

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
12th Legislative Day
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

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

Prayer by Major Brookes Linde, Maine Army National Guard, Lamoine.

National Anthem by Staff Sergeant Crystal Ryder, Maine Army National Guard, Augusta.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, February 13, 2020 was read and approved.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

**Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services
Pursuant to Public Law**

Representative HYMANSON for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services** on Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues"

(H.P. 1504) (L.D. 2109)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 343, Part BBBB, section 1.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

Sent for concurrence.

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

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 10:45 in the morning for the purpose of extending to Major General Douglas A. Farnham, Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, and The Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases him.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 10:45 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland to convey this message to the Senate.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 335)

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
33 STATE HOUSE STATION**

CAMP CHAMBERLAIN, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0033

January 17, 2020

The Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House

Room 303, State House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Gideon:

As the Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, I accept your invitation to address the Joint Session of the 129th Maine Legislature on Tuesday, February 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

S/Major General Douglas A. Farnham

Commissioner and Adjutant General

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 336)

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

February 18, 2020

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 14, 2020

Peter J. Rogers of Yarmouth for appointment as the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Pursuant to Title 37-B, MRSA §704, this appointment is contingent on the Maine Senate confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

Sincerely,

S/Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 339)

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

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, §2003, I have appointed Leticia vanVuuren of Rockland to the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 337)
**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
QUASI-INDEPENDENT STATE ENTITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

February 3, 2020
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:
Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from Child Development Services due by February 1, 2020.
Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Roy K. Fowler
State Director
State IEU, Child Development Services
Maine Department of Education
READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 338)
**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

February 18, 2020
Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Speaker Gideon:
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. 882 Resolve, To Require the Examination of the System of Learning Results
State and Local Government
L.D. 1973 An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Municipal Conservation Commissions
Taxation
L.D. 451 An Act To Repeal the Recently Enacted Changes to the Law Governing Tax Lien Foreclosure
Transportation
L.D. 1992 An Act To Broaden Eligibility for Disabled Veterans License Plates
L.D. 2030 An Act To Provide an Appeals Process for Administrative Suspensions of Provisional Driver's Licenses
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of House
READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 918)
**MAINE SENATE
129th LEGISLATURE**

February 13, 2020
Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002
Dear Speaker Gideon:
In accordance with 3 MRSA §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 129th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:
Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, Kathie M. Leonard of Auburn for appointment, to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees.
Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, Edward David, Esq. of Farmington for appointment, to the Maine Human Rights Commission.
Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Transportation, Jane L. Lincoln of Farmingdale for appointment, to the Maine Turnpike Authority, Board of Directors.
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.**

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN of Portland reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Roger Hooper, of Lyman, for his 41 years of dedicated service to Goodwins Mills Fire-Rescue, including nearly 8 years of service as the first full-time chief, and his service to the towns of Dayton and Lyman. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 837)

Presented by Representative INGWERSEN of Arundel. Cosponsored by Senator DESCHAMBAULT of York, Representative PRESCOTT of Waterboro.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative INGWERSEN of Arundel, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Ingwersen.

Representative **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, today I stand in recognition of Chief Roger Hooper of Lyman.

Chief Hooper has given 41 years of dedicated service to the Goodwins Mills Fire and Rescue service. For eight of those years, Roger served as the first full-time fire chief and during that time he was able to obtain 24/7 coverage at the fire

station. He was, and still is, president of the York County Fire Chiefs Association.

I thank you on behalf of all constituents and the folks of the State of Maine, Roger, for your dedicated service to Dayton, Lyman, and surrounding communities.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-384)** on Bill "An Act To Authorize Separate Alternative Compliance Payment Rates for Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard and To Amend the Laws Governing Thermal Renewable Energy Credits" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 648) (L.D. 1896)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
MIRAMANT of Knox

Representatives:

BERRY of Bowdoinham
CAIAZZO of Scarborough
DOUDERA of Camden
FOSTER of Dexter
GRIGNON of Athens
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth
KESSLER of South Portland
RILEY of Jay

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

Signed:

Representative:

HANLEY of Pittston

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-384)**.

READ.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittston, Representative Hanley.

Representative **HANLEY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the pending motion and wish to speak to it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill is a cleanup piece of legislation to the original RPS bill and my opposition to this is the same as the original bill, which the Public Utilities Commission estimated in their testimony that the cost to the ratepayers of the State of Maine will be \$400 million a year. So, my support of the original bill was impossible, as my support of this amendment to it is also impossible. I ask you follow my light and defeat this measure. And I request a roll call.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Jay, Representative Riley.

Representative **RILEY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, last year, LD 1494 made sweeping updates to Maine's renewable portfolio standard. There were a couple of oversights in that bill that creates some confusion and a lack of clarity on some very dry points. This bill is intended to correct those. It will in no way, but if we fail to pass this, it will leave contracts that are existing unclear and it will not give the PUC the proper direction on how to move forward with setting certain payments for electricity suppliers. So, we do need to make the update. If we don't make the update, we will in no way walk back the changes that we made with the renewable portfolio standard. That will stay in place, it will just be very unclear to people how to proceed on a couple of fronts. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 346

YEA - Ackley, Alley, AustinB, Babbidge, Babine, Bailey, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carney, Cloutier, Cooper, Corey, Craven, Crockett, Denk, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fay, FecteauR, Foley, Gattine, Gramlich, Handy, Harnett, Hepler, Higgins, Hobbs, Hubbell, Hymanson, Ingwersen, Jorgensen, Kinney, Kornfield, Landry, MartinJ, MartinR, Mastraccio, Matlack, Maxmin, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Moonen, Moriarty, Nadeau, Paulhus, Pebworth, PerryA, PerryJ, PierceT, Pluecker, Reckitt, Riley, Riseman, Rykerson, Schneck, Sheats, Stanley, Stover, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, Tuell, Warren, WhiteB, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - AustinS, Bickford, Blier, Campbell, Cebra, Curtis, DeVeau, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, FecteauJ, Foster, Griffin, Grignon, Haggan, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Keschl, Kryzak, Lockman, Lyford, Marean, Millett, Morris, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Prescott, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Swallow, Wadsworth, WhiteD.

ABSENT - Andrews, Arata, Beebe-Center, Berry, Bradstreet, Brennan, Collings, Costain, Cuddy, Daughtry, Dillingham, Doore, Grohoski, Hickman, Kessler, MadiganC, MartinT, Mason, Morales, O'Neil, Reed, Roberts, Sharpe, Sylvester, Theriault.

Yes, 78; No, 45; Absent, 25; Excused, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 45 voted in the negative, with 25 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-384)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-384)** in concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 652) (L.D. 1900) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Motor Vehicle Child Restraint Systems To Allow Certain Exceptions" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-382)**

(S.P. 699) (L.D. 1997) Bill "An Act To Allow the Assignment of State Vehicles to Field Personnel Directly Concerned with Maine National Guard Facilities and To Allow State Vehicles Assigned to Military Bureau Employees To Be Used for Commuting" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-380)**

(S.P. 706) (L.D. 2004) Bill "An Act To Provide for the 2020 and 2021 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-381)**

(H.P. 1442) (L.D. 2032) Bill "An Act To Reduce Financial Burdens on Small Water Utilities" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1363) (L.D. 1909) Bill "An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine" Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-680)**

(H.P. 1366) (L.D. 1918) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Reserve Funds of Certain School Organizational Structures" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-681)**

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

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

ENACTORS
Acts

An Act To Include Student Absences for Mental Health or Behavioral Health Needs as Excusable Absences

(H.P. 1326) (L.D. 1855)
(C. "A" H-671)

An Act To Clarify the Law Protecting Job Applicants from Identity Theft

(S.P. 688) (L.D. 1986)

An Act To Remove Nighttime Restrictions on Lobster Fishing in a Certain Area in the Bay of Fundy

(H.P. 1495) (L.D. 2098)

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

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act Regarding Health Insurance Options for Town Academies" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 754) (L.D. 2108)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

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

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Troy D. Jackson in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On motion by Senator VITELI from Sagadahoc, it was **ORDERED**, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon Major General Douglas A. Farnham, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communications as please him.

The Order was **READ and PASSED**.

The Chair appointed the following:

The Sen. from Hancock, Sen. Luchini

The Sen. from Yarmouth, Sen. Herbig

The Sen. from Kennebec, Sen. Cyrway

The Rep. from Bangor, Rep. Schneck

The Rep. from Yarmouth, Rep. Cooper

The Rep. from Bar Harbor, Rep. Hubbell

The Rep. from Harpswell, Rep. McCreight

The Rep. from Pittsfield, Rep. Strom

The Rep. from Lincoln, Rep. Hanington

The Rep. from Rumford, Rep. Dolloff

The Rep. from Monmouth, Rep. Ackley

Subsequently, Senator LUCHINI from Hancock, for the Committee, reported that the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard would attend forthwith.

The Chair welcomed to the Convention Major General Douglas A. Farnham, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery former Senator and the Commissioner's wife, Nichi Farnham. The Chair also recognized in the House Gallery the members of the Army and Air National Guard, and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

The Chair requested the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, Major General Douglas A. Farnham, to please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

Major General **FARNHAM:** Thank you, thanks. President Jackson, Speaker Gideon, Members of the 129th Legislature, and distinguished guests; thank you for this invitation. Once again, it is an honor to address this Joint Session.

I am grateful to Chief Executive Mills for allowing me to continue serving in this capacity. The best part of serving as your Adjutant General continues to be getting incredible opportunities to represent the department. Whether training and planning for state emergencies, passionately collaborating with multiple entities to better serve veterans, or putting on the uniform, ready to serve in their federal or state role, the airmen, soldiers and department civilians continue to inspire.

Many of the themes I have shared in the past really haven't changed, but I have run out of Navy jokes. I'd switch to Marine jokes, but they've become way too sensitive. So, I'll try to change it up a little bit. In the spirit of the bicentennial, I am going to include a little history, and we've also added a few displays in the Hall of Flags and equipment and vehicles outside. I hope you will spend some time looking at the equipment and capabilities and talking to some of our great soldiers, airmen and department civilians. We love what we do.

Now, a bicentennial minute or two. In 1820, upon becoming a State, the Maine Militia was established. The organized militia was made up of all able-bodied white males from 18 to 45 years old and they were required to meet only once per year. These companies of volunteer militia formed the basis of the forces that left the State in 1861 for the Civil War. The Militia Act of 1903 set the circumstances when a state militia could be federalized. In return, federal funds became available to equip and train the National Guard and to be a strategic reserve for the US Army. Maine's first Governor, William King, was a division commander in the Massachusetts Militia based in Bath during the War of 1812. Maine's first Adjutant General, Samuel Cony, served from 1820 to 1830 and 30 years later, his son, Samuel Cony, became the Governor of Maine. Twelve governors have served the Maine Militia and the Maine National Guard, with five seeing combat in the Civil War or World War I.

Thomas W. Hyde commanded the 7th Maine Volunteer Infantry at Antietam in 1862 and was awarded the Medal of Honor. Following the war, this Bowdoin graduate would serve as a general in the Maine volunteer militia as well as starting the company we now know as Bath Iron Works.

Most know Joshua Chamberlain's involvement in the 1880 constitutional crisis, helping to maintain the peaceful and lawful transition of power. Many don't know that he did that in his capacity as commander of the Maine Militia. Now, don't go getting any ideas; I certainly don't need you guys to create a constitutional crisis. Remember, we are not Washington, we are Maine.

Over the last 200 years, the Guard has been called on in our State status to fight fires, to provide flood relief and provide security at airports. The two biggest state call-ups were in

1947, the year Maine burned, and the ice storm of 1998. In 1947, the Air National Guard had just been created. Most of the pilots and crews were World War II veterans. They set up communications, flew cargo and reconnaissance, flights, transported personnel and oversaw the air movement of firefighting equipment being flown in the State. Both the 1947 and 1998 call-ups exceeded over 1,000 airmen and soldiers.

The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services, with six field offices around the State, is an agency with a broad mission; to help Mainers who served and their families navigate the benefits, services and programs available to them. Eleven percent of Maine's population are veterans and under the leadership of Director Dave Richmond, the Bureau serves as this population's greatest advocate. However, it is the partnerships with both private and public partners that allow our veterans to receive the best services possible. Over the past few months, you may have heard the call to action for suicide prevention or read about the work being done to eradicate veteran homelessness. While both topics have been a focal point of the Bureau's latest efforts, the Bureau offers a wide array of benefits and services to all veterans who call Maine home.

A recent example of the collaborative effort for veterans is the Coats for Veterans project that Ocean State Job Lots has undertaken. This year, Ocean State Job Lots donated over 1,200 brand-new winter coats to our State's veterans. Our Bureau distributed the boxes to 12 pickup locations set across Maine so that all veterans in need will be able to access a warm coat. As you may remember, the 128th Maine Legislature passed legislation appropriating \$250,000 to veterans with a financial need. While the Bureau has been tasked by statute to provide Maine veterans with financial assistance since the creation of the agency, this was the first year we had adequate funds to carry out the mission. Thanks to partnership with the American Legion and Easter Seals Maine, financial assistance can now be granted to eligible veterans.

In the first few months of the program, a 92-year-old veteran contacted the Maine Bureau of Veteran Services about his inoperative well. He and his wife had no financial means to fix the well and they had been carrying water in jugs to their home. The American Legion coordinated state financial assistance and supplemented the grant by raising the remaining \$3,000 to complete the well project. Volunteers from two Legion posts arranged for a temporary water tank to be installed in their home and hired a tree removal service to allow access for the well driller. The American Legion coordinated the public and private resources and made a difference to this veteran in need.

Easter Seals Maine has also played an integral role in providing services to veterans with urgent needs. For the past two years, Easter Seals has been providing case management and mental health services to veterans statewide. In addition to their casework efforts, they have also taken on the role of administering the Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program along with the American Legion. The assistance they have delivered to veterans with these programs has made a tremendously positive impact and today we'd like to thank Stacy Leet and her team from Easter Seals, who is with us today.

The State of Maine is also home to four state veterans' cemeteries, but this wasn't always the case. When Togus closed for burials in the mid-1960s, the State was left without a veterans' cemetery. Seeing the need, the State of Maine officially opened the first State veterans' cemetery in Augusta

in 1970 and has since opened and expanded three other cemeteries in Caribou, Augusta and Springvale. Our Bureau of Veteran Services staff takes a great deal of pride in caring for these cemeteries. This Memorial Day, there will be a 50th anniversary ceremony of our State veterans' cemetery system. More details will follow, but we hope that you can join us.

Two months ago, Chief Executive Mills released her economic plan for the State of Maine. One major objective is to attract 75,000 people to the workforce in the next 10 years. We think veterans are part of that answer. The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services has coordinated with the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Department of Labor, the Federal Department of Defense, and other government and private partners to find ways we can market Maine to transitioning servicemembers. It is our goal to connect with servicemembers who may be considering Maine as their new home and to provide them with information about the services that can assist them in their transition from active duty to civilian life. Veterans make significant contributions to our workforce needs and they can become a big part of the 75,000 new workers targeted. These can be new Mainers or boomerang Mainers, they can be retirees who are attracted by the tax treatment of their military pensions or they can be leaving the active forces to come to Maine, join the workforce and join the Maine National Guard.

A great example of the potential is the Clapp sisters of Blue Hill. Clapp family ties to the town go back 10 generations. The family had not traditionally been a military family, so Sarah, the eldest sister, wasn't even considering military service until watching a debate on women in the military in her junior year of high school. She decided to apply for the Air Force Academy, just to see if she could get in. She got in. That was the easy part, there's more to follow. After graduating from the Academy in 2006, Sarah got her Master's degree and then attended pilot training at Columbus, Mississippi. Assignments flying the KC-135 in Wichita, Kansas and Okinawa, Japan, and C-17s in New Jersey followed. Two years ago, Sarah joined the Maineiacs and settled back in Blue Hill with her husband, David, also an Air Force Academy graduate. Both are now KC-135 pilots at the Wing in Bangor. They have two daughters, Vera and Evie; future Maineiacs, I'm sure.

Sarah and David also convinced Air Force friends to move to Maine. One is now a KC-135 pilot for us and his wife just started as a veterinarian in the Bangor area. Sarah's younger sisters, Lydia and Anna, both followed in her footsteps, each graduating from the Air Force Academy. Lydia Clapp graduated in 2014 and served as a Force Support Officer and is now transitioning to civilian sector and finishing her Master's degree while her husband, Aaron, remains on active duty as a B-2 Acquisitions Officer. They intend to return to Maine with their daughter and son once Aaron's active military career is complete, unless we can get him sooner. Youngest sister, Anna Clapp, graduated in 2015 and attended pilot training at Del Rio, Texas. She is now an E-3 pilot in Oklahoma. Even though she has a few years left in her active duty commitment, she is already hoping she can join Sarah and the Maineiacs once her commitment is up. Sarah Clapp joins us today. Welcome home, Sarah.

In June of last year, Maine Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Peter Rogers stepped into the role of acting director. This was the second time in the last three years he has served in the acting role. We're going to change that. With the Chief Executives' nomination last week, I'm confident you will recognize he is the right person at the right

time to lead MEMA, and he could lose that acting title. MEMA has continued to thrive under his leadership. Pete is an emergency management professional, a known collaborator, he has been tested over the last six years by numerous emergency responses. You may recall the infamous wind storm of 2017. This was one of the largest storm events in Maine history, with more than half the State without power. Following that event, many changes were implemented to improve statewide response. Among those improvements were upgrades to the State Emergency Operation Center. Upgrades included new digital equipment and remodeling to improve situational awareness, enhanced mission capabilities, and improved communication. The need to revamp the state's approach to debris management was also highlighted. MEMA worked closely with electric utilities and Legislators on a bill to address electric utility response during a major storm. A focus was road clearing and debris management, as well as aligning emergency management processes. We believe this bill, LD 372, and the associated collaboration, has improved the response process. In 2019, MEMA partially activated State Emergency Operation Center with emergency response team members to assist with the Franklin County's propane gas explosion response and recovery. Requests included sheltering, disaster mental health and individual assistance needs. MEMA also supported efforts in Portland when asylum-seekers arrived with little notice. MEMA facilitated getting 325 cots delivered to Portland Expo and provided staff for technical assistance on sheltering and donation management.

Mainers are historically resilient, but tend to be underinsured and unable to withstand the cost of even a small disaster. Working to educate a new generation of Mainers on resilience and preparedness is the best way to mitigate effects of future disasters. For cyber, use good cyber hygiene; safe passwords, don't open unknown attachments, and don't believe everything you read. For weather, remember that after the 100-year storm or the 100-year flood, you don't have 99 years before it can happen again. And for terrorism and violence, see something, say something is still the most important thing that individuals can do.

The Maine National Guard has great leadership, who ensure our airmen and soldiers are trained, equipped and motivated. Wherever the threat, whenever the fight, they are ready. The Maine Army National Guard leadership team includes Brigadier General Don Lagace, our newest General Officer, Brigadier General Dean Preston, Command Sergeant Major Mark Smith, Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Cheney. The Maine Air National Guard is led by Brigadier General Steve Michaud and Chief Master Sergeant Kelly Hoffses. The Maine National Guard is comprised of over 3,000 Air and Army Guard men and women serving in facilities throughout the State. We have over 900 full-time members tasked with keeping the force trained and equipped. Our federal payroll alone exceeds \$130,000,000. When you add in cooperative agreements, contracts, purchases, and other federal spending, the total is over \$170,000,000. The State's share of the military department budget is \$3,000,000. We think we're a pretty good return on your investment.

Our airmen and soldiers continue to deploy. Our missions are important and we traditionally excel in the deployed environment. We also understand the sacrifice that our families, employers and coworkers make when we are gone. We deploy because we are still a nation at war. This year, I don't think I need to remind you of that. Just last month, with the news of increased tensions and threats from Iran, I had to think of the American servicemen who were overseas,

including our own 286th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion deployed to Poland and our own airmen in central command flying missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. As the news coverage reported that Iran had fired missiles and hit our base in Iraq, I also thought of the hundreds, probably thousands of people here at home who could do nothing but wait, not knowing where their loved one, friend, or neighbor was or if they were okay. For those terrifying hours, they knew; they knew we were still a Nation at war.

Nineteen members of Maine Air National Guard primarily from South Portland's 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron were deployed to Iraq to Operation Inherent Resolve from early January to August of 2019. Our airmen were tasked to design, engineer, and install three resilient and survivable network fiber rings at Camp Taji, Al Asad Air Base, and Erbil Air Base to convert base communication cabling systems from tactical to permanent configurations. Our Maine Air National Guard airmen answered the call with our unparalleled Northeast work ethic, pride and professionalism. About four months after completing this project, the American commando raid to kill ISIS leader al-Baghdadi was reportedly launched using the communications infrastructure installed by the Maine Air Guard team. Our airmen love what they do and they're highly respected by their customers. Their missions matter and we are proud. The commander of this deployment is here with us today. Please welcome Lieutenant Colonel Maynard Hinkley of Limington.

Early this month, I joined the Maine Army Guard leadership as the 286th CSSB arrived home and greeted their families at Bangor's Army Aviation Support Facility. We're incredibly proud of all the work that the unit did while deployed to Poland for 10 months in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Earlier, you heard me refer to the National Guard as a strategic reserve when discussing our history. Nationally, we have transitioned to an operational reserve. Our units are consistently sourced as part of global operations alongside our active and reserve components. The 286th is a prime example of this. Of the five subordinate units aligned under them, three were active-duty units and two were Army Reserve units. With their success, the 286th demonstrated the operational nature of the modern National Guard. The 286th supported numerous exercises as part of Atlantic Resolve. Some of these exercises involved more than 5,000 personnel from over 30 nations, an incredible display of international good will and commitment to NATO alliances. The 286th Command Team, Lieutenant Colonel John Wilmot, and Command Sergeant Major Karri Bennett of Houlton are here with us today. Please join me in welcoming them and the 286th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion home.

Since the operational nature of the Guard takes us to war alongside the active and reserve components, we have to train alongside them, too. This past spring, our infantry unit, Bravo Company Brewer, and the 251st Engineer Company out of Norway received praise from the 86th Infantry Brigade Team Commander at a national-level exercise at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Likewise, Westbrook's 262 Engineering Company earned high marks and praise at a national exercise in Fort Irwin, California. Some of our soldiers in the hall today represent these units and I'm sure they'd be glad to tell you more about their experiences. This month, two rotations of the 1136th Transportation Company out of Calais and Bangor are providing long-haul support for an annual multinational Canadian exercise known as Northern Sojourn. The objective of the exercise is to maintain and refine unit and soldiers' ability to operate in austere arctic conditions.

Education is important to the Guard as well. The expanded National Guard Education Assistance Program now includes private, nonprofit postsecondary institutions. With Husson University and Thomas College participating as partners, we processed 295 applications, a 20% increase over last year. This is an important program. It is important for recruiting, but it is more important than that. We all want young people to have access to acquiring higher education and technical skills. Costs and student debt can be a barrier. There is a solution; it's the Maine National Guard. Get an education, acquire skills, serve your country and state, gain self-esteem, confidence, and discipline, with little or no student debt. This may not be the answer for everyone, but it is the right choice for many.

Our senior leadership team continues to believe recruiting and retention is our most important challenge. We are considering additional ways the State can help. In the meantime, policies aimed at improving health, education, mental health, nutrition and fitness of young Mainers and efforts to grow good-paying jobs help the Maine National Guard as well as the entire State. The Maine National Guard counterdrug program places Army and Air Guardsmen in communities throughout the State to leverage our civil operation skillset in support of substance abuse prevention coalitions. Our soldiers and airmen also support law enforcement agencies with criminal analysts. One of the new initiatives is working with local middle schools to institute an effective alcohol and drug use prevention program. We are beginning a program in Gardiner, Sabattus, Fryeburg, and Woolwich to support schools combating alcohol dependency, misuse of prescription drugs and illegal drugs. The Maine National Guard is an active and willing partner in the State's efforts to bring an end to the opioid and substance abuse epidemic.

The 11th Civil Support Team conducted four real-world responses identifying and handling suspected biological chemical threats in 2019. The 11th CST executed standby missions and trained with state, county and local first responders throughout the State, including venues such as the Bangor waterfront concerts and the Portland Fourth of July celebration. Citizens of Maine should know that as they attend mass gatherings and celebrations around the State, the soldiers and airmen of the Air National Guard are working behind the scenes.

We've been making progress on facilities over the last few years. The new Presque Isle readiness center should be open in the spring of 2021. We also have acquired land and are setting the conditions for a new joint use readiness center in Saco. This is a multi-year project that will be home to the 243rd, the 265th of the Air National Guard and a field maintenance shop for the Army National Guard. By consolidating multiple military organizations into a single facility, we will save the taxpayer money while offering better support services for our National Guard members. Last year, we completed the fifth year of our 10 year plan for desperately-needed Army rehabilitation and upgrades. The Chief Executive's supplemental budget requests includes the next \$4,000,000 to continue the plan with the largest projects at Westbrook and Augusta armories. The federal match for this State investment will exceed an additional \$4,000,000. It is important that we fund our biennial facility maintenance and repair budget at a level to maximize the federal match so that our facilities don't return to the poor condition that we had 10 years ago.

I mentioned earlier that the Maine Air National Guard was established in 1947. Initially, we flew many different fighter airframes including the F-89 and the F-101, executing the fighter interceptor role defending against the threat of Soviet bombers. We've been flying the KC-135s since 1976, performing the air fueling mission. The operations tempo in the tanker community continues to be historically high. This is for a simple reason; almost everything the Air Force does requires tanker support. Tankers are needed for our homeland defense, nuclear deterrent, global power projection and global mobility. The demand should stay high for the next couple years because of some problems at Boeing. You may know that the Air Force is buying new tankers that were originally planned to replace the 60-year-old KC-135. The new tanker, the Boeing KC-46, is years behind schedule and due to significant operational acceptance issues may not be fully functional for several more years. The 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor is busy because over half of our Nation's air refueling capability is in the reserve component. The 101st is the most strategically located tanker base on the East Coast and the new KC-46 squadrons are not operationally capable.

Every soldier and airman has a story, and some are remarkable. PFC Landry Inahasway was born in Burundi and came to the U.S. as a child with his family, seeking asylum from political violence. He and his siblings started school and the family started the long asylum process. His mother had to support them, find a new home, and improve her English all on her own as his father was still in the home country. Landry got a job as a teenager and worked hard in school. Almost immediately, Landry wanted to join the military to serve his new country and also work in the medical field. He attended community college and joined the Maine Army National Guard in 2019, enlisting in Westbrook's 262 Engineer Company. He attended Basic Training and advanced individual training as a heavy equipment operator, where he received the Army Physical Fitness Test Award and is classed as Distinguished Honor Graduate. He currently works as a radiology technician in the emergency room at Maine Medical Center and he still sends some of his paycheck back to his grandmother who is a refugee in Rwanda. I wish I could say he was here today, but he had to work.

Over the years, the Maine Army Guard has won many environmental and energy awards. Just this weekend, I got word that our director of facilities and engineering did it again. They won the 2019 award for best installations program in our region. We have reduced energy use by approximately 20% and CO² emissions by over 35% while increasing the square footage of our facilities by approximately 20% since 2009. The significant reductions were achieved largely due to the efforts of DFE and certified energy manager, Mr. A.J. Ballard, by using new and existing technology over the last 10 years. Innovative engineering design, integrating efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology with building automation controls brought great results in modernization and new construction projects. Mr. Ballard joins us today. Thank you, A.J.

The Guardians of the 488th Military Police Company are proud of their motto; Assist, Protect, Defend. More than 20 soldiers of the 488th continue to serve in various law enforcement agencies after they have been released from military duty by Captain Bradbury, their Commander. But it's not only the members of the 488th who serve in law enforcement. You will find guards, soldiers, and airmen from many units also serving in the Maine State Police, Bangor, Brewer, Dover, Brunswick, Waterville, Searsport police

departments, Kennebec, Penobscot, and other county sheriff offices, correction offices, Customs and Border Patrol, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, Maine Game Wardens, and many others. They are better soldiers and airmen because of their civilian law enforcement experience, but I'm also pretty confident their military experience makes them more valuable to their community.

Traditionally, National Guard citizen soldiers and airmen are normally required by federal policy to retire at age 60. Master Sergeant Rick Martell, a traditional Air Guard KC-135 boom operator, reached age 60 last year. Master Sergeant Martell worked exhaustively with leadership to obtain an exception to policy to serve to age 62 and he is making the most of those additional years. Already, he is engaged with the Wing's airmen resiliency efforts by creating a podcast relating his personal experiences with addiction and suicide. He is not here today because with less than a week notice he has deployed to the Middle East as a last-minute volunteer backfilling for an airman who suffered appendicitis just days prior to scheduled departure. Master Sergeant Rick Martell; ready, willing combat warrior, still in the fight at age 60.

Montenegro's Minister of Defense made his first trip to Maine, leading a delegation that met with Chief Executive Mills and DECD Commissioner Johnson, intending to strengthen our 13-year partnership and discuss economic opportunities. Montenegro's ambassador to the U.S. and Chief of Defense also visited last year. Air National Guard Officer Major Carolyn Richley will be going over to live in Montenegro as our bilateral affairs officer, replacing Army National Guard Major Brian McClellan, who will finish his two-year tour. It is busy and challenging, but it's also a great time to be in the Maine Guard, performing missions that matter, serving with talented, committed airmen and soldiers, and living in the great State of Maine. It doesn't get any better than that. Make an effort to thank our airmen and soldiers for their service. They could make a different choice. Despite the high operations tempo, the strain on family and employers and the uncertainty of future conflict, they choose to put on the uniform and serve.

Finally, I want to thank all of you. As you all know, service to our fellow citizens comes in many forms. You may not agree on everything; some days, it appears you don't agree on anything. But I know you all agree on the importance of service, especially to the citizens of Maine. So, on behalf of the soldiers, airmen and our entire department, thank you for serving in the 129th Maine Legislature.

I appreciate the opportunity to give you an update on the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management. We have a Department and National Guard proud of who they are and what they do for the citizens of Maine and the Nation. I am honored to serve beside them as your Adjutant General. Thank you.

The Adjutant General withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its Chamber amid the applause of the House, the audience rising.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

SENATE PAPERS

(1-1) Bill "An Act To Lower Health Care Costs"

(S.P. 755) (L.D. 2110)

(1-2) Bill "An Act To Establish Patient Protections in Billing for Health Care"

(S.P. 756) (L.D. 2111)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative BABINE of Scarborough, the House adjourned at 11:51 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 20, 2020.