

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
February 4, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Nathan Richards of South Parish Congregational Church in Augusta.

PASTOR NATHAN RICHARDS: May we pray together.

Most gracious and sovereign God, we pray on this day for your servants, the Members of the Maine State Senate, that you might keep them faithful to the solemn and important office with which you have charged them to uphold. Strengthen, guide, and direct them to fulfill your purposes. We pray today that you give them firmness to maintain law and justice, and an inner determination and wisdom to strive for peace within our state and within our nation. Grant, oh God, that as members of this astute body that each member may have the mind of the prophet who bore witness to the truth as it was given him and thought calmly and carefully, making decisions wisely and well, in order that everything may be done in accordance to your will.

Furnish this Senate with insight, rectitude, and resources that will enable it to respond and represent our citizenry with integrity and clarity of purpose. May their efforts accomplish what is pleasing to you as our creator and in whose name we pray today, amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Susan Bernard of Aroostook County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Paper

Bill "An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects"

H.P. 187 L.D. 287

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.P. 174

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

January 30, 2025

Hon. Matthea 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 30, 2025, 27 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 30, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 142) (L.D. 356) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, BELL of Yarmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, CIMINO of Bridgton, EDER of Waterboro)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Build a Warehouse for Goods and Cargo at Bangor International Airport" (S.P. 136) (L.D. 351) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Replenish the Land for Maine's Future Program" (S.P. 153) (L.D. 362) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, PIERCE of Cumberland, CYRWAY of Kennebec, GROHOSKI of Hancock, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: THORNE of Carmel, DUCHARME of Madison, HENDERSON of Rumford)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Create the School Capital Improvement Fund" (S.P. 155) (L.D. 363) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, HAGGAN of Penobscot, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representative: HEPLER of Woolwich)

Bill "An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation" (S.P. 159) (L.D. 367) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, PIERCE of Cumberland, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DUSON of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, Representative: CRAFTS of Newcastle)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Improve Criminal Justice and Public Safety" (S.P. 137) (L.D. 352) (Sponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Improve Education in Maine" (S.P. 140) (L.D. 354) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough)

Bill "An Act Supporting the Dirigo Reads Literacy Program" (S.P. 151) (L.D. 360) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senator: BENNETT of Oxford, Representatives: SALISBURY of Westbrook, ROEDER of Bangor, RANA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center" (S.P. 152) (L.D. 361) (Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield and Senator: STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: QUINT of Hodgdon, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, GUERRETTE of Caribou, DAIGLE of Fort Kent)

Bill "An Act to Grant or Extend Conditional Teaching Certificates Under Certain Circumstances" (S.P. 161) (L.D. 369) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, BAGSHAW of Windham, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Raise the Minimum State Standard for Mathematics Education for a High School Diploma" (S.P. 162) (L.D. 370) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton and Senator: RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, BAGSHAW of Windham, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Require the University of Maine School of Law to Provide an Online Degree Program" (S.P. 170) (L.D. 375) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, CARNEY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers" (S.P. 146) (L.D. 359) (Sponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act to Expand Hydroelectric Development by Removing the 100-megawatt Cap" (S.P. 163) (L.D. 371) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport and Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: WADSWORTH of Hiram, FOSTER of Dexter, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes Through Doula Care" (S.P. 172) (L.D. 376) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and Senators: MOORE of Washington, INGWERSEN of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: SHAGOURY of Hallowell, EATON of Deer Isle, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program" (S.P. 141) (L.D. 355) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, BALDACCI of Penobscot, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, TERRY of Gorham)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Promote Economic Development in Maine" (S.P. 156) (L.D. 364) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Respond to the Housing Affordability and Accessibility Crisis in Maine" (S.P. 157) (L.D. 365) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act Regarding the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife" (S.P. 134) (L.D. 350) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Judiciary

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 139) (L.D. 353) (Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York) (Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, BRENNER of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, SATO of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Provide Comparable Compensation and Benefits for Deputy and Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Attorneys General and Public Defenders" (S.P. 166) (L.D. 374) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Representative MCCABE of Lewiston and Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook, CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, ABDI of Lewiston, KUHN of Falmouth)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers" (S.P. 143) (L.D. 357) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds" (S.P. 144) (L.D. 358) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, MARTIN of Oxford, LIBBY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Establish 'Welcome Home' as the Official State Anthem" (S.P. 165) (L.D. 373) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Ensure Consistency of Income Tax Deductions for Retired Members of the Uniformed Services" (S.P. 158) (L.D. 366) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: PARRY of Arundel, WADSWORTH of Hiram, ZAGER of Portland, FREDETTE of Newport)

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine People from Inflation by Exempting Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion from the State Sales and Use Tax" (S.P. 164) (L.D. 372) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative QUINT of Hodgdon and Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, LIBBY of Auburn, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, BOYER of Poland, PAUL of Winterport, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Address Concerns Regarding Radiation Machines and Similar Equipment Used in the Cannabis Industry" (S.P. 160) (L.D. 368) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec)

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:

H.P. 177

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

January 23, 2025

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

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On January 23, 2025, 13 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 23, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting" (H.P. 164) (L.D. 261) (Sponsored by Representative BUNKER of Farmington)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Restore Sentencing Discretion to the Judiciary by Removing Mandatory Minimum Sentences of Incarceration" (H.P. 171) (L.D. 268) (Sponsored by Representative SINCLAIR of Bath) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, SATO of Gorham)

Environment and Natural Resources

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 172) (L.D. 269) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.)

Health and Human Services

Resolve, to Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and

Community Benefits Under MaineCare (H.P. 166) (L.D. 263) (Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MCCABE of Lewiston, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MONTELL of Gardiner)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 850: Health Plan Accountability, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 173) (L.D. 270) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.)

Housing and Economic Development

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 12: Fees for Kickboxing Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 174) (L.D. 271) (Submitted by the Combat Sports Authority of Maine pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 2: Fees for Muay Thai Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 175) (L.D. 272) (Submitted by the Combat Sports Authority of Maine pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.)

Judiciary

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law (H.P. 163) (L.D. 260) (Sponsored by Representative SARGENT of York) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ANKELES of Brunswick, ARCHER of Saco, ARFORD of Brunswick, BECK of South Portland, BELL of Yarmouth, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, BRENNAN of Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta, BUNKER of Farmington, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COPELAND of Saco, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CROCKETT of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, DILL of Old Town, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, EATON of Deer Isle, FARRIN of Jefferson, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, FROST of Belgrade, GATTINE of Westbrook, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HASENFUS of Readfield, HEPLER of Woolwich, JULIA of Waterville, KESSLER of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEE of Auburn, LOOKNER of Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George, MCCABE of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MONTELL of Gardiner, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, PUGH of Portland, RANA of Bangor, RAY of Lincolnville, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROBERTS of

South Berwick, ROEDER of Bangor, ROLLINS of Augusta, RUNTE of York, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SATO of Gorham, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SINCLAIR of Bath, SKOLD of Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, TERRY of Gorham, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, YUSUF of Portland, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BRENNER of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York, LAWRENCE of York, NANGLE of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Remote Appearance of Counsel in Pretrial Nontestimonial Criminal Matters" (H.P. 170) (L.D. 267) (Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, STEWART of Aroostook)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Require the Updating of Voter Registration Signatures" (H.P. 169) (L.D. 266) (Sponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, FLYNN of Albion, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HYMES of Waldo, LANCE of Paris)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Remove the 12-month Waiting Period for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption" (H.P. 167) (L.D. 264) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DILL of Old Town, RAY of Lincolnville, SINCLAIR of Bath)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Taste Testing of Wine and Malt Liquor to Facilitate Marketing by Wholesalers" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 165) (L.D. 262) (Sponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representative: BOYER of Poland)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Maine National Guard from Combat Deployment Absent an Act of the United States Congress" (H.P. 168) (L.D. 265) (Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FREDERICKS of Sanford, LIBBY of Auburn, PLUECKER of Warren, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, WARREN of Scarborough)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**, in concurrence.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 46

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

January 27, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Part 8, Chapter 310, §3111, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Office of New Americans Advisory Council*, effective immediately:

Senator James Libby of Cumberland County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate;

Senator Peggy Rotundo of Androscoggin County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate

Barbara Stoddard of Portland, representing an adult education provider;

Budagu Makoko of Westbrook, representing a small business;

Hermenegildo Paulo of South Portland, representing a school administrative unit;

Mufalo Chitam of Portland, representing a member of the immigrant community.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ORDER** to be **PLACED ON FILE**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 47

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

January 28, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under PL 23, Chapter 643, Part N, I am pleased to appoint Senator Peggy Rotundo to the *Working Group to Recommend any Changes to Eligibility Standards for Expenditures from the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund*, effective immediately.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 50

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

January 28, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under EO 2, FY 24/25, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force*, effective immediately:

The Following Communication:

S.C. 29

Senator Nicole Grohoski of Hancock County, representing a member of the Senate holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

Senator Jim Libby of Cumberland County, representing a member of the Senate holding the second-largest number of seats in the Legislature.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

January 27, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Part 10-A, Ch. 319, §3371.2-B, I am pleased to appoint the following to serve as members of the House of Representatives to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, effective immediately:

Representative Michel Lajoie of Lewiston, reappointment;
Representative Stephan Bunker of Farmington; and
Representative Dean Cray of Palmyra.

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 54

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

January 28, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Chapter 631-A, §25002, I am pleased to appoint Dina Malual of Westbrook to the *Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations*, effective the date of this letter.

She will be serving as a representative of an organization with expertise in legal and policy matters related to public benefit programs that assists individuals with low incomes.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 57

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

January 29, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under EO 2, FY 24/25, I am pleased to appoint the following members to serve on the *Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force*, effective immediately.

These members will serve as the two members of the House of Representatives who are from each of the two parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature:

Representative Daniel Sayre of Kennebunk;
Representative Nathan Carlow of Buxton

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 65

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

January 30, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under MRSA Title 5, Part 30, Chapter 623, §24051, I am pleased to appoint the following House members to the *Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council*, effective immediately.

These members will serve as the two members of the House of Representatives who are from each of the two parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature:

Representative Michele Meyer of Eliot; and
Representative Amanda Collamore of Pittsfield, as a
reappointment.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 68

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

January 31, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 20, Ch. 5, Part 679, Subpart A, §679.110 (b)(2) of federal law, I am pleased to reappoint the Honorable Amy Roeder of Bangor to the *State Workforce Board*, effective immediately.

Representative Roeder will continue to serve on this board as a member of the House of Representatives.

Should you have any questions regarding this reappointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 76

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

February 3, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Part 8, Chapter 310, §3111, I am pleased to reappoint the following to the *Office of New Americans Advisory Council*, effective immediately.

These members will continue to serve as the two members of the House of Representatives who are from each of the two parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature:

Representative Flavia DeBrito of Waterville; and
Representative Amy Arata of New Gloucester

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please
do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 77

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

January 31, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 10 MRSA, Part 1, Chapter 1-B, §21, I am pleased to reappoint the following House members to the *Maine-Island of Ireland Trade Commission*, effective immediately:

Representative Kelly Murphy of Scarborough will continue to serve on this commission as a member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

Representative Steven Foster of Dexter will continue to serve on this commission as a member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 78

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

February 3, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Part 8, Chapter 310, §3111, I am pleased to appoint Fatuma Hussein of Auburn to the *Office of New Americans Advisory Council*, effective immediately.

Ms. Hussein will serve on this advisory council as a member of the immigrant community.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 43

MAINE GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

January 27, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Michael 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 Governmental Facilities Authority due by February 1, 2025.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. I can be reached at 622-9386 or by email at terry@mgfa.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Terry Hayes
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 44

**MAINE HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL
FACILITIES AUTHORITY**

January 27, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Michael 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 Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority due by February 1, 2025.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. I can be reached at 622-1958 or by email at terry@mhhefa.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Terry Hayes
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 45

MAINE MUNICIPAL BOND BANK

January 27, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Michael 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 Bond Bank due by February 1, 2025.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. I can be reached at 622-9386 or by email at terry@mmbb.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Terry Hayes
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 49

**MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

January 28, 2025

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 Public Employees Retirement System due by February 1, 2025.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Dr. Rebecca M. Wyke
Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 51

MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

January 28, 2025

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, 2025.

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:

S.C. 52

**STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

January 29, 2025

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

RE: Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. §12023(2)

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., §12023, please consider this the transmittal letter for the required report from the Workers' Compensation Board due by February 1, 2025.

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

Sincerely,

S/John C. Rohde
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 53

**MAINE MUNICIPAL AND RURAL
ELECTRIFICATION COOPERATIVE AGENCY**

January 28, 2025

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, 2025.

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:

S.C. 55

MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

January 29, 2025

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 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 Senate President Daughtry,

Enclosed are the reports required under 5 M.R.S.A. §12023, due February 1, 2024. The reports include: a list of all procurements in 2024 exceeding \$10,000 for which competitive procurement was waived; a list of contributions made in 2024 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 2024, therefore, there is nothing to report.

In 2024, the Maine Turnpike Authority made over \$136 million in payments to approximately 600 vendors. The vast majority of these payments, approximately \$94 million, were for competitively bid products or services or were legally or legislatively required. The Authority sole-sourced approximately \$42 million in 2024. One-half of the sole-sourced amount is attributed to a large paving contract that only one vendor submitted a bid. 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/Peter Merfeld
Interim Executive Director

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 56

**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY**

January 27, 2025

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, 2025.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Mr. James Cohen S/Ms. Patricia Quinn
Chairman Executive Director
Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 58

LORING COMMERCE CENTRE

January 23, 2025

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 Loring Development Authority due by February 1, 2025.

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

Sincerely,

S/Jonathan M. Judkins
President/CEO

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 59

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

February 1, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan D. 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, 2025.

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

Sincerely,

S/Carlos R. Mello
Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 60

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

January 28, 2025

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, 2025.

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

Thank you.

S/Alice Herrick
Director of Fiscal Operations for Maine Maritime Academy

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 66

MAINE CONNECTIVITY AUTHORITY

January 30, 2025

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 Connectivity Authority due by February 1, 2025.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Andrew Butcher
President

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 67

MAINE REGIONAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President
Maine Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
Maine House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Subject: Government Accountability Report (5 MRSA §12024)

Dear Ms. President and Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

MRRA was created in 2006 by the Maine Legislature (5 MRSA §13083-G) as a municipal corporation charged with the responsibility to implement the reuse master plans for Naval Air Station Brunswick (NAS Brunswick) and the Topsham Annex, which closed as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

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

S/Jeffrey K. Jordan
Deputy Director

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 69

SUNRISE COUNTY ECONOMIC COUNCIL

January 30, 2025

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to MRSA Title 5, section 12023, the Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) is pleased to submit the 2023-2024 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 the 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 20 acres and five commercial buildings comprising 75,000 square feet. The Authority is working to bring these facilities back into productive use.

In 2023-2024, WCDA procured by competitive bid the services of Machias Glass works to fit new doors on the Warehouse and Chapel. The work was complete at a total cost of \$12,858.50. The Authority also used competitive procurement to find contractors for general repairs on the Recreation Building, and the following work has been completed: roof repairs, replacing broken windows and door, removing overgrown vegetation, general debris removal inside the building and secured the building from any leaking. The total cost of all bids related to the Recreation Building was \$48,239.50.

SCEC's Brownfields Assessment program allocated \$124,000 to fund Phase I & II environment assessments of the former Administration Building on the Cutler Base.

The Authority made no procurements 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:

S.C. 71

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

January 31, 2025

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 University of Maine System (UMS) due by February 1, 2025 documenting our qualifying sole source procurements and contributions in FY24.

UMS is the state's largest driver of educational attainment and economic development. Beyond producing Maine's skilled workforce and research-driven innovation, the System positively impacts the state's economy as one of Maine's largest employers and by purchasing goods and services from Maine businesses or those that employ Mainers. In FY24 alone, UMS invested \$95.4 million directly in the Maine economy through the purchase of goods and services from vendors based in 436 communities from Fort Kent to Kittery.

As it conducts business, our System is committed to ensuring the greatest value for tuition and taxpayers, and transparency and fairness for our vendors. While competitive procurement is our standard, there are legitimate reasons allowed by State law and corresponding UMS policy that the competitive process was waived for the purchases detailed in this report.

If you need any additional information, please contact UMS Chief External & Governmental Affairs Officer Samantha Warren in my office at samantha.warren@maine.edu.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support of Maine's public universities.

Sincerely,

S/Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor
University of Maine System

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 72

MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

January 31, 2025

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, 2025. 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:

S.C. 73

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

January 31, 2025

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 CDS Annual Legislative Report due by February 1, 2025.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Dan Hemdal
State Director of Child Development Services

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 74

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

January 29, 2025

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, I am pleased to deliver this the letter of transmittal for the required report from Efficiency Maine Trust due by February 1, 2025.

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.**

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Establish a University of Maine Medical School and to Dedicate Funds from Raising the Cigarette Tax to the School"
S.P. 133 L.D. 377

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot,
Representative: RANA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Student Homelessness"
S.P. 150 L.D. 384

Presented by Senator RAFFERTY of York.
Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and
Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, CURRY of Waldo,
INGWERSEN of York, NANGLE of Cumberland, PIERCE of
Cumberland, Representative: DODGE of Belfast.

Bill "An Act to Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools"
S.P. 182 L.D. 396

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and
Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York,
LAWRENCE of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives:
CROCKETT of Portland, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROEDER of
Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Access to Quality Family Child Care for
Military Personnel by Exempting Certain Military Child Care
Providers from State Licensing Requirements"
S.P. 169 L.D. 388

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, MOORE of
Washington, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative:
FARRIN of Jefferson.

Resolve, to Increase Transparency and Evaluate Emergency
Response Through a COVID-19 Review Commission
S.P. 171 L.D. 389

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative JAVNER of Chester and
Senator: MOORE of Washington, Representative: ARATA of New
Gloucester.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Health Care System in Maine"
S.P. 135 L.D. 378

Presented by Senator BAILEY of York.

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services"

S.P. 145 L.D. 380

Presented by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec,
Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, COLLINS of Sidney,
DRINKWATER of Milford, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HAGGAN of
Hampden, PAUL of Winterport, WHITE of Guilford.

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 Enable Mortgage Portability and Promote Housing Affordability in the State"

S.P. 147 L.D. 381

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CYRWAY of Kennebec,
HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: LANCE of Paris,
SOBOLESKI of Phillips, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WOOD of
Norway.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity"

S.P. 149 L.D. 383

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner and Senator:
CYRWAY of Kennebec, Representatives: HENDERSON of
Rumford, LANCE of Paris, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, WOOD of
Norway.

On motion by Senator CURRY of Waldo, **REFERRED** to the
Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Confidential Information Gathered for Forest Fire Emergency Response and Planning"
S.P. 138 L.D. 379

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

On motion by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Communications by Alleged Victims Regarding Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Cyberbullying or Discrimination from Litigation"
S.P. 154 L.D. 385

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham and Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, DOUDERA of Camden.

Bill "An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal"
S.P. 167 L.D. 386

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MCCABE of Lewiston.

Bill "An Act to Advance Recognition of the Inherent Rights of the Wabanaki Nations"

S.P. 177 L.D. 391

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations"

S.P. 181 L.D. 395

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CARNEY of Cumberland, HARRINGTON of York, MARTIN of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Governor from Relocating Illegal Immigrants to This State"

S.P. 168 L.D. 387

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon and Senator: HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, SMITH of Palermo.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a System of Revenue Sharing for the Use and Management of Coastal Resources"

S.P. 148 L.D. 382

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips and Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec, Representatives: LANCE of Paris, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WOOD of Norway.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Designate Certain Bridges as Veterans Memorial Bridges"

S.P. 179 L.D. 393

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Improve Transportation Infrastructure in Maine"

S.P. 180 L.D. 394

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Raise the Contribution Cap for Unenrolled Candidates"

S.P. 176 L.D. 390

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Cannabis"

S.P. 178 L.D. 392

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

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

S.P. 175

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 11, 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.

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

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Washington Academy Girls Volleyball Team, of East Machias, which won the Class B State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 46

Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative: TUELL of East Machias.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I stand today to recognize some incredible athletes from Washington Academy.

Today, we gather to celebrate a team that has not only demonstrated unparalleled skill, but also the true meaning of teamwork, determination, and perseverance. Washington Academy's volleyball team has just completed a historic season, and we stand here in awe of their remarkable achievement, capping off a perfect season with a volleyball State Championship.

First and foremost, let's take a moment to recognize what a monumental accomplishment this is to go undefeated - it gives me the goosebumps - especially in a sport as dynamic and competitive as volleyball, is a feat that speaks volumes about the dedication, discipline, and work ethic of each player and the coaching staff that guided them along the way. Throughout this season, Washington Academy was more than just a team, they were a cohesive unit, each player contributing their unique strengths, lifting each other up, and showing the world what it means to support one another both on and off the court. From the powerful serves to the precise digs, the communication, and the relentless hustle, every point scored was a testament to the hard work put in behind the scenes. And then, of course, we have to talk about the incredible victory over York in the state final. The pressure was on, the stakes were high, but Washington Academy rose to the occasion and delivered a performance that will be remembered for years to come. They didn't just win a game, they won with grace, with focus, and with heart.

To the players, you've made your school, your community, and me, and everyone who has supported you incredibly proud. Your commitment, your passion, and your unwavering belief in each other were keys to your success. Every practice, every drill, every match, it all culminated in this beautiful moment of triumph. You've set a standard of excellence for future teams to aspire to, and you've shown the world just how powerful teamwork can be.

To the coaches, your leadership, guidance, and preparation were integral to this team's success. You not only helped these young athletes improve their skills, but you instilled in them values, the values of discipline, respect, and sportsmanship. You've been a driving force behind this team's journey, and your dedication has made all the difference. Washington Academy, you have proven what is possible when talent, hard work, and unity come together. Congratulations on completing a perfect season and securing that well-deserved State Championship title. May your example continue to shine brightly as a beacon of what can be achieved with determination, teamwork, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber, the roster of this incredible team, including: Arianna Pighi, Autumn Balyint, Lily Hennessey, Avery Libby, Lola Smith, Kellan Schwinn, Danaeh Neptune-Miliano, Abigail Maker, Jadalyn Graham, Aubrey Faulkingham, Reese Crosman, Aubrey Hankins, Olivia Jorgensen, as well as their coach Corey Schwinn and their assistant coach Kalyn Stevens. They are the guests today of the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore. Would they please rise and accept the hearty greetings of the Maine State Senate?

Emmett Appel, of Windsor, who has been named a delegate to the 2025 United States Senate Youth Program, one of only two delegates from Maine. The United States Senate Youth Program was developed to provide a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 47

Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Representative: SMITH of Palermo.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Reny.

Senator **RENY:** Thank you, Madam President. I'm so happy to be able to stand up today and speak a little bit about this program and Emmett Appel, one of my constituents from Windsor.

So, this United States Senate Youth Program is such an amazing educational opportunity. One of my previous students had the opportunity to do this program I believe it was last year or the year before and had amazing things to say about it. There are two - only two - student delegates from every state in the country. So, it's a big honor. And they go down to Washington DC and they get to hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Department of State and the Department of Defense, among others, and usually, and hopefully going forward they still do, they get to participate in a meeting with the President and possibly one with a Justice of the US Supreme Court.

So, it's such a big deal and only outstanding students are chosen. And Emmett Appel is an outstanding student and an exceptional human being and I'm so proud of him, just like I know his parents are. So, thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber, Emmet and parents Bill and Suzanne Appel, of the town of Windsor. They are the guests today of the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Reny. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford (Cosponsored by Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, WARREN of Scarborough), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 173

JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPLICATION TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES CALLING AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT ADDRESSING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, Article V places substantial authority and responsibility upon the legislatures of the several states to ensure that the Federal Government and each of its branches remain within their enumerated powers and remain protective of the rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, a variety of important movements have arisen within the legislatures of the several states to address a wide variety of

concerns that may be appropriately addressed within the context of Article V of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Maine wishes to address these various approaches in a bipartisan manner; and

WHEREAS, an agreement to call for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution does not commit the Legislature of Maine to approve any proposal that may arise from any subsequent convention; rather, this Legislature is simply exercising its will to engage in a formal process with other states to give full and authoritative consideration to various proposals consistent with the topics expressed by this joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, under the United States Constitution, Article V, the Congress of the United States, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the United States Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments that, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the United States Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, if the Congress of the United States does not propose by December 31, 2026 an amendment to the United States Constitution to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases, the Legislature of Maine hereby applies to the Congress of the United States, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application is intended to address the same subject matter as applications from other states under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution to call a convention to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases; and this application must be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but may not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the

several states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate and presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each of the several states in the nation, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

READ and REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

S.P. 183

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Maine's Black history and the story of Maine's role in the global economy of enslavement have been largely effaced from our narratives and from our collective consciousness; and

WHEREAS, from the earliest arrivals of people from Europe and Africa in the Americas, Africans and African Americans have been part of the story of this land, and researchers have identified over 2,000 people of color who lived in what is now called the State of Maine prior to the year 1800; and

WHEREAS, Africans who were brought involuntarily to these shores suffered generations of enslavement, and their descendants faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation and the denial of basic fundamental rights; and

WHEREAS, people living in Maine engaged in the slave trade for at least 113 years, with the earliest known slaving voyage departing from Maine's shores taking place in 1749 and the last known slaving voyage on a Maine-built vessel taking place in 1862; and

WHEREAS, a total of 70 Maine-built vessels are known to have transported enslaved people, representing only the tip of the iceberg, and slaving vessels were constructed in at least 26 Maine towns; and

WHEREAS, Maine merchants were deeply entangled in the global economy of enslavement, as were the banks that handled their accounts and the insurance firms that secured their investments, and at a time when Havana, Cuba was the hub of the illicit slave trade, that city was Portland's number one trading partner; and

WHEREAS, it was not only Maine's coastal towns that were complicit in the global economy of enslavement through shipbuilding and merchant trading activities, but its inland regions as well: crops and livestock were routinely shipped in the "coastwise" trade to provision the sugar plantations of the West Indies, along with salted fish and even ice from this region; and

WHEREAS, great quantities of Maine timber were processed into barrel staves and shipped throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to the West Indies, where enslaved Africans were forced to fashion them into barrels; they then filled these barrels with the sugar and molasses that were shipped back to Portland and distilled into rum, which was used as currency in purchasing more captive Africans; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in all walks of life have shown resilience despite suffering under slavery and injustice and have made significant contributions throughout the history of the State and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, and in this State, African Americans have remained devoted to the proposition that all of us are created equal, even when their own rights were denied; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month was officially observed for the first time in 1976 when President Gerald Ford issued a message recognizing Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 Congress passed a Public Law designating February as "National Black History Month"; 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 recognize the significance of Black History Month as an important time to honor the contributions of African Americans in the nation's history and encourage all people in the State to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the State and the nation.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Good morning, Madam President, and Honorable Colleagues of the Senate. Today, I rise to commemorate Black History Month; a time that I am always proud to do in order to reflect on our collective journey as a state and a country. A time to honor our nation's past, present, and future, and to honor the enduring legacy and vibrant contributions of our black communities, because black history is the story and history of America.

As a ninth generation Mainer, I know Maine's history is richer and more diverse than many recognize. Nearly 2,000 people of color lived in Maine prior to the 19th century and, as was noted in the Joint Resolution, their contributions have helped shape our shared story.

Built in 1831 by free African Americans, the Abyssinian Meeting House, located in my district, stands as a powerful symbol of this legacy. This simple structure on the Portland peninsula has been a sanctuary for worship, a dynamic hub for revival services, abolitionist rallies, and temperance meetings, and a gathering place for concerts, lectures, and conventions, organized by trailblazing groups like the Female Benevolent Society and the Portland Union Anti-Slavery Society. Its role as the only Underground Railroad site in Maine recognized by the National Park Service ensures that this legacy of those early community builders and activists continue to inspire us all.

The story of the Abyssinian Meeting House is one of ordinary people coming together to build something rather extraordinary. In my own life, I was reminded daily of that same spirit by my father, the Honorable Gerald E. Talbot. While he made history as the first African American elected to the Maine Legislature in 1972, proudly serving three terms, and was an active part in this state's progress towards equality and justice, it was actually his quiet commitment to fairness and justice in our everyday lives that truly inspired me. Whenever he spoke of his accomplishments, he would always refer to himself as a human rights activist, believing that the ultimate honor in this life was to serve people and to recognize their dignity and worth. And his work, much like the work of those early community builders who raised the Abyssinian, taught me that every person's story matters, and that actual progress comes from caring for one another.

It is that very motivation, that love for your neighbor, that calls us to this action today. But I will take one moment to just share a personal story. I have very, very fond memories of coming to this building during my father's tenure here. On days when he would load up - now remember, this is the 1970s - a VW van, one of those old classic VW vans, and he would get up early in the morning, and he would load that van with all the books that he had collected, pins and buttons and memorabilia that reflects African American history. He would load that van up early in the morning, driving here to Augusta, and then unload it piece by piece by himself, set up a display in the Hall of Flags, and leave it there each day, taking it down each day, and repeating that for a month, in order to make sure that his colleagues had some exposure to Maine's -- our state's African American history but, more importantly, that the students and the young people that came and traveled throughout this building were exposed to that history, given the fact that none of it was being taught in our schools.

Even as we honor African Americans' monumental achievements, we must confront the challenges that persist, and will tell you one note, that that collection that he put together throughout his life then became the foundation of the African American Collection of Maine at the University of Southern Maine.

We know that systemic racism has long been entwined with the economic realities of our communities. We see the echoes of past economic disenfranchisement in today's wage gaps, housing instability, and unequal access to quality education. Madam Speaker -- Madam President, it is our duty as lawmakers to craft policies that address these enduring inequities. Our work must also extend to the names we call our public spaces. When our maps bear placenames rooted in racial slurs and exclusion, they

serve as daily reminders that the wounds of our past remain unhealed and continue to affect how our children and our communities feel and belong. These names continue to symbolize a legacy of marginalization and violence that we must confront.

In closing, and I thank you for your attention today, Black History Month is a time for us to take a look back with pride but also with the determination to move forward with resolve. This commemoration should not only remind us of the monumental contributions of black Mainers but also reaffirm our collective commitment to ensuring policies that guarantee every Mainers' voice will help shape our collective future and we will leave no one behind.

Thank you, Madam President, and I will say Happy Black History Month to you all.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 184

**JOINT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE**

WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of formerly enslaved parents, was one of the most important Black educators, civil rights and women's rights leaders and government officials of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the college she founded set educational standards for today's Black colleges, and her role as an advisor to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave African Americans an advocate in government; and

WHEREAS, born on July 10, 1875 near Mayesville, South Carolina, she was one of the last of Samuel and Patsy McLeod's 17 children. After the Civil War, Mary's mother worked for her former owner until she could buy the land on which the family grew cotton. By age 9, Mary could pick 250 pounds of cotton per day; and

WHEREAS, she benefited from efforts to educate African Americans after the Civil War, graduating in 1894 from the Scotia Seminary, a boarding school in North Carolina. She next attended Dwight Moody's Institute for Home and Foreign Missions in Chicago, Illinois. But with no church willing to sponsor her as a missionary, she became an educator. While teaching in South Carolina, she married fellow teacher Albertus Bethune, with whom she had a son in 1899; and

WHEREAS, the Bethunes moved to Palatka, Florida, where Mary worked at the Presbyterian church and also sold insurance. In 1904, her marriage ended, and, determined to support her son, she opened a boarding school, the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. Eventually, her school became a college, merging with the all-male Cookman Institute to

form Bethune-Cookman College in 1929. It issued its first degrees in 1943; and

WHEREAS, a champion of racial and gender equality, Bethune founded many organizations and led voter registration drives after women gained the right to vote in 1920, risking racist attacks. In 1924, she was elected president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and, in 1935, she became the founding president of the National Council of Negro Women. She also played a role in the transition of Black voters from the Republican Party, "the party of Lincoln," to the Democratic Party during the Great Depression. A friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, she became the highest-ranking African American woman in government when President Franklin Roosevelt named her director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration in 1936. She remained there until 1944. She was also a leader of the president's unofficial "Black Cabinet"; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Bethune organized the National Conference on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth and fought to end discrimination and lynching. In 1940, she became vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons, or NAACP, a position she held for the rest of her life. As a member of the advisory board that in 1942 created the Women's Army Corps, she ensured that the corps was racially integrated. Appointed by President Harry S. Truman, she was the only woman of color at the founding conference of the United Nations in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Bethune regularly wrote for leading African American newspapers the Pittsburgh Courier and the Chicago Defender and was a businesswoman who co-owned a Daytona, Florida resort and cofounded the Central Life Insurance Company of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, Bethune's life was celebrated with a memorial statue in Washington, D.C. in 1974 and a postage stamp in 1985, and her final residence is a National Historic Site. On July 13, 2022, she became the first African American to be represented with a state statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this occasion to honor the life and memory of Mary McLeod Bethune, a great American, for her efforts to educate African Americans, her political activism and advocacy in government and her championing of racial and gender equality.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise to add a few more comments in recognition of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

First, I want to shout out to my fellow senators, Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Senator Craig Hickman, to our legislative staff, and to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations of the State of Maine, all of whom pitched in to help us put together a plan for this month.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, black history is

American history. My history is your history. Our history is American history. Our plan for Black History Month for 2025 is to include a celebration of historic Americans as part of the senate proceedings on each of the four session days this month. The national theme for Black History Month in 2025 is African Americans in Labor. In an article published by the National Education Association in 2023 entitled Five Black Leaders that Shaped the Labor Movement, the National Education Association highlights Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

You've heard some details of Dr. Bethune's life. She was born in 1875, so this is the 150th year anniversary of her birth. In 1904, at 29 years old, she founded a school for black girls in Florida. Twenty years after that, she was elected the first woman president of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, which ultimately became the National Education Association, which is part of why she was highlighted.

On your desks today is a copy of one of Dr. Bethune's final writings, more of a prayer poem, entitled My Last Will and Testament. I offer a few key highlights from this incredible document and urge you to read it in its entirety at your leisure.

"Here, then is my legacy. I leave you love. Love builds. It is positive and helpful. I leave you hope. Yesterday, our ancestors endured the degradation of slavery, yet they retained their dignity. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. This kind of confidence will aid the economic rise of the race by bringing together the pennies and dollars of our people and ploughing them into useful channels. I leave you thirst for education. Knowledge is the prime need of the hour. I leave you a respect for the uses of power. Power, intelligently directed, can lead to more freedom. I leave you faith. Faith in God is the greatest power, but great, too, is faith in oneself. I leave you racial dignity. I want Negroes to maintain their human dignity at all costs. I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men. I leave you finally a responsibility to our young people. The world around us really belongs to youth for youth will take over its future management." Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. Thank you.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. Mary McLeod Bethune was one of my favorite inspirations and educators in history. I wanted to simply begin Black History Month by reading a very familiar poem from another great black woman, Maya Angelou.

"You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies. You may trod me in the very dirt but still, like dust, I'll rise. Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you beset with gloom? Because I walk like I've got oil wells pumping in my living room. Just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, just like hopes springing high, still I'll rise. Did you want to see me broken, bowed head and lowered eyes? Shoulders falling down like teardrops, weakened by my soulful cries? Does my haughtiness offend you? Don't you take it awful hard because I laugh like I got gold mines digging in my own backyard. You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise. Does my sexiness upset you? Does it come as a surprise that I dance like I've got diamonds at the meeting of my thighs? Out of the huts of history's shame, I rise up from a past that's rooted in pain, I rise. I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide, welling and swelling I

bear in the tide. Leaving behind nights of terror and fear, I rise. Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear, I rise. Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise. I rise. I rise."

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Senator **TEPLER:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to recognize some folks who are here with us. Mr. Jose Gomez of Waterville, who is an officer with the Topsham Police Department. And Mr. Gomez conducted an act of extreme bravery recently that resulted in the saving of a life in Topsham. I truly appreciate the actions that he took as representative of our Topsham police force.

There was a gentleman who was attempting to jump off the bridge on the bypass in Topsham, Route 196, and Mr. Gomez was able to pull him to safety and convince him to stay with us. That is an incredible action for anyone to take, and we truly appreciate the actions of Officer Gomez and recognize him for not only his bravery but his humanity. Thank you very much, Officer Gomez.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just wanted to thank Mr. -- Officer Gomez as well. On behalf of the Waterville area as well and I think that, you know, it -- being a law enforcement officer myself, I know that he did it just because of being an officer and the pride that he takes and, you know, you don't think of yourself, you think of what you're doing at the moment and you think of how you're going to try to take care of the situation, and even -- it doesn't cross your mind of whether it's going to do harm to yourself or not, you just go into it. And it takes a lot of courage, and it takes a lot of courage to be an officer, and I feel that, you know, he's the prime example of being a hero in our area. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber, Officer Gomez and Police Chief Marc Hagan of the Topsham Police Department. They are the guests today of the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Tepler, as well as the entire Senate. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate?

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. Today, we are joined by one of the most exciting new ventures in our state, the Portland Hearts of Pine. Based out of Fitzpatrick Stadium, they are joining the USL League One, which has 14 clubs coast to coast. League One

plays host to some of the most exciting and professional soccer in America.

The Hearts were founded by Gabe Hoffman-Johnson of Falmouth. Gabe played locally at Falmouth High School, earning All-American honors, before playing at both the collegiate and professional levels. Combining his passion for soccer and social change with his love for our state, Gabe has worked tirelessly to bring Maine's first and only pro soccer club to life. Our community is very proud of Gabe's leadership, and I am happy he is joining us here today with the team they have been building for months.

Led by head coach and sporting director Bobby Murphy, the team brings extensive play and experience at the professional level from across the world - from Jamaica to Poland, Brazil to Australia. Coach Murphy and his staff, Assistant Coach Alex Ryan and Goalie Coach Yuta Nomura, have assembled a roster poised to wear the pride of Portland and the entire state of Maine across their chest at every game. The Hearts have already local homegrown talent, Biddeford's Colby Quinones and Lewiston's Khalid Hersi. These two are making their communities so proud and are a further testament to the success of Maine's homegrown athletes on the national stage.

While their first home game isn't scheduled until May 4th, which isn't a session day, the Hearts are already generating great buzz, with nearly 25,000 followers on their Instagram. With improvements at Fitzzy underway, the local residents and leaders have come to look forward to a positive impact bringing a community-based created soccer club home.

Founded with the mission to create an elite club that reflects the character of Maine, the Hearts also bring exciting economic potential to our restaurants, hotels, and downtowns. This isn't just for Portland, with fans coming in for a game and fanning out to explore our state and all it has to offer. As a sports fan myself, I am thrilled to have a new home team to root for and look forward to attending many Hearts matches. Regardless of where we are politically, we can all come together to cheer on good soccer and complain about that offsides call.

In the Chamber with us today are club leaders and members of the Hearts of Pines inaugural team. I thank them for joining us today and wish them the best of luck as they kick off the 2025 season in March by playing at the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

Thank you so much, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber, the Hearts of Pine soccer team, head coach Bobby Murphy as well as founder Gabe Hoffman-Johnson. They are of the town of Portland. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce, as well as the entire Senate. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate?

Off Record Remarks

Joint Resolutions in Memoriam:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall, of Westport, New York. Beginning in 1980, Mr. Coggeshall worked in marketing, development and sales in Boston, Massachusetts, Topsham and Rockland, offering platforms for information technology solutions and promoting clean alternative energies, especially green hydrogen. He cultivated support for land conservation efforts, worked with colleagues at the Hydrogen Energy Center, volunteered on Democratic committees, presided over Newcastle's Glidden Cemetery Association and, not unlike his grandmother, the first female United States Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, worked to educate others about the ethical relevance of New Deal programs. Mr. Coggeshall will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

SLS 57

Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Representative: CRAFTS of Newcastle.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. I want to acknowledge the passing of my friend, Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall, with whom I worked for many years to preserve the Maine homestead and legacy of his grandmother, Frances Perkins, the first female United States Secretary of Labor and the architect of New Deal programs like Social Security, Workers Compensation, the minimum wage, a 40-hour workweek, and much, much more.

I'm happy that Tomlin lived to see the Frances Perkins homestead declared a national monument by President Biden last December. It was the culmination of Tomlin's hard work over many years.

Tomlin was a very kind, humble man, who possessed a great generosity of spirit. I extend my sympathy to his husband, Christopher Rice, and to all who knew and loved Tomlin. He will be deeply missed. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

Duane Bickford, of Fairfield. Mr. Bickford served his community as a member of the Fairfield Fire Department for 32 years. Joining as a volunteer, he later served full time and became Fire Chief in 2000. He retired from the fire service in 2023. He was a member of the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association, serving a term as the association's president, and of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. He trained both new and old recruits at Kennebec Valley Community College and was greatly involved

with creating the fire training center, a project years in the making. After he retired, he was elected to serve on the Fairfield Town Council. Mr. Bickford will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

SLS 70

Sponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative: RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise in honor of Duane Bickford, who began his firefighting career as a volunteer firefighter in 1987. In the year 2000, he was promoted to fire chief after 23 years, as Chief Bickford, he retired in 2023, and in November of 2024, he died at the age of 66.

Duane Bickford will always be remembered for the dedication he gave to his community as a firefighter. An example of this is in Chief Bickford's pursuit of a better training and training infrastructure in the state of Maine. The labor of love produced the training center in Fairfield which the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety unanimously voted to name the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility. Planning for the training center began in 2013, and in 2023, a ribbon cutting center opened the training center, which serves all of central Maine. In addition to building the training center, Chief Bickford took the time to train both the new and old recruits personally at Kennebec Valley Community College. He also taught several youth firefighter recruitment classes. And I had the honor to serve with Chief Bickford on the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, which he initiated the idea of getting 11 training centers throughout the state. And this was one of his pet peeves, he wanted to make sure that all firefighters throughout the state would have the chance to be trained in their local areas and not leave their areas for long distances, which would've been hard to do and also it actually enticed more firefighters to be able to do their job safely and be able to go home to their families.

In my interactions with Chief Bickford, he was also pleasant to talk to, and shared pride for his department and his personal -- and to his family, his personnel and to his family whom he loved dearly. Chief Bickford will always be remembered for his contributions to firefighting in the State of Maine. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Move the Natural Areas Program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the

Law Governing Administration of the Bureau of Resource Management Within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife"

H.P. 256 L.D. 402

Bill "An Act to Support Hunger Prevention in Maine"

H.P. 269 L.D. 415

Bill "An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Records Belonging to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Related to the Bureau of Forestry"

H.P. 271 L.D. 417

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Define 'Solitary Confinement' for the Laws Governing Jails and Correctional Facilities"

H.P. 259 L.D. 405

Bill "An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center"

H.P. 273 L.D. 419

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions"

H.P. 275 L.D. 421

Bill "An Act Regarding Technical Violations"

H.P. 277 L.D. 423

Bill "An Act Regarding the State Forensic Service"

H.P. 282 L.D. 428

Come 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 Fund the Carleton Project to Provide Additional Access to a Nontraditional Secondary School"

H.P. 274 L.D. 420

Bill "An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units"

H.P. 291 L.D. 437

Come 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 Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources"

H.P. 298 L.D. 444

Bill "An Act to Lower Electricity Costs by Repealing the Laws Governing Net Energy Billing"

H.P. 304 L.D. 450

Bill "An Act to Require Testing of Solar and Wind Energy Developments for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination"

H.P. 305 L.D. 451

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate

H.P. 254 L.D. 400

Bill "An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems"

H.P. 255 L.D. 401

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station"

H.P. 261 L.D. 407

Bill "An Act to Impose Moratoria on Hydropower Dam Removal and on Water Release from Nonhydropower Dams and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Such Dams" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 284 L.D. 430

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

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

Bill "An Act to Track Certain Information Regarding and Seek Federal Reimbursement for Medical Care Provided to Asylum Seekers"

H.P. 283 L.D. 429

Bill "An Act Regarding Driver's Licenses for Individuals in Foster Care"

H.P. 285 L.D. 431

Bill "An Act to Prohibit State Agencies from Promoting the COVID-19 Vaccination to Children"

H.P. 290 L.D. 436

Come 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 to Enhance the Mobility of Licensed Massage Therapists Across State Lines"

H.P. 263 L.D. 409

Bill "An Act to Enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact"

H.P. 270 L.D. 416

Bill "An Act Regarding the Establishment of Fees and Fee Caps for Dental Provider Licensing and Permits"

H.P. 302 L.D. 448

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Definition of 'Transient Occupancy' in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 252 L.D. 398

Bill "An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations"

H.P. 267 L.D. 413

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Deceptive Pricing"

H.P. 268 L.D. 414

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes"

H.P. 281 L.D. 427

Bill "An Act to Amend the Automotive Repair Statute"

H.P. 296 L.D. 442

Bill "An Act to Stimulate Housing Production by Increasing the Threshold Before Participation in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Is Mandatory"

H.P. 299 L.D. 445

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

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

Off Record Remarks

Bill "An Act to Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage and Enhance Sporting Opportunities for Maine's Youth by Allowing Maine's Youth to Hunt on Sunday"

H.P. 293 L.D. 439

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fish and Wildlife"
H.P. 295 L.D. 441

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms"

H.P. 265 L.D. 411

Bill "An Act to Remand Individuals with Pending State Probation Violations to the Department of Corrections Following Initial Proceedings"

H.P. 272 L.D. 418

Bill "An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age"
H.P. 278 L.D. 424

Bill "An Act to Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit in the Attorney General's Office"

H.P. 279 L.D. 425

Bill "An Act to Protect the Human Rights of Individuals in the State"

H.P. 280 L.D. 426

Bill "An Act to Authorize a Court to Conditionally Discharge Certain Criminal Defendants"

H.P. 303 L.D. 449

Come 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 Repeal the Laws Providing for Paid Family and Medical Leave and to Reimburse Taxpayers" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 260 L.D. 406

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

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality"
H.P. 276 L.D. 422

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to Issue Additional Securities for the Replacement of the Legislative Management System for the Senate and the House of Representatives"

H.P. 288 L.D. 434

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Retention of Proceeds from Municipal Foreclosures"
H.P. 253 L.D. 399

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Municipalities to Apportion Real and Personal Property Taxes on the Basis of Property Classification
H.P. 286 L.D. 432

Bill "An Act to Expand the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit"

H.P. 289 L.D. 435

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions"

H.P. 292 L.D. 438

Resolve, to Study the Economic Effects of Instituting a Seasonal Sales Tax

H.P. 294 L.D. 440

Bill "An Act to Exempt Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion from the State Sales and Use Tax"

H.P. 297 L.D. 443

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Relating to Requirements for School Bus Drivers"

H.P. 287 L.D. 433

Bill "An Act Regarding Driver Education"

H.P. 300 L.D. 446

Bill "An Act to Expand Ferry Service to Matinicus Isle"

H.P. 301 L.D. 447

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

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

Bill "An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification"

H.P. 251 L.D. 397

Bill "An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Lottery Winner Identities"

H.P. 258 L.D. 404

Come 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 the Sale or Provision of Self-administered Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Kits"

H.P. 266 L.D. 412

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Holders of Distressed Mortgages from Fraud"

H.P. 257 L.D. 403

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Parental Consent to Withhold Life-sustaining Measures for a Minor or to Comply with a Do-not-resuscitate Order for a Minor"

H.P. 264 L.D. 410

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allow Unaccompanied and Emancipated Minors to Access Their Vital Records At No Cost"

H.P. 262 L.D. 408

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

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Report of the Chair - Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Require the Valuation of Energy Produced by Hydropower Dams and Exploration of Alternative Ownership Options Before They Are Removed"

H.P. 135 L.D. 212

Reported a recommendation of **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE REFERENCE.**

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.**

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**, in concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin and Senator **CYRWAY** of Kennebec, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning in memory of and lasting tribute to Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall, of Westport and Duane Bickford, of Fairfield.