

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
February 11, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Mark Philbrick of Clinton Baptist Church.

PASTOR MARK PHILBRICK: Thank you, Senator Daughtry. I've never been introduced with quite a flourish as that one there, and it looks like it's a great time to pray. So, let's pray.

Dear Lord, thank you for this beautiful day, and what a great state that we get to live in. It was a little brisk this morning, I think ten below at my house, but my weather app said there's no threat of mosquitos today, so that's good. And Lord, just a wonderful time of the year where we can enjoy our state with the snow and I've been snowmobiling and snowshoeing and just a wonderful place to live, Lord.

And I thank you for these Senators here who work to make it a peaceful place, and a prosperous place, and a safe place, Lord. I pray that you'd bless them in a particular way as they serve our state. We're so thankful for that. I'm thankful in particular for my Senator, Senator Farrin, and the Senator from the region where my church is, Senator Cyrway. And Lord, we just thank you for our great land and Lord, I thank you for our Governor. I pray, Lord, that she would continue in her love for her state. Thank you for all the hard work that she does. I thank you for our nation, I thank you for our President. He's a tremendously hard worker, and we appreciate that.

Thank you for being a great God to us, and a verse that I read this morning, Lord, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. And thank you for your love for us, we praise you for this day. In Jesus Name, amen.

National Anthem Performed by Biddeford High School Marching Band.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Ingwersen of York County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Medical Provider of the Day, Robert Rousseau, PA-C, EM-CAQ of Sidney.

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

Off Record Remarks

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Ruthie Gusler, of Phillips, who was named American Miss National Teen at the American Miss National Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 71

Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from Oxford, Senator Martin.

Senator **MARTIN:** Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise today to speak about an impressive young lady from my district, Ruthie Gusler. Please stand. Thank you very much.

Ruthie resides in Phillips, where she works on a family farm. An incredible athlete, she has been the Junior Olympic gymnast for seven years and is a world champion in jiu-jitsu. She decided to get involved with pageantry because it helps get exposure for her numerous volunteer projects, including anti-bullying efforts and mentoring young girls. And of course, like any athlete, she loves competing. On top of that, she is an Airman First Class in the Civil Air Patrol and hopes to become a pilot in the Air Force one day - a dream she will surely attain.

Ms. Gusler's positive attitude is infectious and inspirational. In a recent Facebook post, she wrote, every morning when I wake up, I give thanks that I am alive, healthy, and ready to face a new day with a positive attitude. Be kind, don't judge, and pass on your best smile. What great advice. We should all take heart, Madam President, and I want to congratulate Ms. Gusler on her American Miss National Teen crown and thank her for her great work in our community and around the globe. Keep up the effort. We all know you will go far.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Lilah Landers, of Harrison, who was named American Miss National Junior Teen at the American Miss National Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 72

Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: CIMINO of Bridgton.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. Good morning. Madam President, I rise today to speak about a very impressive young woman from Harrison, Lilah Landers.

Lilah is an eighth grader dedicated to community service. She runs a platform called Blood Brothers that raises funds for the New England Hemophilia Association. Her commitment to this cause is spurred by her brothers and her grandfather, who have the disease. On top of that, she sells candy bars and uses the money to buy gifts such as socks, puzzles, lotion, slippers, blankets, stuffed animals, scarves, and gloves for residents at the nursing homes in nearby communities. She's well known in the community because she is always volunteering.

Outside of helping her neighbors, Lilah loves being in the spotlight. After years of doing standup comedy, she auditioned and won a recurring role in the TV show Go Iguanas. On the set, Lilah showed off her brain power. Her ability to memorize the script earned her a great reputation as a stand-in. If one of the actors was absent or late, the cast relied on Lilah to know that part, too.

Madam President, I want to congratulate Ms. Landers on her American Miss National Junior Teen crown and thank her for her great work volunteering in our community in Western Maine. We all know that she will be a very big star someday.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Brooklyn Kelly, of Winslow, who was named American Miss National Ambassador at the American Miss National Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 73

Sponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, FLYNN of Albion.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to recognize Brooklyn Kelly, an inspiring young woman from Winslow, in my district, for being named the American Miss National Ambassador in the American Miss National Pageant.

This pageant celebrates women and girls for being intelligent, ambitious, and kind. Ms. Kelly is a President's List student at Husson College University and hopes to become a professor one day. In addition to pageants, Ms. Kelly volunteers with Habitat of Humanity. President Carter would've been proud. The competition places a strong emphasis on poise, communication skills, and achievement, making it an invaluable experience for contestants beyond the stage. In discussing what she enjoys about the pageant, she said, "I am beyond passionate about the stage; where confidence shines, dreams unfold, and every moment is a chance to inspire and connect."

I want to -- before I go any further, I'd like to express to the family and parents support is so important in helping these individuals in their passions, so I thank them as well. I want to congratulate Ms. Kelly on her crown and wish her well as she pursues her dreams and as she serves as the American Miss National Ambassador. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Jennifer Fortin, of Augusta, who was named National Elegant Miss at the American Miss National Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 89

Sponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, ROLLINS of Augusta.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Jennifer Fortin, a devoted member of the community in Augusta, who was recently named National Elegant Miss at the American Miss National Pageant.

Ms. Fortin is an active volunteer in many organizations. In 2024, she was awarded the Maine Volunteer of the Year after logging 1200 hours of community service. She has also received many Presidential Service Awards for her efforts. She is a true servant leader and will use her honor as National Elegant Miss queen to continue serving her community.

I think we can all look up to Ms. Fortin's volunteer resume and service as we serve our districts. I want to congratulate Miss Fortin for winning this honor and thank her for all she has done to contribute to our community in the Kennebec Valley and the State of Maine. Congratulations and best wishes in your service as National Elegant Miss and in all your future endeavors, and I'm so thankful that she's here today to receive this honor. Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Lauren Jakub, of Chelsea, who was named American Miss National Mrs. at the American Miss National Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 36

Presented by Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate, I rise to honor Lauren Jakub of Chelsea, and just to say that Kennebec County obviously has some of the best women and girls in the state.

Lauren Jakub has earned the American Miss National Mrs. title. She entered the competition to showcase how women can balance multiple roles while breaking barriers in male dominated spaces. She found pageantry to be a powerful platform for personal and professional growth. As a mother, wife, and professional, Mrs. Jakub appreciates how the experience encourages self-improvement across all aspects of life. The judges noted that Mrs. Jakub is very inspirational, supportive, upbeat, and knows how to have a great conversation, and was commented on as being a strong interviewer and a focused woman. I also note she's passionate, enthusiastic, and wise.

Please join me in congratulating Lauren Jakub of Chelsea for her award. Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Biddeford High School Marching Band, which placed first at the New England Scholastic Band Association Fall Marching Band Finals. The band also brought home awards for Best Drum Major, Best Color Guard, Best Visual, Best Overall Effect and Best Percussion. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 95

Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Cosponsored by Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from York, Senator Ingwersen, in regards to Item 4-21.

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President and my Fellow Colleagues of the Senate, I rise here today with great pride to welcome the talented students of the Biddeford High School Marching Band to the State House.

In November of 2024, the Biddeford High School Marching Band competed in the New England Scholastic Band Association Championship Division I competition. This group of highly talented musicians competed against 29 other schools and came out on top, earning the title the best marching band in all of New England. The Tigers also took home titles for best drum major,

best color guard, best visual, best overall effect, and best percussion. This win marks a significant milestone for the band, showcasing the strength of Biddeford's music and arts programs.

A few things to note: one, 23 of the 37 members of the band were new to marching band that very year and, two, the marching band program made a comeback in 2019, after a ten-year hiatus, and three, this was the Tigers first time in 15 years competing in the regional competition. And yet, they defied the odds. The Biddeford High School Marching Band is a shining example of dedication, musical excellence, and teamwork. Under the leadership of their outstanding director, Michael Murphy, they have put in countless hours of practice perfecting their craft and showed us that if you put your mind to it, anything is possible.

To the students that are here today, I just want to say that your hard work does not go unnoticed. Your music inspires and your commitment to excellence is something to be proud of. On behalf of my district and the entire Senate here today, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude, and I'm so happy that you'll be coming back with your instruments in May. Thank you very much.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook (Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 219

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 AS 211 MAINE MONTH

WHEREAS, 211 Maine is a Maine-based health and human services and emergency preparedness and response helpline that provides Maine people free and confidential referrals to needed resources; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides around-the-clock service statewide, offering efficient and effective responses from people employed in Maine to questions arising from the growing complexities in health, financial and human services and the needs of Maine people, and offers interpreter services to those whose first language is not English; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, 211 Maine call specialists have assisted with requests for information regarding topics ranging from substance use and recovery services to housing support and food resources, in 2024 fielding over 75,000 calls, text messages and e-mails from people looking for help for themselves or someone they know, amounting to over 271,000 minutes of service; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides emergency operations support during times of natural and other disasters, including assisting the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency, fielding calls from those impacted by windstorms and floods, collecting critical data and

helping people find winter warming shelters or cooling centers; and

WHEREAS, this past year, 211 Maine directly distributed over \$208,000 in emergency heating assistance, potentially preventing utility shut-offs and keeping people from spending winter nights in the cold; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine handles a number of specialized services and partnerships, including the opiate helpline and the gambling helpline and serving as the centralized access point for the Help Me Grow Maine program, helping families with children from birth to 8 years of age get connected to needed services, and is also a resource for finding information about needs such as COVID-19 advice, tax preparation and browntail moth caterpillar prevention, mitigation and treatment; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides a powerful example of how the government and nonprofit and private sectors can work together to improve the quality of life of the people of Maine; 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 February 2025 as 211 Maine Month.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This Resolution is one that I'm pleased to put forward every year so far since I've been in the Senate, as we try to raise awareness primarily for this really important program and service that is provided through the United Way in collaboration with a whole host of state partners, called 211.

And I first was introduced to them during my work on the opioid task force that we formed back in I believe it was 2017 -- well, I was in the House then, but -- because we were looking then for some sort of service that would help to get the word out to our constituents and folks around Maine, and Representative Beebe-Center at the time was there as well and trying to find a way to help get the word out about what services are available for those struggling with addiction, particularly at that point around the opioid crisis. And was really impressed by what they're doing there and what they're able to do and since then have grown to be able to provide even more services and share even more information with our constituents.

And so, I just think it's really critical, particularly for the new members here, to learn about this entity and to know that this is a resource that you can send your constituents to when you don't have the answers - which oftentimes, I know I don't - and have a lifeline in that regard, that you're not, you know, sort of forced to just throw your hands up. But these folks, literally, their job is to just connect our folks that we represent and care about with the people that can help them. Whether that's -- as you heard, right, whether it's addiction, whether it's finding a cooling center on a hot summer day, whether it's getting access to heat, you know, you name it, they've got a way to connect your constituency with somebody that can help.

So, I just want to say thank you to the folks that are there - Nikki's in the back here - and we appreciate all the good work that she's doing. We're going to circulate some more information as well that you can bring back to your districts and share directly with your constituents later on this year, and certainly the United Way for all the good work that they're doing. Thank you. We appreciate it a lot, on behalf of all the people that we serve, and look forward to, you know, seeing these numbers expand even more over the next year in terms of minutes served and just are so appreciative for all of the work that you're doing there, it's really important, and we look forward to continuing this partnership through state government. So, thank you, and congratulations.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec (Cosponsored by Senator: DUSON of Cumberland), the following Joint Resolution: S.P. 236

JOINT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF STAGECOACH MARY FIELDS

WHEREAS, standing six feet tall and powerfully built, Stagecoach Mary struck fear in the hearts of bandits in the American Old West. Stagecoach Mary Fields carried a gun, smoked, drank and had a wicked temper. Mary was the first African American woman to carry mail on a Star Route for the United States Post Office Department; and

WHEREAS, Mary Fields was born into slavery in either 1832 or 1833; her exact birthday is unknown. Mary's birthplace and other details about her early childhood are also unknown. What is known is that she worked for the Warner family in West Virginia in the years leading up to the Civil War. Mary was emancipated in 1863 or shortly after the Civil War; she then moved from West Virginia and went up the Mississippi River, where she worked on steamboats; and

WHEREAS, Mary ended up in Toledo, Ohio. There, Mary began working at Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart. There is debate over how and why Mary ended up working at the convent, yet what is known is that Mary's gruff style was not something that fit into the serene calm of the convent; and

WHEREAS, during her time at the convent, Mary washed laundry, bought supplies, managed the kitchen and grew and maintained the garden and grounds. Mary was known to lose her temper and was quick to yell at anyone who stepped on the grass after she had cut it; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear why Mary left Toledo. Many sources think that she moved to take care of an ill friend. Mother Amadeus Dunne, who had been Mother Superior in Toledo before moving west, had fallen ill. Mary and Mother Amadeus were known friends. Some records date their friendship all the way back to the Warren family in West Virginia, though this claim is not substantiated; and

WHEREAS, once she arrived in the West, Mary got to work. Mary mainly worked for Saint Peter's Mission near Cascade, Montana, where she did many of the jobs she had done before in Toledo. This mission was run by Ursuline nuns and was where Mother Amadeus Dunne resided. Mary performed maintenance and repair work. She also gardened and did the laundry. One major thing that Mary was also in charge of was the locating and delivery of supplies needed for the mission. Yet Mary had no official contract with the mission and nuns; thus, she was free to come and go as she pleased, taking additional work outside the mission; and

WHEREAS, Mary was unfortunately dismissed from the mission. This was due in part to her crass behavior, unruly temper and penchant for drinking and smoking in saloons with men. The final straw appears to involve an argument in which Mary and another mission janitor, a man, got into a fight and were agitated to the point that both drew guns. While neither ever fired their gun, this incident was enough to make the bishop of the area demand that the nuns relieve her of her duties; and

WHEREAS, Mary moved to neighboring Cascade, Montana, where she tried but failed to open one or more eateries. They were said to have failed due to her giving nature of allowing folks who could not pay to eat for free. Mary also reportedly set up a laundry shop and did other odd jobs to make money. It is around this time that Mary's drinking, gun toting and smoking become well known to the townspeople of Cascade; and

WHEREAS, in 1895, in her early sixties, Mary obtained a contract with the United States Post Office Department to be a Star Route Carrier. A Star Route Carrier was an independent contractor who used a stagecoach to deliver the mail in the harsh weather of northern Montana. Mary was the first African American woman and the second woman to receive a Star Route contract from the United States Post Office Department. This contract was secured with the help of the Ursuline nuns. The nuns wished to look out for Mary as they felt connected with her. This was because they did not wish to see her go as the nuns heavily relied on Mary for work done around the mission; and

WHEREAS, Mary built a reputation of being fearless while working as a mail carrier. Mary's job was not only to deliver the mail but to also protect the mail from bandits, thieves, wolves and the weather as well. Mary gained her nickname "Stagecoach Mary" due to her use of a stagecoach as a method of transportation to deliver the mail. Mary was also known for the guns she carried. During the time that Mary was delivering the mail, she was known to carry both a rifle and a revolver; and

WHEREAS, Mary spent 8 years delivering the mail as a Star Route Carrier. During this time, Mary became beloved by the locals of Cascade, Montana for her fearlessness and generosity, as well as for her kindness to children. Mary retired from being a Star Route Carrier in the early 20th century. After her retirement, Mary settled into life in Cascade, Montana; and

WHEREAS, upon retiring, Mary started a laundry business in town. She also opened an eatery as well as babysat the local children. She remained famous, even becoming the mascot for the town's baseball team. Mary was beloved by the people of

Cascade, so much so that she drank in saloons for free and ate for free at local restaurants and hotels; and

WHEREAS, Mary Fields died on December 5, 1914. After her death, the townspeople raised money to have her buried in a cemetery on a road she drove frequently that linked Cascade to the mission. Mary's funeral was said to be one of the largest ever held in town; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to celebrate the life of Stagecoach Mary Fields.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. Today, we recognize Stagecoach Mary Fields. We began Black History Month last week talking about this theme, the theme for labor, and we have honored people who have been involved in the labor movement, but today, we're going to honor a laborer herself.

Stagecoach Mary Fields' six-foot tall and powerful built stature, her wicked temper and penchant for guns, whisky, and cigars made her an imposing figure in the Old West. Stagecoach Mary was the first African-American woman to carry mail on a Star Route for the United States Post Office Department, a gig she began when she was a spry 63 years old.

Mary Fields was born into slavery in 1832 or 1833 - her exact birthdate is a mystery, as is her birthplace - but she is believed to have been born in Hickman County, Tennessee. Her life has been shrouded in fable, folklore, and myth from the start. Following her emancipation during or immediately following the Civil War, Mary headed north to Ohio after working in West Virginia and on steamboats up the Mississippi River. Her gruff smoking, drinking, cussing self worked at a convent as groundskeeper and kitchen manager. She had a reputation for lighting into anyone who dared to step on her lawn after she had freshly cut it. In 1885, Mary made her way west. She went to Montana, likely to care for a sick friend, Mother Amadeus Dunne. She worked for the convent there as well until the bishop got wind of her vices. The last straw before she was kicked out of the convent was a fight between her and a male janitor, in which both pulled their guns, though neither of them pulled the trigger.

Mary took on odd jobs and attempted to start various eateries after leaving the convent, but none of it seemed to stick. Her eateries were said to have failed due to her giving nature of allowing folks who could not afford it to eat for free. Mary also set up a laundry shop and did other odd jobs to make ends meet. Then, in 1895, in her early 60s, she made history. She won a contract from the U.S. Postal Office Department to be a Star Route carrier, carrying and delivering mail in a stagecoach, protecting her cargo from thieves, bandits, wolves, and the weather. Wielding a rifle and a revolver, a fearless reputation, a heart of gold, and a kindness to children. Mary was the first black woman and only the second woman to do this work for the U.S. Postal Service. Legend has it that she never missed a day of work, brutal Montana winters and all. Her imposing figure and six-horse team could be seen materializing out of sleet, snow, rain, or dust, every season of the year.

Mary Fields died on December 5, 1914. After her death, the

townspeople raised money to have her buried in a cemetery on a road she drove frequently that linked Cascade to the mission. Her funeral was said to have been one of the largest the town ever held.

Stagecoach Mary's mythic figure has been represented many times in popular culture, demonstrating our nation's fascination with this mold-shattering woman. Here's a list of adaptations of her legend to the screen as well as the actors who tried to fill her rather large britches. In the documentary South by Northwest, Homesteaders in 1976, Fields was played by Esther Rolle from Good Times. In the TV movie The Cherokee Kid, 1996, Fields is played by Dawnn Lewis. In the TV movie Hannah's Law in 2012, she is played by Kimberly Elise. In the short western film, They Die by Dawn in 2013, Fields is played by music superstar Erykah Badu. In the film The Harder they Fall in 2021, she is played by Zazie Beetz. In the film Outlaw Posse in 2024, she is played by Whoopi Goldberg. And on the AMC TV series that ran from 2011 to 2016, Hell on Wheels, Fields is played by Amber Chardae Robinson in five episodes during the 2015-16 season.

And so, Madam President, as we see black figures on the screen, read about them in the pages of a book, or hear about them in folklore and legend, let us remember the larger-than-life real human beings who are behind these stories. Let us raise a toast to Stagecoach Mary and her gun-toting, cigar-smoking, whisky-drinking, mail-carrying memory, which will live on as a part of our shared history.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Provision of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 That Allows an Employer Member of a Group Self-insurer to Insure Its Employees Through a Fronting Arrangement"
S.P. 67 L.D. 131

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

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

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

In Senate, February 4, 2025, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **CONSIDERATION**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.P. 220

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

February 5, 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 February 5, 2025, 25 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 February 5, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food" (S.P. 206) (L.D. 468) (Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York) (Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, PLUECKER of Warren, SALISBURY of Westbrook, DUCHARME of Madison, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Bill "An Act to Support Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine" (S.P. 213) (L.D. 473) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 194) (L.D. 461) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative MINGO of Calais and Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, QUINT of Hodgdon, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, STROUT of Harrington, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation" (S.P. 190) (L.D. 457) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland and Senator: CURRY of Waldo, Representatives: KESSLER of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth)

Bill "An Act to Require School Administrative Units to Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs" (S.P. 209) (L.D. 470) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SARGENT of York, MITCHELL of Cumberland)

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Expand Intensive English Language Learner Programs (S.P. 210) (L.D. 471) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland and Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, RANA of Bangor, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, YUSUF of Portland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Extend the Law Governing Electric Power and Service Residential Rates for Military Veterans' Organizations" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 201) (L.D. 466) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Bill "An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines" (S.P. 207) (L.D. 469) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford)

(Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, SMITH of Palermo)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees" (S.P. 200) (L.D. 465) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Improve Maine's Environment and Protect Natural Resources" (S.P. 214) (L.D. 474) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Senator: MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Ban the Sale of Polystyrene Packing Peanuts in the State" (S.P. 216) (L.D. 476) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden and Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, ANKELES of Brunswick)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Require the State to Pay 90 Percent of All General Assistance Expenses of Municipalities and Indian Tribes" (S.P. 186) (L.D. 453) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Regulate the Use of Prior Authorization for Health Care Provider Services" (S.P. 192) (L.D. 459) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Improve Public Defense Services" (S.P. 189) (L.D. 456) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Improve Court Procedure and Update Family Law" (S.P. 191) (L.D. 458) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System" (S.P. 196) (L.D. 462) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Part B Premiums for Certain Retired State Employees" (S.P. 205) (L.D. 467) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources" (S.P. 215) (L.D. 475) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc)
(Cosponsored by Senator: MOORE of Washington)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General by Ranked-choice Voting (S.P. 185) (L.D. 452) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require a Statewide Popular Election of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney General for 4-year Terms (S.P. 188) (L.D. 455) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: SUPICA of Bangor)

Transportation

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 193) (L.D. 460) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland)

Resolve, to Rename the New Ten Mile River Bridge on Pequawket Trail in Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 197) (L.D. 463) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 198) (L.D. 464) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative CIMINO of Bridgton)

Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal (S.P. 212) (L.D. 472) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Senators: STEWART of Aroostook, BALDACCI of Penobscot, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative: BABIN of Fort Fairfield)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Allow Candidates for Secretary of State or Attorney General to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act" (S.P. 187) (L.D. 454) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Following Communication:

S.P. 235

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

February 7, 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 February 7, 2025, 12 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 February 7, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld" (S.P. 228) (L.D. 510) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senator: MARTIN of Oxford, Representatives: PLUECKER of Warren, BUNKER of Farmington, DILL of Old Town)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization" (S.P. 224) (L.D. 506) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, STROUT of Harrington)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund LifeFlight of Maine" (S.P. 225) (L.D. 507) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MOORE of Washington, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, STOVER of Boothbay, BUNKER of Farmington, LAJOIE of Lewiston)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Students in Secondary Schools with 200 or Fewer Students" (S.P. 230) (L.D. 512) (Sponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham and Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Spouse of a School Board Member to Serve as a Stipend Employee Within the School Board's Jurisdiction" (S.P. 232) (L.D. 513) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias and Representatives: QUINT of Hodgdon, SAYRE of Kennebunk, STROUT of Harrington, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act Regarding the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission" (S.P. 221) (L.D. 503) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, RANA of Bangor)

Resolve, to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment (S.P. 233) (L.D. 514) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, RANA of Bangor)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Improve Family Court Procedure" (S.P. 222) (L.D. 504) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford and Senators: BAILEY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: POIRIER of Skowhegan, KUHN of Falmouth, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CARUSO of Caratunk, O'HALLORAN of Brewer)

Bill "An Act to Update Processes and Fees in the Probate Court System" (S.P. 223) (L.D. 505) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney and Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, HASENFUS of Readfield, KUHN of Falmouth, SINCLAIR of Bath)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Allow a Journeyman Electrician to Supervise 3 Helper Electricians" (S.P. 227) (L.D. 509) (Sponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, FARRIN of Somerset, CYRWAY of Kennebec, BICKFORD of Androscoggin)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Constitutional Officers to Be Elected by Popular Election (S.P. 226) (L.D. 508) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec, FARRIN of Somerset, BALDACCI of Penobscot, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: WARREN of Scarborough, SUPICA of Bangor)

Transportation

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council (S.P. 229) (L.D. 511) (Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

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. 250

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

January 30, 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 30, 2025, 62 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 30, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Support Investment in Agriculture" (H.P. 199) (L.D. 299) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council" (H.P. 208) (L.D. 308) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, HEPLER of Woolwich)

Bill "An Act to Improve Efficiency of Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities by Requiring the Designation of State Inspectors as Essential" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 211) (L.D. 311) (Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, CRAY of Palmyra, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, QUINT of Hodgdon, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Employ Mental Health Personnel Within the Maine State Police" (H.P. 198) (L.D. 298) (Sponsored by Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Prohibiting Unauthorized Paramilitary Training" (H.P. 203) (L.D. 303) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Guilford) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CHAPMAN of Auburn, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, HENDERSON of Rumford, HYMES of Waldo, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LIBBY of Auburn, THORNE of Carmel)

Bill "An Act to Stabilize Rural Maine Emergency Medical Services Departments" (H.P. 206) (L.D. 306) (Sponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Resolve, to Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Technical Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses (H.P. 230) (L.D. 330) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, LIBBY of Auburn)

Bill "An Act Regarding County Jails" (H.P. 233) (L.D. 333) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill)

Bill "An Act Regarding County Jail Funding" (H.P. 234) (L.D. 334) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act Regarding Education" (H.P. 195) (L.D. 295) (Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York)

Bill "An Act to Add a Personal Finance Course to the State Graduation Requirements in High Schools" (H.P. 215) (L.D. 315) (Sponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, BELL of Yarmouth, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CARLOW of Buxton, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MONTELL of Gardiner, ROLLINS of Augusta)

Bill "An Act Regarding School Funding and General Purpose Aid for Local Schools" (H.P. 218) (L.D. 318) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Promote Student Attendance in Schools by Requiring the Commissioner of Education to Implement School Attendance Best Practices" (H.P. 222) (L.D. 322) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

Bill "An Act to Fund Staff Support for the State Board of Education" (H.P. 223) (L.D. 323) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, STOVER of Boothbay)

Bill "An Act to Increase Reading Proficiency in Public Schools" (H.P. 224) (L.D. 324) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland)

Resolve, to Provide Funds to the Maine Indian Education School District to Develop a Wabanaki-centered Curriculum (H.P. 239) (L.D. 339) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LOOKNER of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SACHS of Freeport, SARGENT of York)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District" (H.P. 193) (L.D. 293) (Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay) (Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln)

Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State (H.P. 200) (L.D. 300) (Sponsored by Representative MCINTYRE of Lowell) (Cosponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any Proceeding" (H.P. 201) (L.D. 301) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act Regarding Energy, Utilities and Technology" (H.P. 207) (L.D. 307) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport)

Bill "An Act to Include Nuclear Power in the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard" (H.P. 242) (L.D. 342) (Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Bill "An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State" (H.P. 243) (L.D. 343) (Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, FOSTER of Dexter, HYMES of Waldo, MCINTYRE of Lowell, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund" (H.P. 196) (L.D. 296) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DOUDERA of Camden, DUCHARME of Madison, RIELLY of Westbrook, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STOVER of Boothbay, WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 197) (L.D. 297) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Bill "An Act to Enact the Safe Cosmetics Act" (H.P. 217) (L.D. 317) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, RANA of Bangor)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Provide Additional Funding to Support In-home Personal Support Services for Qualified Senior Citizens" (H.P. 227) (L.D. 327) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, MINGO of Calais, Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports (H.P. 231) (L.D. 331) (Sponsored by

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford) (Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DUCHARME of Madison, FOLEY of Wells, HAGGAN of Hampden, HALL of Wilton, MASON of Lisbon, POIRIER of Skowhegan, QUINT of Hodgdon)

Bill "An Act to Help Child Care Providers by Requiring Recipients of Benefits to Pay the Difference Between the Amount Reimbursed and the Amount Charged" (H.P. 246) (L.D. 346) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, CRAFTS of Newcastle, HASENFUS of Readfield, JULIA of Waterville, LEE of Auburn)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 210) (L.D. 310) (Submitted by the Maine Health Data Organization pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.)

Bill "An Act to Establish Consumer Protections Regarding Small Dollar Loans" (H.P. 214) (L.D. 314) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Establishing the Maine Retirement Savings Board" (H.P. 244) (L.D. 344) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, LANCE of Paris, LIBBY of Auburn, PAUL of Winterport, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, SWALLOW of Houlton, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Implement the Automotive Right to Repair Working Group Recommendations" (H.P. 192) (L.D. 292) (Sponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield) (Cosponsored by Representative: ROBERTS of South Berwick)

Bill "An Act to Allow Residential Housing on Church Property Located in Commercial Zones" (H.P. 219) (L.D. 319) (Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays and the Law Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission Charges on Memorial Day" (H.P. 237) (L.D. 337) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, LANCE of Paris, LIBBY of Auburn)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Amend the Definition of 'Oversized ATV' to Increase the Minimum Weight Requirement" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 241) (L.D. 341) (Sponsored by Representative GUERRETTE of Caribou) (Cosponsored by Representative JACKSON of Oxford and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, COOPER of Windham, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DRINKWATER of Milford, FREDERICKS of Sanford, HENDERSON of Rumford, THORNE of Carmel)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Establish Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Gross Sexual Assaults Against Children and Aggravated Sex Trafficking of Children" (H.P. 232) (L.D. 332) (Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales) (Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, HENDERSON of Rumford, LAVIGNE of Berwick, POIRIER of Skowhegan, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, THORNE of Carmel, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Bill "An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights" (H.P. 235) (L.D. 335) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Size and Balance of Jury Pools" (H.P. 238) (L.D. 338) (Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, DHALAC of South Portland, HENDERSON of Rumford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath)

Bill "An Act Regarding Speedy Trials" (H.P. 240) (L.D. 340) (Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, PUGH of Portland, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Labor

Bill "An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Retired State Employee's or Retired Teacher's Premium for Medicare Part B Under Medicare Advantage" (H.P. 228) (L.D. 328) (Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BECK of South Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DODGE of Belfast, HASENFUS of Readfield, MONTELL of Gardiner, ROLLINS of Augusta, SKOLD of Portland)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act Related to the Disbursement of Revenue Generated from the Harvesting of River Herring" (H.P. 225) (L.D. 325) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, DILL of Old Town, RIELLY of Westbrook)

Bill "An Act to Change the Waiting List System for Commercial Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses" (H.P. 236) (L.D. 336)

(Sponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham) (Cosponsored by Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GERE of Kennebunkport, GIFFORD of Lincoln, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, THORNE of Carmel)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Create Equity in State Senate Representation (H.P. 216) (L.D. 316) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GRIFFIN of Levant, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STROUT of Harrington)

Bill "An Act to Make May Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month" (H.P. 221) (L.D. 321) (Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison) (BY REQUEST)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws" (H.P. 188) (L.D. 288) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Lodging Tax on Campground Sites and Revert to Using the Current Sales Tax" (H.P. 191) (L.D. 291) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GREENWOOD of Wales, MORRIS of Turner, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle)

Bill "An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws" (H.P. 194) (L.D. 294) (Sponsored by Representative BUNKER of Farmington)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Property Tax Exemption Provided to Individuals Who Are Legally Blind" (H.P. 226) (L.D. 326) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRENNAN of Portland, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEE of Auburn, ROLLINS of Augusta)

Transportation

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge (H.P. 189) (L.D. 289) (Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, POIRIER of Skowhegan, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, Senator: BLACK of Franklin)

Bill "An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred" (H.P. 190) (L.D. 290) (Sponsored by Representative BLIER of Buxton) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, DUCHARME of Madison)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation" (H.P. 204) (L.D. 304) (Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle)

Bill "An Act Regarding Transportation in Maine" (H.P. 205) (L.D. 305) (Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Rates of Speed at Which School Buses Travel" (H.P. 212) (L.D. 312) (Sponsored by Representative SWALLOW of Houlton) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Repeal Certain Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements" (H.P. 220) (L.D. 320) (Sponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, GUERRETTE of Caribou, LAVIGNE of Berwick, PAUL of Winterport)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Fine for Passing a Stopped School Bus" (H.P. 229) (L.D. 329) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DHALAC of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill)

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge (H.P. 245) (L.D. 345) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington)

Resolve, to Study the Effect of High-intensity Headlights on Drivers (H.P. 248) (L.D. 348) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Representatives: RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STROUT of Harrington)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act Regarding Maine's Cannabis Industry" (H.P. 202) (L.D. 302) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland)

Bill "An Act to Allow a Political Party to Determine How That Party's Nominee Is Selected in a Primary Election" (H.P. 209) (L.D. 309) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland) (Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOLEY of Wells, MORRIS of Turner, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WHITE of Guilford)

Bill "An Act to Improve Voter Confidence in Electronic Ballot Counting by Requiring Ballots to Contain Unique Identifiers" (H.P. 213) (L.D. 313) (Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, FLYNN of Albion, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MCINTYRE of Lowell, PAUL of Winterport)

Bill "An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue" (H.P. 247) (L.D. 347) (Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn)

(Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CARUSO of Caratunk, LIBBY of Auburn, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MURPHY of Scarborough, POIRIER of Skowhegan)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Laws That Allow Same-day Voter Registration" (H.P. 249) (L.D. 349) (Sponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: HAGGAN of Hampden, JAVNER of Chester, LIBBY of Auburn, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, Senators: LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington)

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. 61

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

January 23, 2025

Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill
Maine Supreme Judicial Court
Capital Judicial Center
1 Court Street, Suite 40
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill,

We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the Judiciary and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 79

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

February 7, 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 Rick Bennett of Oxford 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 and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 96

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

February 7, 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-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, effective immediately.

Senator Glenn "Chip" Curry of Waldo County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate;

Senator Scott Cyrway of Kennebec County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate.

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 and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 97

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

February 10, 2025

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

RE: Reappointment of Shirrin Blaisdell and John Beliveau to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to inform you that I am nominating Shirrin Blaisdell of Manchester and John Beliveau of Portland for reappointment to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Pursuant to Title 5 M.R.S.A. §17102, these nominations are contingent on Confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 98

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

February 10, 2025

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

RE: Reappointment of Paul H. Gendreau and Ronald P. Green,
Jr. to the Workers' Compensation Board

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate Paul H. Gendreau of Waterville, and
Ronald P. Green, Jr. of Plymouth for reappointment to the
Workers' Compensation Board.

Pursuant to Title 39-A, MRSA §151, this reappointment is
contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after
review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 82

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule
505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on
Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the
nomination of Claire Jeffers of Portland, for appointment to the

Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Haggan, K. of Hampden, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Claire Jeffers of Portland, for appointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN**, the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#9)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, STEWART

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Claire Jeffers** of Portland for appointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 83

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Janet May of Bangor, for appointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Haggan, K. of Hampden, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Janet May of Bangor, for appointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#10)

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Haggan, K. of Hampden, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Janet May** of Bangor for appointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Jason A. Bubier of Ellsworth, for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 84

STATE OF MAINE

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Jason A. Bubier of Ellsworth, for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#11)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Jason A. Bubier** of Ellsworth for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 85

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Thomas W. Minch of Cumberland, for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Haggan, K. of Hampden, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	

ABSENT

4

Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Thomas W. Minch of Cumberland, for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#12)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Thomas W. Minch** of Cumberland for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 86

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Elizabeth A. Seal of Lisbon Falls, for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

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

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Haggan, K. of Hampden, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Elizabeth A. Seal of Lisbon Falls, for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **TEPLER**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#13)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, TEPLER

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Elizabeth A. Seal** of Lisbon Falls for reappointment to the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 87

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Stacey M. Harris of Windham, for appointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Haggan, K. of Hampden, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Stacey M. Harris of Windham, for appointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#14)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, TEPLER

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Stacey M. Harris** of Windham for appointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 88

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Elise Baldacci of North Yarmouth, for reappointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	3	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	5	Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland, Rep. Haggan, K. of Hampden

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Elise Baldacci of North Yarmouth, for reappointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#15)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Elise Baldacci** of North Yarmouth for reappointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 89

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

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Riley Worth of Sabattus, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS Senators 3 Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland

Representatives 5 Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Mitchell, C. of Cumberland, Sargent, H. of York

NAYS 0

ABSENT 5 Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Brennan, M. of Portland, Rep. Carlow, N. of Buxton, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland, Rep. Haggan, K. of Hampden

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Riley Worth of Sabattus, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair

S/Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#16)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Riley Worth** of Sabattus for appointment to the Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 90

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development has had under consideration the nomination of F. Jay Astle of Brunswick, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Curry, C. of Waldo, Bennett, R. of Oxford
	Representatives	7	Gere, T. of Kennebunkport, Eder, J. of Waterboro, Golek, C. of Harpswell, Julia, C. of Waterville, Mingo, A. of Calais, Walker, M. of Naples, Yusuf, Y. of Portland
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Sen. Bailey, D. of York, Rep. Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Rep. Malon, M. of Biddeford, Rep. Roberts, T. of South Berwick

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of F. Jay Astle of Brunswick, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Traci Gere
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#17)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination **Jay Astle** of Brunswick for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 91

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development has had under consideration the nomination of Linda E. Smith of Richmond, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Curry, C. of Waldo
	Representatives	8	Gere, T. of Kennebunkport, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Eder, J. of Waterboro, Golek, C. of Harpswell, Julia, C. of Waterville, Mingo, A. of Calais, Walker, M. of Naples, Yusuf, Y. of Portland
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Sen. Bailey, D. of York, Sen. Bennett, R. of Oxford, Rep. Malon, M. of Biddeford, Rep. Roberts, T. of South Berwick

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Linda E. Smith of Richmond, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Traci Gere
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Knox, Senator **BEEBE-CENTER**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#18)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, BEEBE-CENTER

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Linda E. Smith** of Richmond for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 92

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Brent Davis of Skowhegan, for reappointment as a District Court Judge.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland
	Representatives	8	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Lee, A. of Auburn, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		3	Sen. Haggan, D. of Penobscot, Rep. Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Rep. Poirier, J. of Skowhegan

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of The Honorable Brent Davis of Skowhegan, for reappointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#19)		YEAS	Senators	1	Carney, A. of Cumberland
YEAS:	Senators: None				
NAYS:	Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY		Representatives	8	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Lee, A. of Auburn, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
		NAYS		0	
		ABSENT		4	Sen. Haggan, D. of Penobscot, Sen. Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland, Rep. Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Rep. Poirier, J. of Skowhegan

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, BEEBE-CENTER

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **the Honorable Brent Davis** of Skowhegan for reappointment as a District Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of The Honorable Tammy Ham-Thompson of Hallowell, for reappointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

The Following Communication:

S.C. 93

S/Ane Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of The Honorable Tammy Ham-Thompson of Hallowell, for reappointment as a District Court Judge.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#20)

YEAS	Senators	3	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Haggan, D. of Penobscot, Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland
	Representatives	9	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Lee, A. of Auburn, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Rep. Poirier, J. of Skowhegan

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Lea-Anne Sutton of Gorham, for reappointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney
Senate ChairHouse Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#21)

YEAS:	Senators: None	
NAYS:	Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY	

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER,
BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD,
BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER,
CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON,
GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN,
HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN,
LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE,
NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY,
ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS,
TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING,
PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **the Honorable Tammy Ham-Thompson** of Hallowell for reappointment as a District Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 94

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Lea-Anne Sutton of Gorham, for reappointment as a District Court Judge.

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

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **the Honorable Lea-Anne Sutton** of Gorham for reappointment as a District Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 95

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of The Honorable Ann M. Murray of Bangor, for reappointment as a Superior Court Justice.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Haggan, D. of Penobscot
	Representatives	9	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Lee, A. of Auburn, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		2	Sen. Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland, Rep. Poirier, J. of Skowhegan

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Eleven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of The Honorable Ann M. Murray of Bangor, for reappointment as a Superior Court Justice be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#22)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **the Honorable Ann M. Murray** of Bangor for reappointment as a Superior Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 80

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

February 3, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, Senate President
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker of the House
132nd Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 49 An Act to Ensure Quality in Personal Care Agencies

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Michele Meyer
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 81

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

February 3, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, Senate President
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker of the House
132nd Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 346 An Act to Help Child Care Providers by Requiring Recipients of Benefits to Pay the Difference Between the Amount Reimbursed and the Amount Charged

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Michele Meyer
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 75

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

January 31, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau and President Daughtry:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System (MCCS), I respectfully submit the attached report on certain procurements, contributions, and policy changes for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, as required by 5 M.R.S.A. § 12023.

Combined, the seven colleges and the MCCS System Office make thousands of purchases each year. To compile this report, MCCS used customized reporting features built into our business management systems. We then tested the validity of those reports and reviewed several transactions with college personnel.

While reporting is complex, our review indicates that the colleges' compliance with existing policies is extremely high, and expenditures are consistently mission related. In those few areas where we have identified a need for improvement, refinements have been made or are under way.

MCCS will continue to use its internal controls and annual outside audit to adapt its systems to changing needs, and our Board of Trustees will continue to monitor compliance through regular reporting and an ongoing dialogue with auditors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

S/David Daigler
President

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands-on Experiential Learning in Public Schools"

S.P. 202 L.D. 550

Presented by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls and Senator: BLACK of Franklin, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MITCHELL of Cumberland.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create a Separate Department of Child and Family Services"

S.P. 217 L.D. 555

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BLACK of Franklin, FARRIN of Somerset, HICKMAN of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford, Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, LYMAN of Livermore Falls.

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 Create an Outfitter License for Owners and Operators of Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Businesses Who Are Not Maine Guides"

S.P. 204 L.D. 552

Presented by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot. (BY REQUEST)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Update Certain Requirements Regarding Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kits" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 199 L.D. 549

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland and Senators: LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, ARATA of New Gloucester, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, STOVER of Boothbay.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters and Marine Resources up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 208 L.D. 553

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: SMITH of Palermo, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STROUT of Harrington.

On motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Restore Balanced Emergency Powers"

S.P. 203 L.D. 551

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.
Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips and Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor"

S.P. 218 L.D. 556

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.
Cosponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales and Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, PAUL of Winterport.

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 Encourage Resident-owned Communities and Cooperatives and Preserve Affordable Housing Through Tax Credits"

S.P. 211 L.D. 554

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, CURRY of Waldo,
Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, FARRIN of Jefferson,
GERE of Kennebunkport, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow All-terrain Vehicles to Be Used on a Public Way"

S.P. 231 L.D. 557

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative MCINTYRE of Lowell and
Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, STROUT of Harrington.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Intoxicating Hemp Products"

S.P. 195 L.D. 548

Presented by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Senator **MARTIN** of Oxford moved the Senate remove from the **TABLE** the following:

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

Tabled - February 4, 2025 by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford

Pending – **CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.)

)In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.)

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Senator **MARTIN** of Oxford requested and received leave of the Senate to withdraw his motion to remove from the **TABLE**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Senator **MOORE** of Washington requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Legislative Day.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/4/25) matter:

SENATE COMMUNICATION - SENATE PRESIDENT - appointments to Office of New Americans Advisory Council: 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.

S.C. 46

Tabled - February 4, 2025 by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford

Pending - **BEING ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators"
H.P. 347 L.D. 528

Comes 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 Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code"
H.P. 346 L.D. 527

Bill "An Act to Protect Health Care Workers by Addressing Assaults in Health Care Settings"
H.P. 351 L.D. 532

Bill "An Act to Allow Residents of the Department of Corrections to Opt In to Additional Restitution for Their Victims"
H.P. 352 L.D. 533

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Regarding Professional Investigator Communications"
H.P. 353 L.D. 534

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 Enhance Maine's Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by Requiring Hunter Safety Education in Schools"
H.P. 362 L.D. 543

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish Net Neutrality"
H.P. 355 L.D. 536

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Dams"
H.P. 348 L.D. 529

Bill "An Act Regarding Dam Ownership"
H.P. 350 L.D. 531

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 Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains"
H.P. 359 L.D. 540

Bill "An Act to Promote Awareness of the Maine Parentage Act"
H.P. 360 L.D. 541

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 Amend Maine's Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic Alternatives"
H.P. 357 L.D. 538

Comes 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.

Resolve, to Require the Preparation of Preapproved Building Types

H.P. 365 L.D. 546

Comes 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.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on Source of Income, Veteran Status or Military Status"

H.P. 340 L.D. 521

Bill "An Act to Change How the Office of the Attorney General Investigates Officer-involved Shootings"

H.P. 342 L.D. 523

Bill "An Act to Reduce Trafficking in the State"

H.P. 343 L.D. 524

Bill "An Act to Authorize Judicial Disposition of a Juvenile Adjudicated of Murder or a Class A Crime to a Term of Commitment Extending Beyond the Juvenile's 21st Birthday"

H.P. 354 L.D. 535

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action"

H.P. 356 L.D. 537

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.

Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State

H.P. 341 L.D. 522

Bill "An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform"

H.P. 349 L.D. 530

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 358 L.D. 539

Come 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 Regarding Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits"

H.P. 361 L.D. 542

Comes 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 Reduce the Time Period for Challenging the Validity of a Property Tax Lien on Commercial Real Estate"

H.P. 345 L.D. 526

Comes 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 to Modify Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Standards to Permit Exterior, Nonstructural Corrosion That Does Not Directly Affect the Passenger Compartment"

H.P. 366 L.D. 547

Comes 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.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Exempt a Person Making Electrical Installations in the Person's Existing Bona Fide Personal Abode from Licensing and Permitting Requirements"

H.P. 364 L.D. 545

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances"

H.P. 344 L.D. 525

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

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

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

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 131 L.D. 209

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1)**.

Report **READ**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I would request a Roll Call on this item and wish to speak to my motion as well.

So, I know we're not allowed to -- to reference what happened in the Other Body. I do want to point out, though, I do think we are on a collision course here that, thankfully, is avoidable with this document. We're not going to be passing a two-thirds budget today, I just want to get that out on the record. There's not the appetite to do that, and there's a number of reasons why, and I'll elaborate on those now.

The first being process, and we just a couple of weeks ago had a pretty rigorous debate around how this place works, what we think is transparent and right, and one of the chief problems that was identified then is the way in which Appropriations has routinely been operating, certainly in my tenure here, whereby late votes are the norm and not the exception. And it's a problem; it's a problem for a lot of reasons. The first being engagement, you know, who's still around at midnight. The second being efficacy. Are we actually doing the thing that we think that we're doing when we pass a bill at midnight or vote on a bill at midnight. When we come back at 8 a.m. the next morning with fresh eyes, everybody has a chance to digest and review what's happening, or are we rushing to something here because we want the outcome that we are pushing for, which in this case, the majority has been pushing and pushing and pushing to get this document out the door without regard for, in this case, efficacy of what we're trying to accomplish, which, for us, in the minority, I'll be totally transparent with you, is addressing the actual root of the problem. Why do we have this document in front of us at all? It's because MaineCare is over \$400 million in the red. There's a state match

of that, that once we've, you know, depleted the MaineCare stabilization fund down to nothing, we still need about another \$120 million to patch that state share of the hole. And so, that's the driving factor. But not once did it get brought up when it was proposed what we're going to do about preventing that problem from happening again. And I feel, quite confidently, that we're going to be right back here in this position again shortly. It might be six months, it might be 12, but we're not addressing the actual problem.

Just cutting a blank check is not the right solution, it's not the right thing to do. I understand what the implications are if we don't find a way to get to two-thirds, but I also understand what happens if we continue on this collision course of just complete fiscal irresponsibility. And that's what we're on. In good faith, the Republicans put forward a number of different proposals -- because again, I want to reiterate, here's what's happened, the Governor proposes a budget, we have hearings on just her proposals that we have to get through in the first month of the Legislature, with no other ideas even being considered. That's the system. That's what we've got. That's what we're being asked to do. And so, don't be surprised when Republicans have other ideas to put forward. Good ideas. Ideas that we, in fact, need to be considering if we want to address the root of the problem. That's what we've done, that's what we tried to do. We didn't get all that far, in my opinion. When leadership was working with Chairs and Leads and working with the presiding officers, majority and minority, we started to make a little headway. This was last week. And then, all of a sudden, it's we have to do this on Tuesday because, and there's no justification for what -- nobody has given me a firm date of this is when a payment will be missed by a provider. So, we're arguing about a ghost. This looming issue of this gap that can't be addressed unless we do the thing right this second that, lo and behold, the Democrats want us to do. I reject that premise. I do think we have time, I do think we need to get back to the table.

I want to be clear, because the Republicans were strongarmed at 1 a.m. last Tuesday with a take it or leave it option in AFA, half of which was gutted just before that vote was demanded. That's wrong. And I will stand here all day and explain how wrong that is. We shouldn't've even been there. We could've come back the next morning when everybody could've been in attendance, including members of that committee who were told they could leave, that there wouldn't be a vote that night, and they wake up the same morning that -- probably the same experience I had, looking at your phone in the morning, got a text at 1:30, just passed a supplemental budget. Geez, that wasn't the plan at all. What did we pass? Well, it was a take it or leave it option from the Democrats. We get some provisions over here that will no doubt be repealed by you guys in the majority budget you're going to pass here in a couple months, or sooner. I mean, there's no use in like playing this tiptoe game. Let's lay it on the table. Let's lay it on the table for Maine people and they can decide whether they agree with us or not. I don't. I think this is wrong. I think what's transpired in the last week is wrong. I think not allowing a member who was told that they couldn't attend a hearing, because it wasn't supposed to be a vote, they could go home, they could come back the next day, record their vote then? Lying to them, and then refusing to allow them to be -- for a reconsideration motion? That's wrong. And it certainly goes against any precedent in my, you know, nine years that I've been here. To deny a reconsideration motion? Just to get the result that you want. There's many words for that. Strongarming is

certainly --

THE PRESIDENT: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind all Members of this Body that we cannot impugn the motives of another Member, that we need to keep our comments to the matter at hand and not question the motives, but the substance of the policy. The Member may proceed.

Senator **STEWART:** Which Member did I impugn?

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise accusing a fellow Member of lying does not go with the Senate Rules, and to keep it with the policy at hand. And this is the ruling of the Chair.

Senator **STEWART:** The ruling of the Chair. So, the matter at hand being this so-called unanimous report. It's not. It's not unanimous. I'm explaining why it's not unanimous, why this is inaccurate. It's inaccurate. And I think had cooler heads prevailed, both Tuesday or Wednesday morning or Thursday, we wouldn't be in this situation. And the worst part of all this is I actually think we were quite close. I actually think that we were close on Tuesday night to a deal that would've gotten two-thirds, and yet, here we are, with a bill that is certainly about to die. It is important that we pay the providers who are doing critical work in our communities. Republicans don't have an issue with that. We do have an issue with the fiscal irresponsibility that's gone on for the last six years and have put forward a number of proposals to address that. It is a problem that we have out in our communities with General Assistance ballooning at the local level and creating outrageous increases in local budgets that's gone on unaddressed, that needs to be addressed, the Governor suggested that we do that in this very document that was then removed. It's a problem.

We don't have to do this. We can go back to the drawing board, we can figure this out, but this is wrong. Everything is wrong. Procedurally, it was wrong, fundamentally, it was wrong, from a spirit of good faith, it was wrong, and from a policy standpoint, it's still wrong. There's more work to do here. I am confident that we can get back to a place where Republicans and Democrats can agree to something that can garner two-thirds. But forcing it this way, strongarming it this way when you're in the majority is not going to result in that outcome. And I'm telling you now, before there's a Roll Call, observe what's happening elsewhere in this building, it's not going anywhere. There's no need to continue down this path.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise in support of LD 209 as amended.

This responsible budget simply pays our bills for the remainder of the fiscal year and includes languages that reflects our commitment to finding common ground with our Republican colleagues on issues that are important to all of us. This budget does what a supplemental budget is supposed to do; it balances our checkbook and only contains items that are true emergencies. The vast majority of the spending in this budget is to make sure that MaineCare providers across Maine will continue to get paid. The rest is to protect our forests from spruce budworm, bolster our disaster recovery fund, and take care of other matters that have been identified as time sensitive emergencies.

The Appropriations Committee's original deadline for voting on the supplemental budget was Friday, January 31st. There was absolutely no question about this deadline. All committee members were aware of it. For reasons I will explain later in this testimony, the money in the budget needs to get out the door as quickly as possible. It is truly an emergency. It's also helpful to vote out the supplemental budget sooner rather than later because it gives nonpartisan staff more time to produce the document before us today and because it allows appropriations to focus its energy on the biennial budget process, which we started last Monday, and is all-consuming with public testimony.

The \$120 million supplemental budget is very important, but we have a looming \$11.6 billion budget to consider. We had hoped that by setting January 31st as the deadline for voting out the supplemental, we would avoid the scenario where we would have to negotiate the supplemental while holding public hearings in the biennial. But unfortunately, that is exactly what we are doing today.

Early on in our deliberations on the supplemental budget in appropriations, there was an agreement that the budget would contain only those items that were a true emergency, that by focusing on those and putting some of the more controversial parts off until the biennial, we would have a better chance of achieving a two-thirds budget, which was the goal of those negotiating the budget. The Governor's supplemental proposal included some Health and Human Services related initiatives that we felt needed to be aired out over a longer period of time, and so we agreed to move these items out to be considered during the biennial process.

Committee members, in consultation with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services Commissioner, decided to pare the supplemental down to true emergencies. We received assurances that no harm would be done to any of these programs, that they would not run out of money, and we issued assurances that these items would be revisited in the biennial budget. The goal was to create a lean proposal with items that were of special importance to both parties. The hope was that this approach would gain bipartisan support and ensure a quick two-thirds passage of the bill.

On Thursday, January 30th, the day before we were supposed to vote on the supplemental, a list of policy initiatives came in from our colleagues across the aisle that involved some major policy changes. As I've mentioned, the supplemental is not a vehicle for policy initiatives that have not been vetted by the committee and by the public. Determined to achieve a two-thirds budget, we all, however, stayed at the table and entered into a new round of negotiations to deal with these new initiatives, pushing the Friday deadline into the following week, which was last week. Our efforts resulted in an agreement on an amendment to make changes to reform the way DHHS reports MaineCare information to the Legislature, to repeal the easy enrollment program which allows tax filers to check a box in order to enroll in MaineCare, to clarify that gambling winnings are considered toward income eligibility for MaineCare, and to ensure that no MaineCare payments are processed for incarcerated individuals while they are incarcerated.

As the Senate Chair of the committee, I was very clear that we needed to vote the supplemental budget out of committee by Tuesday, February 4th, at the latest, and I made this clear within our committee and made numerous public statements about this as well. On Tuesday, the last day we could pass the budget out of committee in order to bring it to the floor today, both sides had

a workable agreement, when we received more language from our friends in the minority concerning major changes to General Assistance. Both sides in the appropriations committee eventually decided not to pursue any initiatives related to GA, following the lead of the 20 to 0 recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee to take the General Assistance proposal up in the biennial. All four caucuses felt good about the resulting budget, and those present voted it out unanimously. And I just have to say that no one was strongarmed, and I would encourage you to listen to the remarks that were made by some of my Republican colleagues that evening when we, in fact, voted the budget out unanimously.

Both sides -- sorry. I can say with a hundred percent sincerity that it was a pleasure to work with the leads on the committee. They negotiated with honesty and integrity, and they weren't afraid to do the work. They have my greatest respect. While the hour was late when we voted, we did so in accordance with the Joint Rules and acted on a proposal that had been discussed for many days. The amendment that was added was one that had been discussed and agreed upon for several days prior to the vote. There was no last-minute amendments added that night.

All of us would've preferred to finish our work earlier. Unfortunately, we had a public hearing on the biennial budget that afternoon and weren't able to start our work on the supplemental until we had completed that. An additional proposal that was introduced by our Republican colleagues at the last minute also needed to be resolved. As I stated before, no last-minute amendments were introduced when we took our vote, nothing nefarious happened. It was a great surprise when on the next day, Wednesday, chairs were told that the deal we had on the budget was essentially void. We were asked to reconsider in order for our Republican colleagues on the committee to file a Minority Report that included the aforementioned General Assistance language. Joint Rules now state that Members who weren't present for the initial vote can't vote in a way that will generate a new report. They must vote for an existing committee report. In my view, regardless of this new rule, it was very disappointing to be asked to reconsider the vote, and it was disrespectful to those on both sides of the aisle who stuck it out and worked so hard all day and night for a compromise.

On Thursday, the committee voted five to four against reconsideration. The chairs made it clear that anyone not happy with the unanimous report out of the committee had the options of voting against it on the floor or trying to amend it on the floor, and here we are.

Why is it so critical for us now to pass this supplemental with a two-thirds vote? We have to keep payments going to our MaineCare providers. It's that simple. One in three Mainers are on MaineCare. They live in every corner of the state, from Eliot to Houlton, and everywhere in between. Half of the people on the MaineCare rolls are children. Most MaineCare recipients live in rural Maine. 70% of Maine's nursing facility residents rely on MaineCare. According to a Health and Human Services memo from yesterday, February 10th, the \$118 million in General Funds in the supplemental is expected to leverage an additional \$296 million in federal matching funds, for a total of \$414 million in all funds. The memo goes on to say that unless this bill takes effect immediately, the Department will need to temporarily withhold certain payments from providers starting in March in order to ensure that at least a percentage of claims are paid until the Department receives sufficient funding. This withholding of

payments will affect providers in every single one of our districts.

Another emergency that is addressed in this budget is the spread of the spruce budworm. We've been hearing a lot about the spruce budworm lately, and with good reason. According to the Maine Forest Products Council, outbreaks occur every 40 years or so, and the last outbreak was 40 years ago. According to the council, "we can pinpoint exactly where we are in the population cycle of the spruce budworm. Last November, alarm bells were ringing as samples indicated high overwintering larvae populations, otherwise known as hotspots, covering roughly 225,000 to 250,000 acres across much of the northwest border with Quebec and within the organized towns of the St. John Valley." The last spruce budworm outbreak resulted in the destruction of more than seven million acres of fir and spruce, and the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars for the forest industry. The cost of not acting has been estimated at \$794 million and nearly 4,000 jobs. An outbreak can also have enormous environmental consequences. Increased risk of wildfire, poorer water quality, degraded wildlife habitat, and more.

Maine's share of the \$15 million effort to act responsibly and proactively by addressing this problem before it starts is \$2 million. I hope we all agree that this is money well spent.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Appropriation Committee members in both Chambers for their hard work over the past weeks. It has been a distinct pleasure to work with the Senator from Aroostook County, Senator Bernard, and the Senator from Lincoln County, Senator Reny. I would also like to take a moment to thank the staff and the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and the Revisor's Office. They worked very hard this past week to get this bill before us today. They are the unsung heroes of this process. They are, as always, and I'm truly grateful for their work.

Please join me in voting for this budget. It was crafted in good faith, both sides made compromises, committee chairs and their Republican counterparts worked hard to find common ground, exactly the way we were supposed to. This is what we were elected to do. One day soon, I will rise to introduce the biennial budget, and I look forward to having a robust debate on the merits of all the initiatives in it. Now is not the time for that debate, however. Today, we need to pass this emergency supplemental budget to keep our promises to the people of Maine. They are paying attention today. Let's not let them down. Thank you.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. May I pose a question through the Chair?

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **BICKFORD:** Direct care workers are required by law to receive a 1.9% -- a 1.95% increase January 1st. I've been told they haven't received that. Maine wants to keep its promises. My question: is this cost-of-living adjustment been made and continued in the supplemental budget that we're hearing today or is it being taken away from the people that deserve it the most?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford, has posed a question to the Body to any Member who may wish to respond.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. In response to the question, funding for the COLAs was not in the supplemental budget, and there was a lot of discussion about the COLAs.

I think we can say as a Body, Republicans and Democrats alike, that we all feel that the COLAs are very important. However, we thought it best for there to be a fuller conversation about them, particularly since they didn't appear in the supplemental budget as proposed by the Governor, and so, we are planning on taking the discussion about the COLAs up in the biennial. It is certainly our intention. We all know they're very important.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, Madam President. Supporting MaineCare isn't the only emergency measure included in this supplemental budget to discuss. As we have just recently heard, an environmental and economic emergency could be brewing as well. So, this budget also addresses the spruce budworm problem which, if left unchecked, could destroy Maine's forests and cost our state thousands of dollars and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact.

This pest strikes the north woods of Maine approximately every 40 years. The spruce budworm lab at the University of Maine in Orono has been tracking this current outbreak, and we know that when the outbreak struck Quebec, forest fires resulted. We also know that a severe spruce budworm outbreak in Maine could cause a reduction of 500,000 cords of annual wood supply, which is equivalent to about 40% of the 2021 spruce and fir harvest.

As you have also heard this morning, and for those of who you represent districts in which this has a direct impact, if we don't pass this emergency funding, the economic effect - not could be devastating - it will be devastating. As Chair of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I believe it is critical that we spare our state from this outcome. I believe we should be fiscally responsible and ask the corporations who manage Maine's north woods for profit to contribute. That is what our committee proposed to the appropriations committee. The Chairs of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee recommended a state contribution to remediation efforts at 50% of what the appropriations negotiations led to. Again, we recommended 50% of what the negotiations led to.

But I share this as an example of how Democrats negotiated in good faith with Republicans to protect our north woods and our forest products industry. This effort was therefore a bipartisan effort. We live in one Maine, not two, and I want to pause for just a second to thank U.S. Senator Susan Collins for her leadership and her commitment to our state when she secured \$14 million to help combat the spread of spruce budworm in our forest. So, even though the environmental and the economic impact may not be entirely felt by all, as it would have the most impact for our neighbors in Aroostook County, this is a very good example of what we can do together and what Mainers, more importantly, are expecting of us.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Ingwersen.

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise today strongly in favor of this emergency measure because it is truly, in my mind, an emergency, and the emergency is MaineCare.

The Health and Human Services Committee which I chair saw this and unanimously voted through the MaineCare portion and sent it off to AFA. Unanimously. We also unanimously voted to leave out the GA portion, language S, so that we could deal with this very complicated and very serious matter in the biennial budget. That was also unanimous.

So, Medicaid and the children health insurance program, called MaineCare and CHIP here in Maine, provide critical access to comprehensive, cost-effective care for tens of millions of American children and families, older people, those who are pregnant, those with disabilities, and other income eligible adults. More than 400,000 of those people are Mainers. One-third of all people -- one-third of all people here in our state are insured under MaineCare. Half of all Maine kids are covered under these programs. 45% of the population of Washington County, covered by MaineCare. 40% of the population of Aroostook County. An average of 37% of the populations of Oxford, Franklin, Somerset, and Piscataquis County covered by the MaineCare program. 400,000 Mainers. One in three of friends, family, neighbors.

If one in three of our constituents and half of our state's kids are not a factor in the decision we make today and the button we push today to support the supplemental budget, perhaps thinking of the providers may resonate a little more deeply with us. Because in most cases, these same providers - hospitals, nursing homes, home community-based services, for example - they're serving the rest of us as well, the rest of the population as well, in addition to those that are enrolled in MaineCare. What does that mean? That means that stability in the MaineCare program means stability in the healthcare delivery system overall. For all Mainers, all of us, in addition to the direct health benefits of having coverage for one in three of us here in this state, MaineCare strengthens the broader community and economic fabric here by keeping the doors of hospital and nursing homes and home and community-based organizations open, MaineCare provides life-saving care, supports job creation, and sustains our local economies. MaineCare is also the backbone of Maine's mental and behavioral health system. MaineCare payments to providers of these services are the lifeline that enables us to address the mental health needs and the substance abuse disorder treatments needed in our state. The impacts of delays in or decreased payments for these services would be devastating and far reaching. Those providers already operating on very thin margins may be unable to meet payroll and potentially unable to keep their doors open. And when those doors shut, they shut for all of us.

So, when I hear my fellow lawmakers say to me we need to do more for mental health in this state, here's our opportunity today. Here is our opportunity. The roughly one hundred organizations that deliver care to folks with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and brain injuries rely nearly 100% on MaineCare to deliver those services to more than 5,000 adults, 2,000 children, and with a workforce of nearly 9,000 direct support workers. When those doors shut, how will we explain to these individuals and their families that we could not come

together today to do what was necessary to convey to them that yes, you matter, and yes, we care. If you need even more to consider here today, MaineCare is the number one payer to our long-term care industry. Ensuring MaineCare is stable, functional, and fully funded is critical to the health of older Mainers. Whether they are residing in nursing facilities or are receiving that care in their homes. When those doors shut on the care provided to among our most vulnerable Mainers, some nearing the end of our days, on the care provided to hospitals, homes, and communities statewide, how do we explain to them that we have the knowledge and have the means here to keep these doors open? And what did we say? Simply, no. I know so many of my colleagues have seen this happen in their own communities and the devastating effect it's had on families. So, how can we today in good conscience accelerate that devastation? I know I cannot. And make no mistake about it, if we don't vote this MaineCare -- for these funds through today as an emergency way, payments to providers will begin to be withheld in March, a few weeks away.

I urge you, my fellow Senators, vote yes on this supplemental budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I guess I've been here too long, I'm working on 15 years. Some of you would probably agree with that pretty heavily, but people in my district haven't yet, so. Whoever has the shovel that's digging the big hole in our state budget, I hope somebody please finds him or her and takes the shovel away pretty soon, because this is beginning to get out of hand. I think some of the things that I hear here today really surprise me that we're having this conversation, considering in 15 years of serving in this Body, I've looked back and tried to remember when in 15 years that a Senator has asked for a reconsideration of a bill that it wasn't granted. I can't come up with one, it's probably happened. I know when President Jackson sat in there and we would have somebody vote within this Body and the vote was done, he and I would have a conversation and we would grant the reconsideration whether it was one way or the other. It's really surprising to me that we're even where we're at today.

I find it -- I find it interesting that we're supposedly being held responsible for this budget, that it's our fault if MaineCare doesn't pass. But yet, it's been the last two budgets have been a majority budget. You didn't find us, you didn't need our help there, and didn't find it necessary to involve us in that. So, I find it very interesting today that all we asked for is a reconsideration so we could go back and see this. You -- they didn't want to grant the reconsideration, but yet, I'm being lectured in this Body today about how we have to do this for MaineCare today. But when we appropriated all the money for the veterans' homes in the State of Maine, and we did it through an emergency issue, it took us almost a year and a half to two years before the veterans' homes ever got their money. So, the wheels of the State of Maine government don't work that fast in the first place. So, I'm not convinced that if we pass this today, and if you put it there, that DHHS would do their job and even get the money out. They haven't so far. When I talked to the hospitals, we're somewhere around six months behind schedule in doing our payments today. So, don't tell me that what we do today is going to affect us

immediately because they don't pay their bills in 30 days, and they never have, and I don't believe they're going to start tomorrow.

I think it's also a little interesting of how we got here in the first place. I think we really got to think about that, and where you put the blame. Don't blame us, we didn't get to vote on it. We didn't get to take part in the game. We was put out. When I was leader just a few years ago, I remember getting the call at about 10:00 one night saying that you got about 12 hours to have a budget ready because we're going to put our budget out. You know, that's not how this game was played for 45 years in this building. For 45 years in this building, we negotiated a two-thirds budget. It wasn't the Republicans who decided not to negotiate a two-thirds budget, it was the other side of the aisle, the Democrats. They decided they needed to do a two-thirds budget because they couldn't trust me or trust the Republicans to get it done on time, so we had to do a safe budget. You created this problem. You folks did it all on your own.

My recommendation is here today that we stop here right off, and you take this supplemental budget and go back downstairs and take the AFA committee and see if you can figure it out and be fair about it. And I'll tell you right now that going past 10:00 at night ought to be illegal to begin with. I can remember when I was leader, one of my favorite sayings were mismanagement on your part doesn't create a crisis on my part. And ladies and gentlemen, when we're going past ten o'clock at night, we're getting close to mismanagement. We can start at six o'clock the next morning if you want to. We need to do it in daylight, we need to do it honestly, and we need to do it fairly, and we need to treat each other in a nice manner. I see that eroding in this building in the last eight years. The first four years I served here, I thought it went pretty smooth, and then it's just gone progressively worse for the last four to six years. And I think it's a shame because Maine has always been one who led, and we've always been good friends, and most of you on the other side of the aisle in this room, I consider you my friend, and I will today after the vote, but I feel strongly that you're going to have a wicked hard time putting the blame on the Republicans. We didn't build this budget, we didn't take this budget, it wasn't us who didn't put enough money in it -- or too much money in it and didn't manage the money right. This money for MaineCare was in the previous budget, it went away somewhere, I don't know where it went, but it's gone. And there's enough money in DHHS -- I served in the 125th, I think it was, when we came in and we went and found the money somewhere else. I think the money's there, we need to find a way to do this, but you need to involve us and give us a fair shake at the table. That hasn't happened and until you agree to do that, we're in trouble.

Thank you very much. I'll be opposing the pending motion.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York County, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I keep hearing the term emergency, and I think the emergency that we need to be talking about here is Maine's broken welfare system. It's unsustainable, whether it be General Assistance, in which our Chief Executive sought to help repair, we supported that measure, it got taken out, Maine's municipalities are getting decimated by General Assistance. Just in Sanford, our General Assistance budget grew tenfold in the last budget cycle. It's unsustainable, we need to fix it. The original supplemental

budget put forward by the Chief Executive sought to fix that, we support that initiative, and hopefully if we go back to the drawing board, we can see that moved back in.

And with regards to Medicaid, we've been saying for the last six years that the chickens would come home to roost on this, and here we are, and it's only going to get worse. We're going to be dealing with this every single year, shortfall after shortfall, if we don't address the basic fundamental issues with MaineCare. And that is that able-bodied, childless adults should have work requirements, they should be going to work, they should be volunteering, they should be going to school, they should be doing something. The vast majority of Maine people agree with that. We had that under the previous administration for all eight years. The new administration stripped that immediately upon taking office. We need to reinstate those. There's going to be several floor amendments put forward that I support to address those issues and I would encourage you all to vote against this current motion and support those previous aforementioned floor amendments. Thank you.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I've been here in the Senate, I don't know, it was eight years, and then in the House, and now I'm back here, and right now, there's a lot of uncertainty. We didn't have that uncertainty when I first came here, and I was very amazed how it worked. We all worked together, we did the two-thirds vote.

It's been 200 years and in the history of this state, we had only two other times that they didn't do a two-thirds vote, and it was during real emergency issues. But now, it's happening every time. So, this has got to be the -- there was two terms, once in the Senate I was in, and then in the House last term, and now it's going to happen again this March. That's the uncertainty we have right now. Because of this budget right here, you want a two-thirds vote from us, but then there's an uncertainty, and it looks like it's hurried, and then we're going to end up with a majority vote in March. It's a repeat. I brought this up last year, and I said all we are asking for is respect. And I even spelled it out to you, R-E-S-P-E-C-T. And I think most of the people in the House remember that, and it's really important that that's what we get. Not just this budget, but next budget. We need to continue working together to make things work.

Right now, we have a chance. Send it back to the AFA, get this done properly, work together, come up with a good budget that will be pleasing to the people, and not just go and make this deep hole that we can't come out of. And that's what we're doing. We continually dig the hole. This is not working, and it's not the way to do business in the State of Maine. We have a lot of people out there depending on all of us, not just a few or half of us, all of us.

So, thank you, Madam President, I really think that we need to get back and vote no for this bill and send it back. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the work of the Appropriations Committee, the work of a near-unanimous, bipartisan majority.

I really -- the attacks on the appropriations committee and by that, also, the legislators, I find it extremely difficult to believe that there was strong-arming. These are discussions that go on regularly, and for the -- for our GOP colleagues to all of a sudden say oh, we had nothing to do with this, we aren't involved, we can't be held responsible -- well, you're part of the process. You either vote for it or you don't. This was supported after a lot of work by all the Republicans that were there. And is there any wonder why there's a lack of trust? Because the next time that we hear from certain members of the opposition is when they turn tail and run around from what they just voted for.

Bangor has more than 5,000 healthcare jobs. Those are all affected by this budget and subsequent budgets. And when I hear about the quote-unquote fiscal irresponsibility of the last six years, I have to ask was that when we filled the rainy day fund with almost a billion dollars to its maximum or when the State of Maine is the tenth fastest economically growing state in the country over the last five years or when we fully funded revenue sharing for our municipalities or fully funded our public schools or rebuilt our public health network in the middle of a worldwide pandemic which had been decimated by the prior administration. We have also balanced every budget over the last six years without raising the sales or the income tax. I find it hard to believe, I think I'm more than open to continuing discussions and bipartisanship, but to say at this point, after we went through an entire committee process, to say oh, I don't -- I didn't realize what we were agreeing to, I don't think it's fair, I think it's playing politics, and I think it threatens thousands of jobs across this state. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would remind this Body to not impugn the methods of other Members of this Body in their speeches.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't feel impugned at all, I feel like I'm living in like some sort of weird reality that it doesn't exist, you know, I got -- I have to just address some of the points that my friend from Bangor brought up a second ago because in that time, yeah, revenue sharing was restored and we have the highest property taxes in the country, awesome. Put more money into education, we have the lowest scores in education, awesome. I mean, it just -- yes, there are serious problems with the management of this state. Serious, serious problems that need to be addressed. To suggest that Republicans were at all at the table for the majority budgets and because we voted no that somehow our fingerprints are on that, that's ludicrous.

But anyway, look, back to the matter at hand. The revisionist history that's going on here, I think, is really important because folks are now starting to build some other arguments on that from -- from what I'm hearing. Here's -- here's what happened, okay? Midnight, the Speaker tells our Members take it or leave it. If that's not strong-arming, I don't know what is. In fact, we were threatened that we wouldn't get any of the provisions that we had been making some progress on into the budget at all if we didn't vote for it right then, right there. That's where this is coming from. That's where the angst is. As I mentioned and unfortunately, I wasn't available that evening, and I was clear with you, Madam President, about that, along with everybody else you met with that

morning. We met at 9:00 in your office, nothing happened the rest of the day, at least from my vantagepoint. Nobody was talking with me. I gave a pretty firm indication of when I had to leave and was going to be unavailable for the rest of the day. Nothing. And then, all of a sudden, it's take it or leave it in the middle of the night. That's where the issue is. That's -- that's what happened. You know, one of our Members who wasn't there was labeled as disrespectful by another Member of this Body a minute ago because he was told he didn't need to be there. Comes back the next morning - perhaps they knew he wasn't going to vote no, I don't know, I'm not going to impugn motives. But I am going to say he wasn't going to vote yes on that deal. It was evident. He tried to record his vote to that effect and was told no and then was labeled as disrespectful because he didn't just want to go along to get along with a deal that was strong-armed in the middle of the night. That's what happened.

Folks should just know this, right? And if you all want to keep going down that road, that's fine, you can do that, but I'm telling you, you're not getting two-thirds. That's what I'm saying. If you were serious about two-thirds, stop this nonsense, go back to the friggin' table, and let's go sort it out. Just barreling through this is just not -- it's not legitimate. I mean, you can play this little theater game, whatever, talk about how great MaineCare is but refuse to address any of the problems including the elephant in the room, which is why we're even having this debate to begin with. We can come back to the table. We can figure this out. We can get a deal that will get two-thirds, but not on this track.

You know, the one other piece of revisionist history I need to point out here, the piece that was removed and completely taken off the table in the middle of the night is a piece that actually did have a hearing. So, you heard me complain a little bit ago about how we didn't actually have a hearing on a lot of the provisions that needed to be adopted. Well, this one did, it was proposed by your Governor, and yet, that became like this massive stumbling block in the middle of the night when I think probably emotions were running high because people were tired, it was inappropriate to be there at all, and we could've had a totally different conversation about it the next day, and we'd be in a very different place today had that happened, I think.

So, again, it's unfortunate that this is where we're at, you know, again, if you all want to keep barreling forward with this, go ahead, but don't cry foul that we did anything here. Don't cry foul that this isn't going to pass, when I laid it out. This is why it's not going to pass. We can fix it. But it's not insurmountable. We can get through this, we can work through this, but not if you all want to keep going down this path.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would remind Members in our debate it is very easy to get passionate and that our words matter, and the Chair has given some latitude, not great latitude, but want to remind Members to keep in mind the heart of the policy we're discussing and to save some of the more passionate rhetoric not for the great hallows of the Senate, and to continue to respect each other, as the Good Senator Kennebec was able to say as well.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Bernard.

Senator **BERNARD:** Thank you very much, President Daughtry, and good Members of the Senate. Now that you've given that last admonition, I'm not sure I can say anything, to be fair. But

basically, I think I wanted to make sure that you understand my vote as you go forward and make your vote here today.

At that hour, that evening, I voted in favor of the supplemental budget. The biggest reason that I voted in favor of it, it did have something in there that was very important to me and important to the people who I represent, and that's the spruce budworm issue. So, I definitely voted in favor of that. I was very unhappy with other pieces of it, but when I learned that really it was most important to, quote, "strike while the iron is hot", and that a vote would be taken without us if we didn't like this. And since, frankly, I don't know a lot about whether or not this kind of language is used all the time, I believed it. So, I went forward.

Twice or three times here today I've heard the word being disrespectful. And I thought that that really had to do with me because I'm the one who asked for the reconsideration because I thought that was a matter of procedure and because I understood that that's just how it always happens, you ask for the reconsideration, you're given the reconsideration because those are the rules. When I find out that that's just not a matter of course, now I'm wondering if that's being disrespectful to members of our group, and I'm asking that as a question. I'm not stating that any one person in our group is being disrespectful, but I was told that -- that it was being disrespectful to even ask for a reconsideration. That blows my mind.

So, I certainly said that evening that -- and to find out not only that a person could not give their vote and have it be a Minority Report type of thing at all, that that's in the rules now, that was something that I certainly didn't understand and would really want to make sure to say probably no, whenever a member of our committee is not present, I'll be wanting to say no, I will not want to give a unanimous report for that very reason, to make sure that everyone is heard - not just heard, but that it would be recorded in such a way that it could be voted on later. So -- and it's true that the last part that Senator Stewart just mentioned, that was -- that was the part the really sort of broke the bank that night was talking about GA. And that was something that was in the Governor's -- what she put forward, and what we agreed was a good idea. And to have that go away was a complete surprise. So, that's why what happened, happened, and that's why I'm going to be voting against this today, even though I was on the other side earlier, because process matters. Thank you.

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

Senator **RENY:** Thank you, Madam President. I have to say I'm feeling a little angry and I'm feeling profoundly disappointed right now, so I hope you can bear with me while I gather my thoughts.

Much like the Good Senator Timberlake had mentioned, I am also very surprised at where we find ourselves today. The implication that anyone was strong-armed that night, I resent that thoroughly. I am many things, I am not a perfect person, but this job is important to me, serving my constituents and my state is important to me, and I'm not a liar, which is what I feel like, that's the message I'm getting today.

We did go on late at night to take that vote. We did. We had a deadline. We have lots and lots and lots of work to do. It was very public that we needed to have the supplemental budget voted out. This isn't a surprise. And at least for me, on my part, the fact that we have so much work to do with the biennial budget, and that's where our focus needs to be, absolutely plays into this. We have legislators who are conflating the biennial

budget in the supplemental budget. And I want my constituents and all of your constituents to be able to understand what is happening in the process as well.

The supplemental is the bipartisan compromise. It is completely stripped down to the things that need to happen now. Yes, there are things that Republicans did not get in this supplemental budget. Guess what? There's things Democrats did not get in this supplemental budget. These are the things that need to happen quickly so we can go on to have those conversations in the biennial budget about how to safeguard our state and make good fiscal decisions, be responsible. This is going to be a difficult budget process, and I have no false hopes of the entire state coming out unscathed. It's going to be hard and there's going to need to be cuts. And that is what the biennial budget is for. These are important decisions that need the time for us to work out good solutions. I don't want to haphazardly throw things in without thoroughly considering the consequences of those actions.

There are two things in the supplemental budget that need, need, need to happen. One of them is MaineCare. My rural district depends on it, our small providers that are doing very important work depend on it, our hospitals depend on it, 70% of the people in nursing homes get MaineCare. These are our people. And I know we're going to have difficult conversations later in the biennial. Now is not the time for it because this needs to get out soon. People will not get paid or they will be paid less. Spruce budworm. You think Lincoln County, that's their number one concern is spruce budworm? Of course not. It's a concern, for sure, but when it comes down to it, I will do whatever I can to support our heritage industries in the state that we are all a part of. I would expect the same for any of our heritage industries. This is a problem that needs to be addressed now. I do not want to see our forest product industries and Aroostook County, specifically, devastated by this, I don't know, bug, I guess -- I didn't get a whole lot on the biology of the spruce budworm, but it's a real problem. On top of that, it devastated Canada not all that long ago. You wonder where all those wildfires were coming from that were drifting down here? It's because of all those dead trees, lost income, lost jobs.

Please. This is the bipartisan compromise. Another thing I want people to kind of remember, and I think it's hard for us sometimes, but the building -- you know, all of the work that happens here, it doesn't run solely on the whims of us legislators. We have really hardworking staff that needs time to produce the language and the documents and everything we need to move forward with our work, okay? I know we keep talking about how we didn't have a deadline - some people keep talking about how there's no true deadline with a supplemental, but there is. We have so much work to do on the biennial. We cannot keep drawing this out. It has to happen, and this money needs to get out.

So, it's been stripped down to the emergencies. We voted late that night. And in my humble opinion, we voted late that night because we were trying our hardest to find that bipartisan compromise. Listen, if I wanted to be nefarious and just pass a majority supplemental budget, I would've done it in the light of day on Thursday when we had planned to vote it out, or in the light of day on Friday when we had planned to vote it out, but in good faith, negotiations continued, and they continued after our work. And so, I did pause, even myself, when thinking about voting at 1 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, but I stopped my concerns because I said to myself this is not a split vote that we're taking.

We did good work, we came together, this is a unanimous vote, we're on the same page, and we understand what we need to do so we can move on with our work. So, we voted. It all blew up the next day. There were two -- only two members missing during that vote, mind you. One was out of state. That happens. We all have outside lives outside of this building, right? The other one chose not to come into work, for whatever reason, I don't care. I personally was not okay with all of our good work being blown up because one person was not there. I do want those Joint Rules addressed, that is a problem. I have a complete faith that the bipartisan Joint Rules Committee that put out the Joint Rules that both Chambers voted on under the hammer, if I recall, will fix that so the -- if somebody is absent, they can put in the Ought Not to Pass report.

Transparency is important, and I think honesty is important as well. I really implore every Member in this Chamber, no matter what happened over there, we are the Senate, and we represent the State of Maine. This is a completely stripped-down supplemental budget that addresses the emergencies so we can get to the good work of coming to a bipartisan compromise on the biennial. Please, please, please put aside partisan politics and vote for this budget so we can continue to do good work.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#23)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion to **ACCEPT** the **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1)** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) **READ**.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **RECOMMIT** the bill and accompanying papers to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, as I mentioned earlier, this does not have two-thirds, it is on a collision course to meet an untimely end. I would implore you all to support my next motion, which is to refer this bill and all its accompanying papers back to the AFA committee so that they continue their important work, we can figure this thing out, and come up with something that actually will get two-thirds.

So, with that, I would make that motion, and would appreciate you following that -- that motion and if it's Roll Call, which I'm seeing my colleague to my left poised to strike, please - please support this motion. It's very important, this is not unreasonable, we still have the time to figure this out, we can let that committee go back -- back to the drawing board and come up with something that will get two-thirds in both Chambers, because obviously, that's not going to happen on the course it's on right now.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#24)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

14 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **RECOMMIT** the Bill and accompanying papers, **FAILED**.

Senator **MOORE** of Washington moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-1) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).

Senate Amendment "A" (S-1) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **MOORE**: Thank you, Madam President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I stand before you and urgently request you consider passing this important amendment to the supplemental budget, LD 209.

As you all know, we've experienced a severe workforce shortage in the healthcare field for years. After the pandemic, it became a critical issue as we began to reopen. During the 130th Legislature, we passed the statute, 22 MRSA Chapter 1627, directing the Department of Health and Human Services to pay our direct care workers 125% of the minimum wage, which at that time was set at \$12.75. If you will recall, the minimum wage statute, which is 26 MRSA, Chapter 7, was changed on January the 1st, 2021, and applied to each January 1st thereafter. And it was changed to read; the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. In September 2024, the Department of Labor, based on the published cost of living index of 3.6%, set the minimum wage effective January 1, 2025, to be \$14.65. Based on this fact and previous years' actions, our direct care workers expected to receive their scheduled COLA effective January 1, 2025. You can imagine the Health and Human Services Committee's dismay to find out the Department had arbitrarily decided not to fund the COLAs, citing the shortfall of funds. When questioned during the supplemental budget public hearings and work sessions, the Department had no intent in including this omission into the proposed supplemental budget.

As you can imagine, there has been an outpouring of emails, phone calls, meetings, etcetera, from organizations who employ these direct care workers, expecting -- excuse me -- expressing their frustrations on behalf of their employees. Further discussions with the Department revealed while preparing for the 2024-2025 supplemental budget last year, they estimated the COLA would be 1.95%. The proposed amount to cover the increase for January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 was included in the budget and was approved by the Legislature and the Governor. Procedurally, any time there is a rate increase, proper paperwork must be submitted to the federal government for approval with an effective date. Such paperwork was never submitted.

In view of this fact, during the committee's supplemental budget work session, the committee proposed an amendment to make whole the direct care workers in our report back to the Appropriations Committee. It was unanimous. Unfortunately, the final version of LD 209 does not include our amendment, thus my proposal as a floor amendment to the bill before you. So, I am proposing the following amendment to LD 209. Cost of living adjustment for essential support workers. The Department of Health and Human Services shall seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to implement a cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, of 1.95% in fiscal year 2025 for reimbursement rates for essential support workers, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statute Title 22, Section 7, Chapter 402. The Department shall seek approval as soon as practicable. Upon approval, the Department shall make the COLA retroactive to the effective date approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. I will add that the retroactive pay can only be made back to the effective date of the notification to the federal government, not back to January 1st, so our workers are going to be losing that as well. As you can see, time is of the essence. I will add, while the workers' salaries should be based on the 3.6% cost of living index, we respectfully request they receive at least

the amount included in the previous approved budget at the 1.95% rate. In view of this unfair treatment and a violation of the statute in place, I am asking for your support of my amendment to LD 209.

Thank you, Madam President.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin move the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (H-1) and accompanying papers.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **ROTUNDO**: Thank you. As I said earlier, COLAs have very, very strong bipartisan support. However, we felt it was important to take this issue up in the biennial budget, where we could have a longer and more expansive conversation about it. And I would also remind my colleagues that if we can't get the supplemental budget across the finish line with the MaineCare funding that it contains, direct care workers are going to have a much larger problem than simply not receiving their COLAs. They -- these providers will probably not be able to meet payroll.

So, strong bipartisan support for COLAs, we will take it up in the biennial budget, but right now, we have to focus on voting out a budget that makes sure that these providers in our communities have the funding to be able to meet payroll to take care of the direct care workers. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett. You may proceed.

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Madam President. I couldn't remain silent with the notion that this increase - fairly modest - for direct care workers is a good idea that ought to be taken up later. It is, in fact, the law of the land right this moment. Voting for this supplemental budget without allowing for that increase is doing harm to those workers. I will not be voting for a budget, LD 209, without this amendment. It needs to be on there to get my vote, and I would encourage the rest of this Legislature to keep that promise to these people rather than to go along with the Chief Executive's action of denying it. She had a similar thing that happened in -- two years ago in a budget where she just ignored the law and then came to the Legislature and said we'll change that later. She just ignored the law. We need to say no to that. If we're going to get to a yes on this matter, indefinitely postponing this amendment is not the way to get there.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just -- I am baffled at what's happening around this debate because, to my good friend from Oxford's point, it is the law. This isn't something to bring up down the road. I mean, there's a strong argument that the amendment isn't even necessary but for the fact that the Chief Executive is just choosing to not do it. I mean, what's the point of any of this? What is the actual point of any of this if the Governor can just decide she's not going to do something that we put into law? You should really be asking yourselves that question. Why are you even here if you're not going to support -- I mean, everybody -- look, I believe that everybody has a feeling that supporting direct

care workers with this modest COLA is the right thing to do. I believe that in every one of you. But this is the time to act. If you -- if you actually support these folks who are doing this work, something that we said in a previous Legislature needed to be done is not being done, and when asked why, because they don't want to? I mean, they ought to be sued, frankly, but at the very least, are we not going to stick to our guns on this? I mean, if we don't, it says everything that needs to be said; that there's a grander plan for this money that's going to be tied up doing something else. Go ahead and say it, vote accordingly, go ahead. That's what I think. That's what I think we're doing here. This money is being insulated, that was already budgeted for, already approved by the Legislative Branch and the Chief Executive, and the only reason it's not being executed is so that it can be used for other things down the road. Prove me wrong. I challenge you; prove me wrong. Reject this motion. I ask for a Roll Call on indefinite postponement. This needs to be struck down. I mean, this is -- this is just ludicrous.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#25)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, INGWERSEN, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIPPING, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-1) and accompanying papers, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ADOPTION**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just want to take this moment to just remind folks where it is that we're at procedurally. So, we're now considering adoption of an amendment where previously an indefinite postponed -- postponement motion was defeated by one vote. And so, my hope is we will continue forward with this path here to adopt this amendment that reinstitutes the COLA that the administration has decided to just not do.

So, in case there's any question now of where we are and what you're voting on, this is it. I hope we can stay consistent here. Anything else would be a disappointment. So, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. I just have a question kind of to the Chair. First of all, I'm a little bit confused about the calendar. One of the previous speakers said we were going back to the frigging table. So, I know we have an appropriations table, I know we have a study table, I didn't realize we had created a frigging table in the Senate. So, I hope this course in the Senate gets better.

I will be voting against this amendment. We've seen this all before, I've been here before, virtually every budget we see, we see on this. We see whenever the facts don't meet, what you want, it's -- we argue about procedure, something's wrong with the process. This bill, this amendment is one we can easily do in the final budget this year, I'll be supporting it in the final budget if this -- if this appropriation is in the final budget. But we've seen this before. We've seen people say oh, just give us this, just give us this, we'll vote for the budget, we'll pass it by two-thirds, but the fact is, we did offer to put this in the supplemental and people said they wouldn't vote for it for two-thirds, even if it was in the supplemental.

So, this is not really a genuine offer of support for a two-thirds supplemental --

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, and inquires as to why he rises.

Senator **STEWART:** I believe that would be pretty textbook definition of impugning motives, Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair would advise the Good Senator from York, Senator Lawrence, to - as has been warned - not impugn the motives of other Members or of either Chamber. The Member may proceed.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, and I'll make it clear I'm not impugning the motives. I would be voting for this if we were going to pass it -- pass the budget with this amendment on it, and only this amendment, by a two-thirds vote. I have told the people supporting this amendment will not do that. So, therefore, I will not be supporting it, I will not support a false narrative that we're going to do this. If we're going to do these changes, we do it in

the final budget, but the point is, at this point, we need to fund -- this funding now, and we can address the COLA in the budget at the final budget for this year.

So, I hope you will join me in voting against this amendment.

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

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to bring up and remind everyone that this proposed amount is not a new amount. It was actually covering -- the increase from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025 was included in the previous budget and was approved by the Legislature and the Governor. So, this is not a new COLA that's being introduced; we are simply requiring that we meet the statute and provide the funding for the law that was already passed.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just -- I rise to just counter some points made by my friend from York because this notion that there's anything happening here other than adopting an amendment, which is the right thing to do for the people who are impacted by this amendment, is just -- it's completely false. There has not been any sort of back and forth around if you, you know, we'll vote for it if this, then that, that's just -- I need to be very clear about that. Vote for this amendment if you want to support folks who are out on the front lines doing this work. If you don't, then don't. But, you know, if you're going to switch your vote now, fine, but just be forthright about what happened, don't create some false narrative that doesn't exist because that, I have an issue with. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. I'll be voting against this amendment.

I'm glad that we took every opportunity today to reach an agreement, including the rather extraordinary step of considering a last-minute floor amendment to an - at one point, at least - unanimous budget agreement. I'm disappointed to learn, protestations to the contrary aside, that even if this amendment were passed, we still wouldn't reach two-thirds support and then, in effect, it would mean nothing. I'm committed to taking every good faith opportunity to prevent all healthcare cuts, but it's obvious that that opportunity isn't before us today. So, I'll be working to make sure we actually address these COLA cuts in a good faith way in the biennial budget.

But let's talk about what actually is before us today. So, if we care about healthcare, it's important to deal with these amendments and then deal with this budget because this is a supplemental budget. It has been pared down to just two vital funding priorities, money that we need to appropriate now to avoid disaster. So, the first one is healthcare, we've heard about it a lot. It was said earlier today that we don't have a date when payments will stop, but many of us received a letter from Northern Light just yesterday and saw a memo from Medicaid that we do have a date and that is next month. We're talking about badly

needed funding for hospitals, for clinics, for nursing homes all over the state.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin and inquires why he rises.

Senator **BICKFORD:** Madam President, that's not germane to the subject of the amendment that's before us.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair once again would remind folks that we are discussing the senate amendment before us, and to keep questions - not questions - keep remarks - I have many questions right now - keep remarks to the matter at hand. But the Member may proceed.

Senator **TIPPING:** Madam President, there's been a great deal of leeway today to talk about process, and I think it's germane to certainly talk about the importance of voting down amendments, getting to a budget, but I'm also happy to save certain remarks for the enactment vote itself.

On this, I will say that healthcare is a vital issue and the vote before us is to actually pass a budget eventually to do something about it. That's why I'll be voting against this amendment, because I actually care about getting things done. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President. I'm informed that I've been misinformed, that I misunderstood what went on outside in the interim when we were at ease. So, I just have a question to pose through the Chair to anybody who can be able to answer. If four Members of the other party who are in this Senate will rise and say they're voting for this amendment and commit to voting for a two-thirds supplement with this -- with this amendment on it, then I will say I'm mistaken.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from York, Senator Lawrence, has posed a question to the Body through the Chair for any Member who would care to respond.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** I will not vote for the supplemental budget without this on it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Adoption of Senate Amendment "A". A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#26)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TALBOT ROSS, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **MOORE** of Washington to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-1) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1), **FAILED**.

Senator **MARTIN** of Oxford moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "B" (S-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).

Senate Amendment "B" (S-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "B" (S-2) and accompanying papers.

On motion by the same Senator, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would now recognize the Senator from Oxford, Senator Martin.

Senator **MARTIN:** I brought this amendment here today because I believe that most of this MaineCare stuff is not completely understood by even the people that are down in the committee, and an audit of all this stuff should be done before any of us vote. I'm worried about the double-A, double-A law that's in here that the Governor has broken, and if we go ahead and don't put the amendment in as it was put forward by Senator Moore, that we're all basically complicit and breaking the law. I'm not interested in breaking the law and therefore I would like to see an audit of this, just to make sure that everything that we have, the COLA, the welfare -- I've got no problem with the money going, I have a problem with breaking the law, as we all should. We're a Body that's supposed to be protecting the law, and from what I can see, whether purposely or not purposely, it's been broken on this COLA thing. As of January 1st, they were supposed to get a raise and that's not in there, and it's firmly in the law.

So, that's why I bring the amendment forward, is to let the auditor of the State of Maine pick an independent auditor to go over this thing with the committee downstairs and get it so that none of us get in trouble, too. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening. I'm wondering -- I have a question I'd like to pose through the Chair, if anyone can answer. I'm curious to what the role of the state auditor is in a situation like this. It seems to me like this bill essentially addresses the role of the state auditor.

Senator **NANGLE:** I've got two statements. I believe that the auditor does not actually audit state funding, more audits compliance with grant information. And based on what I've read in this bill, \$100,000 would not be anywhere near enough to perform a forensic audit, and by the time the report is due, which is sometime in December, it would be useless. We cannot not fund MaineCare until December. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from Oxford, Senator Martin.

Senator **MARTIN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. If everybody looks at the budget and looks at reference number three, risk management, under the DAFS, you'll see \$3.5 million that was left over from last year, it came in the 131st Legislature, and it was turned into another account and it's all for legal expenses. That could be -- that could be tapped for that, and at \$300 an hour, there's 11,666 legal hours that can come right out of that. It's sitting over there as a slush fund. So, the hundred thousand is one thing, this is sitting there for something else and to cover us and to cover state workers. So, the money is there. And I do believe that the auditor in the State of Maine can audit any books that he wants to audit, from what I was reading as, you know, for what his job description is. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#27)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "B" (S-2) and accompanying papers, **PREVAILED**.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "C" (S-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).

Senate Amendment "C" (S-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "C" (S-3) and accompanying papers.

On motion by the same Senator, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Recognizing the hour, I just want to provide a brief explanation of what this amendment is, what it does, why it matters.

As I think my colleague from Androscoggin County astutely pointed out - he'll put it far more eloquently than I will tonight, but - the first thing you should do when you realize you're in a hole is stop digging. And this is an amendment that seeks to get at that. Again, I mentioned earlier the impact of this problem we have with MaineCare running in the red over \$400 million. One of the things that would be very consequential both at getting our arms around that program as well as benefitting our local economies is work requirements. What are work requirements? If we were to require, as we had done previously, before this new administration took office, the requirement that folks that are in the expansion population, namely 19- to 65-year-olds who are not disabled, no dependents, working age, do something to better their own lives rather than just taking another benefit from the State. Things like going to work, participating in training or an educational program, volunteering in your community for 20 hours a week. We're not talking about something radical here, we're talking about a proposal that gets folks who are working age and otherwise are not, quite literally not doing anything, they're not bettering themselves, they're not engaging with their community, they're not going to work, but they are receiving benefits from the State, that should be the lowest hanging fruit. Again, it's something that was approved under the last administration, it was approved at the federal level by what's now the current administration, I have no doubt that it will be again, the second that we offer it up. In fact, I've talked with some folks in DC about exactly that idea. We should be doing this. This is not a crazy thing, this is not anybody, you know, trying to do anything nefarious here. In fact, I think if you were to go back home to your districts and say did you know that it's not even a requirement, they would be surprised to learn what's actually happening with this program.

So, with that, I would implore adoption of this amendment. I hope that you will reject the indefinite postponement motion and follow my light. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from York, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. Since some Members here have been very curious as to what it would take for us to support this two-thirds budget, this would be one of the things, actually addressing any one of the real problems that have led to this broken welfare system. So, this would be a step in the right direction, for those who have been so curious as to what would get us to two-thirds. Thank you.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** The Good Member from York County just indicated that this would be one of the things needed to get two-thirds of the budget. What's the next thing that's going to be required to get a two-thirds budget?

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Well, there will be a couple of other floor amendments coming right after this one that will answer that question for you. Thank you.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. First, I want to clarify a misunderstanding that I've heard shared today about Maine and work requirements. I just wanted to clarify that we have never implemented work requirements here in Maine. CMS granted us a waiver, but they were never implemented. So, we have not had them for years as was suggested earlier today.

This idea of a work requirement was brought to us in appropriations. We talked about it and -- first of all, I just -- I want to mention that requesting a waiver is not a simple process. It takes an enormous amount of time on the part of the administration and -- and after it's granted, often it's challenged, and it ends up in court. And that alone is not a reason not to request a waiver, but as we talked about this, we all realized that we will have, undoubtedly, new requirements and new regulations coming from Washington. And so, it just didn't make sense to ask members of the Department of Health and Human Services at this point to spend a lot of time developing a waiver when we probably will be facing new requirements around work requirements sometime soon, anyway.

So, thank you. I wanted you all to know that this has been carefully considered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President. I don't think I said that work requirements have ever existed within Maine, but a waiver was requested and approved by the federal government, and it -- let's be clear about which federal government, it was under the Trump Administration. We're now back to the Trump Administration. I have no doubt that the Trump Administration would once again approve, like it did for 13 other states, this

waiver. Just because it's hard and going to take time doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. It means, I think, we should institute what is the floor of this program. If the federal government wants to do the same thing, great, follow our lead, that's fine with me. But we shouldn't have less than -- again, what I think is modest, 20 hours a week of either going to school, working, doing something, or volunteering in your community. It's not -- it's not an outrageous proposal, and just because it's going to take time for the Department to do it is no reason to reject this amendment. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#28)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "C" (S-3) and accompanying papers, **PREVAILED**.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "D" (S-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).

Senate Amendment "D" (S-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "D" (S-4) and accompanying papers.

On motion by the same Senator, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, may proceed.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to explain, this amendment, which is, as was noted earlier, another idea that

was floated as we are talking about ways to get to two-thirds. Similar thought process. We have a problem, we are in a hole, we need to stop digging. What this does is it institutes a freeze on new enrollments into the Medicaid program for the expansion population until we have reduced 10% of that population through attrition, verification, other -- other ideas that are in this bill, some of which were adopted. They were the sort of lowest hanging fruit. And at that point, when 10% has been reached, you could then reopen enrollment. It kind of dovetails nicely with the report backs that deal with reducing Medicaid enrollment in Maine by 10% that were also elements in the negotiation here. But importantly, it's actually a deliverable, something that must be done, not a would be nice if we did, and I think will go a long way at stabilizing this program which, again, for all the reasons mentioned earlier, is in a really tough spot. And I think that this is a proposal that will go a long way at addressing some of those problems. And I think, you know, look, this was all -- we could go back and forth with each if we want to about, you know, who gets, you know, who needs what to vote for this, I think if there was -- any of these floor amendments were adopted, I think there's a pathway forward here tonight. I don't see that happening, I'm not going to be -- I'm not going to hold my breath that you all do what I think is the right thing to do, you'll do what you think is the right thing to do, and that's fine, you know, the pettiness, though, is not. I think it doesn't help as we're trying to get to a real solution here and these talks continue to happen, you know, behind closed doors, as we try to get a pathway forward, particularly with our colleagues in the House.

So, anyways, I'll leave it there. Thanks.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to share that this was a proposal that was brought to us in appropriations and that we seriously considered. I think the concern was that this is a major policy change and that we're dealing with a supplemental budget which is supposed to deal with emergencies and not major policy changes. The people of Maine in a referendum voted to expand healthcare and it didn't seem appropriate for us in appropriations to be trying to limit it in a supplemental budget. Also, we were concerned about the fact that we would lose our nine to one federal match that the state is now receiving for Medicaid.

So, we did consider this, and for the reasons that I just stated, decided not to move forward with it. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you very much, Madam President. I just wanted to share a reflection as I've been listening to this debate.

I have worked very hard to extend health coverage to Maine children and Maine women pre- and post-partum. And those are things that we've been able to come together on as a Chamber and I think that all of us, you know, personally and individually, really cherish our access to health insurance coverage. And I would just say that I think on behalf of our constituents, the good people of Maine whose lives and health depends on MaineCare coverage, that we should not be referring to their health insurance coverage as the lowest hanging fruit. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. I'm deeply disappointed that we're looking at yet another attempt to cut peoples' healthcare here. And I just want to say that the population being described is not as it's been described. These are often people that do have disabilities or are sick or have cancer. I know a lot of the folks we're talking about here because as was noted, Mainers voted overwhelmingly in 2017 to make sure that these people could access healthcare. They may not meet certain definitions of disability, but they need care, they need coverage, and yet another attempt to cut healthcare is just deeply disappointing in this Body. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#29)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "D" (S-4) and accompanying papers, **PREVAILED**.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "E" (S-5) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).

Senate Amendment "E" (S-5) to Committee Amendment "a" (H-1) **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is the -- this amendment represents the sort of notorious Part S which has been debated quite a bit here already today. It is the provision within the supplemental budget that was proposed by the Governor that addresses GA funding. And in both this document and in future documents that limits GA access from what is current law, which is a maximum of nine months in a calendar year to -- or, sorry, in a 12-month period, I should be specific here -- to three months. This is a program that has really serious affect at the local level, on local budgets. It has been blowing up local budgets across the state, including in my district, in a rural district, including in urban districts, across the board. You know, I don't say this often, but I agree with the Governor, and agree with her proposal here. I think it was a critical element in the negotiation that went on. This is the part that we were told would not be included, very late at night last Tuesday, and that we had to vote for it, anyway. This is a point of a lot of consternation over the last week and probably will continue to be for a few more minutes.

So, I would recommend that we adopt this, I appreciate the opportunity to present it, and I strongly encourage this Body to do so. Thank you.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "E" (S-5) and accompanying papers.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. I think it's very safe to say that there's bipartisan agreement that General Assistance reform is needed - badly needed. However, the language Part S is not reform; it's like taking a meat cleaver to the program. And it's going to take housing away from Maine residents fairly quickly, which is going to create greater homelessness, there's going to be a shift of expenses to local property taxpayers to cover what the State's no longer covering. We followed the lead of the Health and Human Services Committee that had voted 12-0 to take this issue up in the biennial budget because it was a large issue. And it was actually not supposed to be in the supplemental, it was supposed to be in the biennial.

And so, we all recognize the fact that we need to do work around General Assistance, but again, the supplemental is about emergencies. It's much more appropriate to take up this work in the biennial. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#30)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "E" (S-5) and accompanying papers, **PREVAILED**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#31)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion to **ADOPT** Committee Amendment "A" (H-1), **PREVAILED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

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

S.P. 234

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 25, 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.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.