodegenerative disease affecting the brain's frontal and

temporal lobes. She had had it for a while, but it was now starting to progress, but typically it would be several years. Well, Pam and Rosy continued to walk by my house and would stop to chat. However, it became increasingly more difficult for her to speak as time passed. Then she started walking by with assistance of her friend, or Bryan, because it was getting more difficult to walk. However, we'd still have the same ritual of Pam stopping, only now, I did the talking. Rosy still staring at me until Pam very slowly reaching into her pocket and handing me a dog treat for Rosy. Then, one day, Pam stopped walking by. Unfortunately, instead of years, in Pam's case, it was only a few months. It's a terrible disease. Thank you.

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

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1468) (Cosponsored by Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 3, 2026 AS OLDER MAINERS DAY

WHEREAS, Maine is home to over 310,000 adults 65 years of age and older who make positive and lasting contributions to the State every day through skills, talent, wisdom and experience, intergenerational relationships, community service and engagement; and

WHEREAS, older Mainers have spent their lives building this State, raising families, running businesses and strengthening their communities; and

WHEREAS, our communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can participate fully with the highest level of independence; and

WHEREAS, older Mainers continue to play essential roles in Maine's economy and workforce, education systems, faith-based and civic institutions, charitable organizations and local and state government, contributing immeasurably through volunteering, caregiving and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, the number of Mainers 65 years of age and older is projected to increase by 35.6% between 2022 and 2032, underscoring the importance of policies and systems that support aging with dignity and independence; and

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes the valuable role of caregivers and the need to promote programs and services that support and foster their well-being; and

WHEREAS, Maine also recognizes the profound impact of meaningful interactions and social connection on the well-being and health of older adults and caregivers in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Maine must ensure that as Mainers age, they have the resources and support needed to stay involved in their communities, reflecting the State's commitment to inclusivity and connectedness; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Cabinet on Aging, established in 2022, is working to advance policies that will improve the quality of life, inclusion and engagement of older adults; and

WHEREAS, Maine is committed to supporting older people by ensuring there are opportunities available in local communities to help them stay engaged, maintain their health and independence and live where they want to live and thrive as they age; and

WHEREAS, Maine's commitment to building communities that work for people of all ages strengthens the State's workforce, economy and social fabric and recognizes that older

people are essential to Maine's identity, culture and future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 3, 2026 as Older Mainers Day and encourage residents, organizations and state leaders to honor the contributions of older people, acknowledge the challenges they face and recommit to building a state where every person can age safely, healthily and with purpose.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. Maine is proudly a State where people not only choose to live, but choose to stay, to age and to continue contributing to the communities they helped build. We are demographically the oldest state in the nation, with more than one in four of our residents aged 65 or older.

More than 310,000 older Mainers call this State home, and every single day, they make positive, lasting contributions to our economy, our culture and our civic life. According to a 2025 population report from Maine's Office of the State Economist, older Mainers are the only age group in the State that is projected to increase between 2022 and 2032, and the population is projected to increase by 35.6%. These are not simply statistics. It is a reflection of who we are. Maine people are living longer, healthier lives. And as our population ages, we have a responsibility to ensure that our policies, our systems and our communities support aging with dignity, independence and purpose.

Older Mainers have spent decades strengthening this State, raising families, running businesses, volunteering in our schools, serving in our houses of worship and leading in local and State government. They are caregivers, mentors, taxpayers and community anchors. They enrich every corner of Maine, from our smallest towns to our largest cities. And they continue to play essential roles in our workforce, our education systems, our charitable organizations and our civic institutions. Their experience, leadership and commitment are not just a part of our history, they are central to our future.

Recognizing Older Mainers Day is more than a symbolic gesture. It is a statement of our values. It is an acknowledgment that Maine thrives when people of all ages can thrive. It is a reminder that building age-friendly communities strengthens our economy, supports our families and reinforces the social fabric that makes Maine such a special place to live. Today, we honor the contributions of older adults, and we acknowledge the challenges that many face and we recommit ourselves to building a State where every person can age safely, healthfully and with purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 39)

ORDERED, that Representative Wayne R. Parry of Arundel be excused Jan 7, 13 and 20 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Study Changing the Start of the State Fiscal Year to October 1st

(S.P. 644) (L.D. 1636)

Signed:

Senators:

ROTUNDO of Androscoggin

BERNARD of Aroostook

RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

GATTINE of Westbrook

BLIER of Buxton

BRENNAN of Portland

DHALAC of South Portland

DUCHARME of Madison

FREDETTE of Newport

MATLACK of St. George

STOVER of Boothbay

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-492)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Representative:

ARATA of New Gloucester

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

READ.

On motion of Representative GATTINE of Westbrook, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-790)** on Bill "An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State"

(H.P. 243) (L.D. 343)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport

GEIGER of Rockland

KESSLER of South Portland

RUNTE of York

WARREN of Scarborough

WEBB of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "C" (H-791)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter

MCINTYRE of Lowell

PAUL of Winterport

WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to note that the bill title in this Report is "An Act to Incorporate the Assessment of Emerging Energy Technologies into the Comprehensive State Energy Plan." All it requires is that DOER identify and assess opportunities among emerging energy technologies, analyzing them first for commercial readiness and cost to protect Maine ratepayers and with justifiable strategies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "B" (H-790)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-790)** and sent for concurrence.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, January 27, 2026, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Thornton Academy Football Team, of Saco

(SLS 1486)

- In Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.

TABLED - January 13, 2026 (Till Later Today) by Representative COPELAND of Saco.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

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

Representative **COPELAND**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize the Class A Championship Football Team from Thornton Academy in Saco. I'm very proud of them. And also, one of the players was recognized by the coaches around the State and has been awarded the Fitzgerald Award, and that is Connor Ayoob. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would note, being from Biddeford, that's a little difficult for me to applaud, but since we're not in the same class anymore, I guess it makes it a little easier, so, congratulations.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 330)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

January 23, 2026

The Honorable Matthea Daughtry, President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker of the House of Representatives

132nd Legislature

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology from its review and evaluation of the Telecommunications Relay Services Council under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The committee finds that the Telecommunications Relay Services Council is operating within its statutory authority. The Council consists of 11 voting members; however, the committee learned that the Council has multiple vacancies, including the seats for two members from the general public who use telecommunications devices for the deaf that operate in connection with telecommunications relay services as their primary means of telecommunications. The committee is sending a letter to the Governor, as the appointing authority, to encourage the Governor to fill these vacancies as soon as possible to assist the Council in its work.

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Lawrence

Senate Chair

S/Melanie F. Sachs

House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 331)

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry

President of the Senate

The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House of Representatives

132nd Legislature

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Baxter State Park Authority under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the Baxter State Park Authority by letter of its intent to conduct a review. The Baxter State Park Authority submitted its program evaluation report dated November 2025. The committee has reviewed the report and unanimously finds that the Baxter State Park Authority is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Senate Chair
S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 332)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

January 27, 2026
The Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
132nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the department by letter of its intent to conduct a review. The department submitted its program evaluation report dated November 1, 2025. The committee has reviewed the report and unanimously finds that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Senate Chair
S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 333)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

January 27, 2026
The Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
132nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from its review and evaluation of the Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the board by letter of its intent to conduct a review. The board submitted its program evaluation report dated November 2025. The committee has reviewed the report and unanimously finds

that the Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Senate Chair
S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 337)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

January 29, 2026
The Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
132nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs from its review and evaluation of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the board by letter dated May 1, 2025, of its intent to conduct a review. The board subsequently submitted its program evaluation report. The committee reviewed the report on January 28, 2026, and unanimously finds that the board is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,
S/Sen. Joseph Rafferty
Senate Chair
S/Rep. Kelly Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 345)

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

February 2, 2026
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have designated Representative Michael Lemelin of Chelsea as the Republican Lead on the Health and Human Services Committee, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this change.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 346)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

February 2, 2026

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am appointing Representative Ann Fredericks of Sanford to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 347)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

February 2, 2026

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have designated Representative Chad Perkins of Dover Foxcroft as the Republican Lead on the Government Oversight Committee replacing Representative Michael Lemelin of Chelsea, effective immediately.

Representative Lemelin will remain a member of the committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this change.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 334)
STATE OF MAINE
CONNECTME AUTHORITY
78 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0078

January 26, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority due by February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Mr. James Cohen

Chairman

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

S/Ms. Patricia Quinn

Executive Director

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 335)
SUNRISE COUNTY ECONOMIC COUNCIL
PO BOX 679
MACHIAS, MAINE 04654

January 28, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 5, section 12023, the Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) is pleased to submit the 2024-2025 Quasi-Independent State Entities Report to the Legislature on behalf of the Washington County Development Authority (WCDA). SCEC is a nonprofit organization that works to create jobs and prosperity in Washington County; we are also the economic development arm of Washington County government. We provide staff support for the WCDA and are partnering with the Authority in its effort to redevelop the former U.S. Navy base in Cutler.

The former U.S. Navy Base in Cutler is comprised of roughly 15 acres and five commercial buildings comprising 75,000 square feet. The Authority is working to bring these facilities back to productive use. Most of the Authority's focus in the past year has been related to the assessment and remediation of hazardous substances in the former recreational and administrative buildings. The Authority also made repairs to the other buildings to keep them weathertight.

In 2024-2025, WCDA used procurement by a competitive bid process to secure contractors for the cleanup work and repairs. The Authority made no procurements of over \$10,000 for which competitive procurement was waived. WCDA did not make any contributions greater than \$1,000 or changes to policies and procedures in the past year. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Charles J. Rudelitch, Esq.
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 336)
**MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY
26 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

January 28, 2026
Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine State Housing Authority due by February 1, 2026. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Daniel E. Brennan
Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 338)
**MAINE PORT AUTHORITY
460 COMMERCIAL STREET
PORTLAND, ME 04101**

January 29, 2026
Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required FY2025 report from the Maine Port Authority due by February 1, 2026. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Chelsea Pettengill
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 339)
**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY
CASTINE, MAINE 04420**

January 29, 2026
Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau.
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Maritime Academy due by February 1, 2026. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Alice Herrick

Director of Fiscal Operations for Maine Maritime Academy

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 340)
**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
2360 CONGRESS STREET
PORTLAND, ME 04102**

January 29, 2026
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and the Government Oversight Committee Regarding Quasi-Independent State Entities

Dear Speaker of the House Fecteau,
Enclosed are the reports required under 5 M.R.S.A. §12023, due February 1, 2026. The reports include: a list of all procurements in 2025 exceeding \$10,000 for which competitive procurement was waived; a list of contributions made in 2025 that exceed \$1,000. Section 12023(2c) requires a description of changes to the written policies and procedures required by Section 12022. There were no changes to the policies and procedures required by this section in 2025, therefore, there is nothing to report.

In 2025, the Maine Turnpike Authority made over \$129 million in payments to approximately 600 vendors. The vast majority of these payments, approximately \$106 million, were for competitively bid products or services or were legally or legislatively required. The Authority sole-sourced approximately \$17.5 million in 2025. Forty percent of the sole-sourced amount is attributed to continued business with Transcore who built our toll system over 20 years ago and continue to maintain that system and a contract with Rock Coast Personnel which provides temporary employee services for toll collection and customer service. Most of the remaining sole-sourced products or services were either proprietary in nature or were procured

under long-term contracts. As these long-term contracts expire, the Authority will seek competitive bids.

Respectfully,
S/Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (ret).
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 341)
MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
16 MIDDLE STREET, SUITE 201
PORTLAND, ME 04101

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) due by February 1, 2026. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Brian Whitney
President

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 342)
FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
94 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332

February 1, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. § 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Finance Authority of Maine due February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Carlos R. Mello
Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 343)

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

January 30, 2026

Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section §12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from Efficiency Maine Trust due by February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 344)
MAINE MUNICIPAL AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
COOPERATIVE AGENCY

January 30, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency (MMRECA) due by February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Scott M. Hallowell
MMRECA

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 348)

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

February 3, 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:"

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 471 Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Expand Intensive English Language Learner Programs

L.D. 2014 An Act to Update the Funding Method for Career and Technical Education Programs

L.D. 2091 An Act to Continue Training Programs for Emergency Medical Services

Health and Human Services

L.D. 1737 An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage

Judiciary

L.D. 1788 An Act to Strengthen the Freedom of Access Act by Categorizing Commercial Requesters

Labor

L.D. 1774 An Act to Protect Domestic Workers

Marine Resources

L.D. 1026 An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting

State and Local Government

L.D. 1577 Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine Legislature

Taxation

L.D. 382 An Act to Establish a System of Revenue Sharing for the Use and Management of Coastal Resources

L.D. 1931 An Act to Annually Reimburse the Town of Charleston for 43 Percent of Property Tax Revenue Lost Due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility's Tax-exempt Status

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 349)

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

February 3, 2026

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:

on February 2, 2026

Rodney Hiltz of Monmouth to the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission as the employee representative.

Pursuant to Title 26, MRSA §1081, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 749)

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

January 27, 2026

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

- Renee Lewis of Hollis for reappointment as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority,
- Paul Shepherd of Belfast for reappointment as a Commissioner of the Maine State Housing Authority.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 888)

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

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Roxbury the Roxbury-Frye Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 885) (L.D. 2181)

Resolve, to Rename the Little River Bridge in the Town of Cornish the Cornish Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 887) (L.D. 2183)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Erect Signs on Warren's Bridge Between the Town of Hiram and the Town of Cornish

(S.P. 889) (L.D. 2184)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Erect Signs on the East Limington Bridge Between the Town of Standish and the Town of Limington

(S.P. 890) (L.D. 2185)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Place Signs on the Canal Bridge in the Town of Standish

(S.P. 891) (L.D. 2186)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative DeBRITO of Waterville, the House adjourned at 11:44 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 888) and in honor and lasting tribute to Beatrice Marie Viodek of Waterville.