

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
January 21, 2025

Senate called to order by President Matthea E. Larsen Daughtry of Cumberland County.

Prayer by Pastor Nic Benner of Granite Hill Church in Hallowell.

PASTOR NIC BENNER: Good morning. It's an honor to be with you all, and thank you for what you do for this great state. I know that it has a heavy responsibility, and I know it takes a lot of wisdom and discernment, and my Bible tells me that God has all wisdom, and I just want to read James chapter 1, verse 5. It says if any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all, without finding fault, and it will be given to you. So, we've just got to ask for it, and that's what I want to do and pray for you this morning, that God would give you the wisdom that you need. If you'll bow your heads and pray with me?

Lord, we thank you for this morning. Lord, I thank you for all these Senators and everyone in this room. Lord, thank you for what they do for this state and for its people, Lord, and we just thank you for this day and this session and everything that will be discussed, Lord. And I pray that you give each Senator wisdom, Lord, give them discernment, give them all that they need for today, Lord, their daily bread. And we just thank you that you're with them, Lord, that you will give these things to them generously, Lord. And so, we thank you, and I pray you bless this meeting and this session. In Jesus name, amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Anne Beebe-Center of Knox County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Off Record Remarks

Joint Resolutions

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.P. 114

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

January 16, 2025

Hon. Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On January 16, 2025, 7 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 16, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 111) (L.D. 245) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Extend the Maximum Time Period for Certain School Construction Bonds" (S.P. 108) (L.D. 242) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland and Representative: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers" (S.P. 107) (L.D. 241) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Allow Retail Pharmacies to Operate Remote Dispensing Sites in Rural Areas" (S.P. 105) (L.D. 239) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, SALISBURY of Westbrook, ARFORD of Brunswick)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Create Consistency in Retirement Service Benefits Deferral Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System" (S.P. 106) (L.D. 240) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Increase the Percentage of Funds Provided to Municipalities Through State-Municipal Revenue Sharing" (S.P. 103) (L.D. 237) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Transportation

Resolve, to Name a Railroad Crossing in Wiscasset the James Weldon Johnson Crossing (S.P. 109) (L.D. 243) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 25

**THE STATE OF MAINE
132nd LEGISLATURE
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 13, 2025

The Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor, State of Maine
#1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

On behalf of the 132nd Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver your State of the Budget Address. At your direction, we will call for a Joint Convention of the Legislature on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the House Chamber.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that your Address is received by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elizabeth Larsen Daughtry S/Ryan D. Fecteau
President of the Senate Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 27

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

January 14, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate of Maine
132nd Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Heather Sanborn, Esq. of Portland, for appointment as the Public Advocate.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

YEAS	Senators	1	Lawrence, M. of York
	Representatives	6	Sachs, M. of Freeport, Geiger, V. of Rockland, Kessler, C. of South Portland, Runte, W. of York, Warren, S. of Scarborough, Webb, K. of Durham
NAYS	Senators	2	Grohoski, N. of Hancock, Harrington, M. of York
	Representatives	3	Foster, S. of Dexter, McIntyre, M. of Lowell, Paul, R. of Winterport
ABSENT		1	Rep. Wadsworth, N. of Hiram

Seven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and five in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Heather Sanborn, Esq. of Portland, for appointment as the Public Advocate be confirmed.

Signed,
S/Mark W. Lawrence S/Melanie Sachs
Senate Chair House Chair

READ.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **CONFIRMATION**.

S.P. 104 L.D. 238

The Following Communication:

S.C. 28

**DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL
REGULATIONS
BUREAU OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

January 15, 2025

Hon. Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Annual Report from the Superintendent of the Bureau of Financial Institutions to the Legislature. This Annual Report contains statistical information for financial institutions doing business in Maine.

If you or your office have any questions regarding the information contained in this Annual Report, the Bureau would be pleased to respond. This Annual Report will also be available in electronic format on the Bureau of Financial Institutions' website at www.maine.gov/pfr/financialinstitutions/.

Very truly yours,

S/Lloyd P. LaFountain III
Superintendent

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide Safe, Short-term Housing to Indigent Individuals Recently Released from Correctional Facilities"
S.P. 110 L.D. 244

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield and Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings"

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook and Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CYRWAY of Kennebec, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Option of Sentencing Alternatives for Primary Caregivers"

S.P. 112 L.D. 246

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth and Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CARNEY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: HASENFUS of Readfield, LEE of Auburn, SATO of Gorham.

Bill "An Act to Rename the Administrator of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner the Director of Medical Examiner Operations"
S.P. 115 L.D. 248

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Update Certain Medical Examiner Fees"
S.P. 116 L.D. 249

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Disposal of Abandoned Human Remains"
S.P. 117 L.D. 250

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Information of Individual Customers of a Public Utility"
S.P. 118 L.D. 251

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.
Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Recommendations for Changing Place Names in the State"

S.P. 113 L.D. 247

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month"

S.P. 120 L.D. 254

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:

S.P. 119

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by Representative ABDI of Lewiston and Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 121

JOINT RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

WHEREAS, January 20, 2025 marks the national and state holiday in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating his birth on January 15, 1929; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister who advocated the furtherance of civil and human rights for all Americans through nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, this man of great moral conviction and spirit showed this country a dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, a model of an American patriot, provided the nation with one of the most prophetic and influential voices in our history; and

WHEREAS, for his tireless work to ensure equality and justice through nonviolence, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a high and honorable distinction, in 1964; and

WHEREAS, his eloquence, his perseverance and his faith moved mountains and brought about systemic legal and social changes; and

WHEREAS, the life of Dr. King, which ended so tragically on April 4, 1968, is a shining example to Americans and citizens of the world of uncompromising dedication to the highest ideals of freedom, justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was the first African American to be honored with a memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. with the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in West Potomac Park in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, the Honorable Gerald E. Talbot of Portland submitted legislation in 1975 to create a day commemorating Dr. King prior to the federal legislation creating the holiday; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary life and works of this teacher, reformer and humanitarian, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pause in our deliberations to recognize and commemorate the occasion of his birth.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator DUSON.

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise this morning to add a voice in celebration of the late, great Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King would be 96 this year. A son of Atlanta, yesterday thousands lined the streets to attend service at the community commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in his church town. Dr. Bernice King, the youngest child of Coretta Scott King and Dr. King, spoke at the service and highlighted how her father

led from a place of love and understood that love and power co-joined harmoniously to help create lasting social change.

This year's theme for the MLK holiday is Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence. How timely. This theme will serve as a compass for all the work this upcoming calendar year and beyond. And as we gather in this Chamber, I rise to reaffirm the commitment to the pursuit of justice, equity, freedom, and humanity; MLK's aspirational vision for our future. Pillars that we, the Members of this Body, share in our mission to better the lives of the people of Maine. And when we are met with the loud voices of division and fear, we remember how resilient we are. We remember that unity drowns out hate, and we move forward with fortitude just as the late Dr. King did so eloquently. We might even cause a little bit of good trouble along the way.

Madam President, as we honor the legacy of this generational leader and all who were and are inspired and empowered by the movement, let us channel his spirit and tenacity as we tackle the challenges and lift up the voices of our constituents who sent us here to work diligently in their interests.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise simply to speak the last words of the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

These are the final paragraphs from his final speech: "That is the question before you tonight. Not, if I stop to help the sanitation workers what will happen to all of the hours that I usually spend in my office every day and every week as a pastor? The question is not, if I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me? No; if I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them? That's the question. So, let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here with you. Several years ago, I was in New York City autographing the first book that I had written. And while sitting there, autographing books, a demented woman came up. The only question I heard from her was, are you Martin Luther King? And I was looking down, writing, and I said, yes. And the next minute, I felt something beating on my chest. Before I knew it, I had been stabbed by this demented woman. I was rushed to Harlem Hospital. It was a dark Sunday afternoon, and that blade had gone through, and the x-rays revealed that the tip of the blade was on the edge of my aorta, the main artery. And once that's punctured, you drown in your own blood - that's the end of you.

It came out in the New York Times the next morning that if I had sneezed, I would've died. Well, about four days later, they allowed me, after the operation, after my chest had been opened and the blade had been taken out, to move around in the wheelchair in the hospital. They allowed me to read some of the mail that came in, and from all over the states and the world, kind letters came in. I read a few, but one of them, I will never forget. I had received one from the President, the Vice President. I have forgotten what those telegrams said. I had received a visit and a letter from the Governor of New York, but I forgot what that letter said. But there was another letter, it came from a little girl, a

young girl who was a student at White Plains High School. And I looked at that letter, and I'll never forget it. It said simply, Dear Dr. King, I am a ninth-grade student at the White Plains High School. While it should not matter, I would like to mention that I am a white girl. I read in the paper of your misfortune and of your suffering, and I read that if you had sneezed, you would have died. And I'm simply writing you to say that I'm happy that you didn't sneeze.

And I want to say tonight, I want to say that I'm happy that I didn't sneeze, either. Because if I had sneezed, I wouldn't've been here in the 1960 when students all over the south started sitting in at lunch counters. And I knew that as they were sitting in, they were really standing up for the best of the American dream, and taking the whole nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the Founding Fathers in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

If I had sneezed, I wouldn't've been around in 1962, when negroes in Albany, Georgia decided to straighten their backs up. And whenever men and women straighten their backs up, they are going somewhere, because men can't ride your back unless it's bent. If I had sneezed, I wouldn't've been here in 1963, when the black people of Birmingham, Alabama, aroused the conscience of this nation and brought into being the Civil Rights Bill. If I had sneezed, I wouldn't've had a chance later that year, in August, to try to tell America about a dream that I had had. If I had sneezed, I wouldn't've been down in Selma, Alabama, been in Memphis to see the community rally around those brothers and sisters who are suffering. And so, I'm happy I did not sneeze.

And they were telling me now, it doesn't matter now. It really doesn't matter what happens now. I left Atlanta this morning. As we got started on the plane, there were six of us. The pilot said over the public address system, we are sorry for the delay, but we have Dr. Martin Luther King on the plane, and to be sure that all the bags were checked, and to be sure that nothing would be wrong with the plane, we had to check out everything so carefully, and we've had the plane protected and guarded all night. And then, I got to Memphis, and some began to say the threats or talk about the threats that were out, what would happen to me from some of our sick brothers? Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead, but it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop, and I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life because longevity has its place, but I'm not concerned about all that now. I just want to do God's will, and he's allowed me to go up to the mountain, and I've looked over, and I have seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land, and I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about a thing. I'm not fearing any man. For mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Tepler.

Senator **TEPLER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I rise to briefly honor Dr. Martin Luther King. He is one of my heroes, and I simply ask where are the leaders committed to nonviolent change for equality today? Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Grant, Dulce Vazquez, Emily Wallace, Nevaeh Schoppe, Eileen Berry, Abby Rolfe, Emma Parker, Erica Rackliff, Ella Fraser, Natalie Stanwood, and coaches Holly Strout and Hilary Oliver from the Narraguagus Knights, the Class C Volleyball State Champions. They are the guests today of the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate?

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize within our Chamber, the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President - excuse me, sorry about that. Madam President, it is with great pride and joy that we gather here to recognize and congratulate the Narraguagus High School Volleyball Team for their incredible achievement in winning the Class C State Volleyball Championship.

In the playoffs, they beat Bucksport in three sets, and then George Stevens Academy in three sets. At the State Championship match against Machias, Machias took the lead with a 1-0 set lead, the Knights came back to tie it, and then Machias won the third set. The Knights battled hard and brought the sets to a 2-2 tie. In the final set, Narraguagus won 15-7 and won the state title. This victory is a testimony -- or testament, excuse me, to the unwavering dedication, hard work, and teamwork that each and every player, coach, and supporter has put in throughout the season. From the very first practice to the final point of the championship match, these ladies demonstrated what it means to be true champions, not just in sports, but in perseverance, leadership, and community spirit. Their commitment to excellence both on and off the volleyball court is nothing short of inspiring. They have shown that with passion, discipline, and belief in one another, anything is possible. They have set a standard of success that will resonate for years and classes to come, and have made the school, the families, and the entire community incredibly proud.

A special thank you also goes to the coaches and staff whose leadership, expertise, and guidance have been pivotal in shaping this championship winning team. Their support has empowered these athletes to reach new heights and to perform at their very best. And I understand that Coach Holly Strout is also was named Coach of the Year. This victory represents not just the combination of the remarkable season, but also the continuation of a legacy. Last year was their first ever state championship, and they've already repeated it. They have proven that hard work, determination, and teamwork can lead to the highest honors. And today, we celebrate each of them for making that dream a reality.

Once again, congratulations to the Narraguagus volleyball team, your coaches, and all who have supported you along the way. You have earned this victory, and we look forward to watching them continue to achieve great things in the future.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair is now pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber: Lola Worcester, Allison Fraser, Ivy Stanwood, Karmen Thompson, Eden Fraser, Kaitlyn

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment have preference in the Orders of the Day and continue with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (1/14/25) matter:

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Foreclosure Process

H.P. 117 L.D. 184

Tabled - January 14, 2025 by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.)

(In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.)

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce.

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise today to honor my constituent, Clara Brown.

During the summer, many of us spent time at the beach, hiking the beautiful Maine scenic trails or visiting friends and family. This summer, Falmouth's own Clara Brown was training and cycling her way to a bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

Clara's journey to success on the world stage started right here in Maine. From a young age, Clara was a competitive runner, gymnast, and skier. At 12, she sustained an incomplete spinal cord injury. Instead of letting this setback define her, Clara used this injury as a motivator. She underwent extensive physical rehabilitation and fought her way through unexpected setbacks. At Falmouth High School, Clara joined the high school rowing team as the coxswain, who steers the boat and directs the rhythm of the rowers. After starting college at the University of Puget Sound, Clara bought her first modified road bike after developing an interest in cycling, a sport new to her, where she could

ultimately push herself to new heights.

After graduation, she started training with the U.S. Paralympics and has since become a household name for U.S. Cycling. In 2018, she won the bronze medal in the road race competition at the Para-cycling Road World Cup at the Baie-Comeau -- in Baie-Comeau, Quebec.

Clara's record of success is what sets her apart from the competition. She has won 11 total medals at the World Championships, including three gold, three silver, and five bronze. She's a two-time Paralympian, competing in the 2020 and 2024 games, and this summer, as I mentioned, she captured her first medal in the C1-3 road race at the Paris Paralympics, finishing the 35-mile trek in just under an hour and 39 minutes. When Clara isn't training for success on the world stage, she is likely working on earning her private pilot's license and hopes to eventually attend law school. I have no doubt she will be successful in all of her endeavors.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber, Clara Brown and her family, of the towns of Falmouth and Cumberland. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate?

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Expand the Definition of 'Terrorism' in the Laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency"
H.P. 147 L.D. 224

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Hope and Inclusion Scholarship Program in Order to Provide Funding for Students Attending Certain Private Schools and Students Receiving Home Instruction"

H.P. 143 L.D. 220

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences"

H.P. 138 L.D. 215

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Liability for Acts of Violence Occurring in the State House or Legislative Space in the Burton M. Cross Building"

H.P. 150 L.D. 227

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact"
H.P. 161 L.D. 252

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School"
H.P. 156 L.D. 233

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services"

H.P. 162 L.D. 253

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections"

H.P. 149 L.D. 226

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Change of Committee

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Concerning the Filing of Marriage Licenses and the Recording of Intentions as Part of the Electronic Vital Records System"

H.P. 47 L.D. 83

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Madam President. Good morning, still, colleagues. I just wanted to stand for a moment and recognize Julie Jones, who, as you heard, has worked basically in every office in this building over her long career in the Legislature, most recently as the analyst for the Taxation Committee, which I have the honor of co-chairing.

And I just wanted to thank Julie for her many years of service, for her guidance to me as a new member of Taxation and also as a chair. It's sort of a difficult committee to just jump into without knowing the policy area, and Julie was there to make sure that I was on track, that we were on track, and that we had the information we needed to make good decisions for this Legislature and for you all to vote on.

So, I could go on, but I do want to acknowledge that Julie, you have done a lot for the State of Maine, probably more than anyone else I can think of. Your service is truly appreciated and definitely the Taxation Committee is different without you. We know we're in good hands because you've left a great paper trail of many years of how bills should be written that come out of that committee, but we thank you for your service and please, Members, note that if you would like to come to a reception to honor Julie, we are hosting that in the taxation committee room from roughly now until 1 p.m., so feel free to stop by and wish Julie a happy retirement. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford.

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. Julie, we're going to miss you. I spent ten years in Taxation with you as our analyst, and I enjoyed every bit of it. I only slept through five of them, Julie, but you knew that. I can't wait to see you during the reception. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the other Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. Julie is another one of my heroes in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, and I just would like to add my best wishes to her on her retirement and to thank her for her extraordinary service to the people of Maine. We are going to miss her terribly. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise to join my colleagues in honoring the extraordinary public service of Julie Jones. And I don't have much to say that hasn't already been said except that I wish you nothing but blessings in the next chapter of your life, and to her family that's here as well. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber, Julie Jones of Hallowell. She is the guest today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman, and the entire Maine State Senate. Would she please rise and accept the hearty greetings of the Maine State Senate?

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Senate

Change of Committee

Senator ROTUNDO for the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 29 L.D. 1

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.