

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
February 25, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Justin Thacker of Praise Assembly of God in Rumford.

PASTOR JUSTIN THACKER: Two of our founding fathers said this, first Benjamin Franklin, "I beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service." Our first president, President Washington, "may the father of all mercy scattered light and not darkness upon our paths, and make us in all our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy."

It's an honor to be here today as Pastor of Praise Assembly in Rumford, the guest of our senator, Senator Joe Martin. Thank you, Madam President, for the invitation to be here today, as well as the selectmen of Andover. It is truly an honor to be here. Let us pray.

Father God, we thank you for this day that you have given us. This is the day that you have made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. I pray blessing upon each one of your servants and our servants, these awesome senators, Lord, that you have raised up. I pray that you give them wisdom. I pray that you give them direction. I pray, Lord, that there will be unity in this House Chamber, and I pray, Lord, for our Madam President, Lord, that you use her to lead these Senators into one direction, which is to do the will of the people of the State of Maine. We just thank you. We praise you today. In Jesus Name, amen.

National Anthem Performed by Hannah Thacker of East Andover.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Bruce A. Bickford of Androscoggin County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 14

Ordered, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature be held at 10:45 this morning in the Hall of the House for the purpose of welcoming the Honorable Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, and members of the Judiciary, and request the Chief Justice make such communication as she is pleased to make.

READ and PASSED.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON** to deliver the message to the House of Representatives. The Senator was escorted to the House of Representatives.

Subsequently, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON** reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Soucy Family at Port Harbor Marine, of South Portland, which has received the 2024 Business Leaders of the Year Award from the City of South Portland's Economic Development Committee. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 125

Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, KESSLER of South Portland.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise today to honor and recognize Kristan Vermeulen of Cumberland, better known as Ms. Maine 2025.

With a background in entrepreneurship and an advocacy for American craftsmanship, Ms. Vermeulen's career focuses on empowering small businesses and makers across our state and country. She stays true to her word and dedicated to her craft, using only domestic clothing in her pageant appearances. A MaineBiz 40 under 40 honoree in 2022, Kristan is involved with the Maine Craft Association and the CEI Women's Business Center and engages with local high schools about her path and

career now.

As a proud mom of two, she enjoys a good day on the river, flyfishing, or enjoying a game of volleyball. Congratulations to Kristan on her Ms. Maine 2025 crown and thank you for joining me today and my colleagues. I appreciate it. Glad that you're here.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Kristan Vermeulen. She is the guest today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce. Will you please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Brooke Pirie, of Ellsworth, who won the United States of America Miss Maine Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 59)

Presented by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. Today, I'm proud to rise and recognize my fabulous constituent, Brooke Pirie, of Ellsworth.

Brooke, who recently graduated from Ellsworth High School and is now a pre-med student at Husson University, was named the United States of America's Miss Maine 2025 in October. Her fellow contestants also voted for Brooke to be Miss Congeniality, which is a special honor.

Reflecting on her victory in our local paper, the Ellsworth American, Brooke commented; it was a busy weekend, a lot of high heel wearing. That, to me, sounds similar to some days at the State House. As part of the national pageant, Brooke chose a cause that she is passionate about and one of great concern to lawmakers and our constituents; drug use awareness. It has affected Brooke personally, and I think it speaks volumes to her character and values that she is using her position as Miss Maine to raise awareness of this critical issue. Thank you, Brooke.

In addition to this advocacy, she'll continue to be busy volunteering around the state. Sorry, Brooke, don't put those high heels or your red sparkly boots away yet. For her first appearance as Miss Maine, she participated in a breast cancer walk in Cape Elizabeth - hopefully in sneakers. It is my understanding that Brooke has already been presented with a legislative sentiment from my colleague, Representative White. I was honored to co-sponsor it, and I hope it helps commemorate this special achievement for you, Brooke.

I wish you the very best when you compete for the title of United States of America Miss in Las Vegas in May. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**, in concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Brooke Pirie, of Ellsworth. She is the guest today of the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski. Would she please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

At this point a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative MOONEN of Portland, informing the Senate that the House concurred with the proposition for a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 10:45 in the morning for the purpose of extending to the Honorable Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, and members of the Judiciary an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communications as pleases them.

Leah Herrick, of Sabattus, who won the 2025 Miss Teen Maine Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 3

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative WOOD of Greene.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Madam President, I recognize Leah Herrick on winning the 2025 United States of America Teen Miss Maine, which is her second state title.

As a senior at St. Dominic's Academy, Leah balances academics with athletics, excelling on the soccer field and track. She also works at Lost Valley Ski Area, where she serves as a waitress and cashier. Through all of this, Leah has proven herself to be hardworking, dedicated, and ambitious. What makes this win even more meaningful is Leah's passion for advocating for those with hidden illnesses, a cause close to her heart. Leah uses her platform to raise awareness, to break the stigma, and inspire others to find strength in their journeys.

Leah, your resilience, compassion, and leadership are an inspiration to all. We look forward to seeing the amazing things that you will continue to do as our 2025 Teen Maine. Congratulations once again on this well-deserved win.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is now pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Leah Herrick, the 2025 United States of America Teen Miss Maine, of the town of Sabattus, and she is the guest today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake. Will she please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Jennifer Goddard, of Bangor, who won the United States of America Mrs. Maine Pageant. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 6

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representatives: RANA of Bangor, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Good morning, Madam President. I am happy to welcome and to congratulate Jennifer Goddard of Bangor.

Jennifer is a holistic health practitioner and has been doing that for a number of years now in the Bangor area. She is an active volunteer in many community activities. She is a mother of three adult sons. She is a grandmother of three granddaughters. And her message as Mrs. Maine was to -- is to talk about empowering women and empowering women as they age gracefully, which many of us are aging, hopefully gracefully, and to spread that message and to be a role model for young women and young families as they develop. And I couldn't be happier than to congratulate her and to welcome her to the Senate. Thank you very much.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is now pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Jennifer Goddard, of Bangor, who is the guest today of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci. Will she please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Paper

Bill "An Act to Create Parity in the Taxation of Medicine by Exempting Sales of Cannabis for Medical Use"
H.P. 363 L.D. 544

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

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

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **REFERENCE** to the Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

Off Record Remarks

Joint Orders

The following Joint Order:

H.P. 367

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 310, subsection 2, last paragraph to read:

Except for Leave to Withdraw, the committee shall vote on all recommendations to be included in reports on a bill during a work session on that bill. When the committee recommendation is not unanimous, a minority report or reports are required. Minority committee reports, except as provided in subsection 4, paragraph A, must be voted on at the same work session as the majority report on that bill. A committee vote to report a bill out favorably must be taken based on written language before the committee at that time or on a motion describing the content of the report. After a committee vote, no substantive change may be made in the committee report unless motions to reconsider and to amend the report are approved at a committee work session. All reports on any legislative document must be submitted to the Legislature at the same time.

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 310, subsection 4, paragraph A to read:

A. If any member is absent from the committee at the time of the vote, that member's vote may be registered with the clerk up until noon on the 2nd business day following the vote. A member may register a vote only on a report that was made when the vote was taken by the committee. A member may not register a vote with the clerk creating an additional report other than Ought Not to Pass.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **PASSED**.

The Joint Order 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. We've had a long conversation in caucus about this bill - a couple different times, actually - and it's an attempt, I think, to address something that was brought up when we were negotiating the supplemental budget and had some procedural issues that I won't belabor here as it relates to this item right now. But in the sake of being as, I think, thorough as possible here, I do worry a little bit about what could happen. I think we still have some problems here in changing our rules that will not be accounted for even under this change. And I understand the desire, and I appreciate the desire to address the immediate issue as a fallout of what happened under that -- in

that particular circumstance. However, as a member of the Rules Committee -- Joint Rules Committee, I think there's a bigger conversation that's actually needed around this entire thing. I think any time that we do a kneejerk reaction, we are opening ourselves up to even further unintended consequences. While this is a little bit of progress, I think from -- to address the underlying issue of what happens if the minority party, in particular, isn't present, what recourse is there to still register your vote, it doesn't address some other circumstances that I think are just as important, whereas -- and I'll give you a scenario of that. If, let's say, the majority party alone - not that this would ever happen - but if the majority party was operating alone in a committee and has a vote while, for instance, the minority party is caucusing in a different room over, they then have the vote, kill the bill, but then the others come in and try to register their vote that weren't in the room, they can't do that. They can only vote Ought Not to Pass still.

And so, I think if we're going down this rabbit hole of if this, then that, and all of these sort of doomsday scenarios, which is what this, you know, particular proposal is in front of us to address one of those we should do so in a more comprehensive context and really thoroughly vet all of the different options. I think the whole point of this rule change when we started this process months ago was to prevent a strike and replace of amendments after the fact that hadn't been vetted, some member comes in and votes Ought to Pass with an Amendment that nobody has heard and you don't get to review it until we get to the floor. Everybody's on the same page there, I think. That is a scenario that needs to be avoided. However, all of these other ones are, and deserve to be fully fleshed out and fully vetted, I think, by the committee of jurisdiction, which in this case is Joint Rules.

And so, with that, I would move that this item and all its accompanying papers be referred to the Committee on Joint Rules.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **REFER** to the Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.P. 284

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

February 19, 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 19, 2025, 42 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 19, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program" (S.P. 277) (L.D. 593) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: MASON of Lisbon, BLIER of Buxton, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DUCHARME of Madison, BUNKER of Farmington, DILL of Old Town)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency" (S.P. 239) (L.D. 560) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, GROHOSKI of Hancock, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: FOLEY of Wells, COPELAND of Saco, ARCHER of Saco)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Support Informed Community Self-determination in Emergency Medical Services Planning" (S.P. 266) (L.D. 583) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo) (Cosponsored by Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, BALDACCI of Penobscot, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Crime of Endangering the Welfare of a Child" (S.P. 276) (L.D. 592) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools" (S.P. 258) (L.D. 577) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Require Cardiac Emergency Response Plans and Athletic Emergency Action Plans for Schools and School-sponsored Athletic Events" (S.P. 270) (L.D. 587) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast and Representatives: MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, MITCHELL of Cumberland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Modify the Process for Standard-offer Contracts with the Public Utilities Commission" (S.P. 248) (L.D. 568) (Sponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York) (Cosponsored by Senator: STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: WARREN of Scarborough, PAUL of Winterport)

Bill "An Act to Use Certain Regional Transmission Organization Payments for Beneficial Electrification to Reduce Electricity Rates" (S.P. 268) (L.D. 585) (Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York) (Cosponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland and Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, RUNTE of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure (S.P. 280) (L.D. 596) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Cosponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport)

Bill "An Act Concerning Energy, Utilities and Technology" (S.P. 281) (L.D. 597) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers" (S.P. 240) (L.D. 561) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: MOORE of Washington, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: SHAGOURY of Hallowell, MCCABE of Lewiston)

Bill "An Act to Update Reimbursement Rates for Transportation of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes When the Transport is at the Request of the Chief Medical Examiner" (S.P. 241) (L.D. 562) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: MOORE of Washington, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: LEMELIN of Chelsea, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Apply for a Waiver from the Federal Government for the Medicaid Limitation on Payment to a Facility with More than 16 Inpatient Beds for Psychiatric Treatment (S.P. 242) (L.D. 563) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford)

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 275) (L.D. 591) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield and Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Consumer Protections by Prohibiting the Report of Medical Debt on Consumer Reports" (S.P. 237) (L.D. 558) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, RENY of Lincoln, TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Prohibiting Fees Charged for Receiving Paper Statements from Financial Institutions and Credit Card Issuers" (S.P. 261) (L.D. 580) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, INGWERSEN of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances" (S.P. 265) (L.D. 582) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative FLYNN of Albion and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, BAILEY of York, INGWERSEN of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: PARRY of Arundel, MATHIESON of Kittery, ARFORD of Brunswick, HYMES of Waldo)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program" (S.P. 264) (L.D. 581) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, SARGENT of York, BRENNAN of Portland)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Provide a Court Authority to Issue Proximity Restrictions in Protection from Abuse Orders" (S.P. 269) (L.D. 586) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, PIERCE of Cumberland, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, MITCHELL of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Update Privacy Protections for Maine Consumers" (S.P. 279) (L.D. 595) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Improve Conditions for Maine Workers and Retirees" (S.P. 252) (L.D. 571) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Improve Maine's Workers' Compensation Laws" (S.P. 253) (L.D. 572) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Improve Penalty Collection for Labor Protection Violations" (S.P. 254) (L.D. 573) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Workers in the State" (S.P. 255) (L.D. 574) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Equitable Access to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program by Removing the Requirement That Leave Must Be Scheduled to Prevent Undue Hardship on the Employer" (S.P. 256) (L.D. 575) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative: ROEDER of Bangor)

Bill "An Act Regarding Reciprocal Licensure for Professional Engineers" (S.P. 257) (L.D. 576) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Improve Occupational Regulation" (S.P. 259) (L.D. 578) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Include Certain Mental Health Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement" (S.P. 260) (L.D. 579) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, Representative: DRINKWATER of Milford)

Bill "An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act" (S.P. 272) (L.D. 588) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Make Agricultural Workers and Other Related Workers Employees Under the Wage and Hour Laws" (S.P. 273) (L.D. 589) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, CURRY of Waldo, TIPPING of Penobscot, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport)

Bill "An Act to Require Minimum Pay for Reporting to Work" (S.P. 282) (L.D. 598) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco and Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, ROEDER of Bangor, BECK of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham)

Bill "An Act to Codify the Federal Salary Threshold for Overtime Pay" (S.P. 283) (L.D. 599) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco and Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, ROEDER of Bangor, BECK of South Portland, SATO of Gorham, MACIAS of Topsham)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Improve the Operations of State Government" (S.P. 243) (L.D. 564) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Designate the 2nd Week of May as Dark Sky Week" (S.P. 247) (L.D. 567) (Sponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono and Senator: MOORE of Washington, Representatives: MATLACK of St. George, COPELAND of Saco, SALISBURY of Westbrook, POMERLEAU of Standish)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Inclusion of Racial and Other Demographic Data from State Agencies in the Legislative Process" (S.P. 274) (L.D. 590) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Resolve, Directing the State Auditor to Audit All State Agencies (S.P. 278) (L.D. 594) (Sponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn and Representatives: GREENWOOD of Wales, DRINKWATER of Milford, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, FREDERICKS of Sanford, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, HENDERSON of Rumford, CHAPMAN of Auburn, CARUSO of Caratunk)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Provide Property Tax Stabilization for Older Maine Residents" (S.P. 238) (L.D. 559) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Senators: CURRY of Waldo, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, DOUDERA of Camden)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Definition of 'Homestead' Under the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Laws" (S.P. 244) (L.D. 565) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, RAFFERTY of York, Representative: MATLACK of St. George)

Bill "An Act to Provide an Additional Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Based on Income" (S.P. 250) (L.D. 570) (Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees" (S.P. 246) (L.D. 566) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, DUCHARME of Madison, ANKELES of Brunswick)

Resolve, to Rename the Shapleigh Bridge the Shapleigh Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 249) (L.D. 569) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative: LANIGAN of Sanford)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Make the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy an Appointed Position Subject to Confirmation by the Legislature" (S.P. 267) (L.D. 584) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: RUDNICKI of Fairfield, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FREDERICKS of Sanford, BOYER of Poland)

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. 318

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

February 20, 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 20, 2025, 29 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 20, 2025, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs" (S.P. 307) (L.D. 690) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, CLOUTIER of Lewiston)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Further Investment in Maine-based Businesses" (S.P. 308) (L.D. 691) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative SARGENT of York and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, Representative: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford)

Bill "An Act Providing Appropriations and Allocations for State Government Operations" (S.P. 316) (L.D. 699) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund" (S.P. 294) (L.D. 679) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo) (Cosponsored by Representative

BUNKER of Farmington and Senators: RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Better Support the Educational Attainment of Low-income and Moderate-income Communities by Providing Additional Funding to Certain School Administrative Units" (S.P. 286) (L.D. 673) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Support Higher Education in Maine by Providing Funds to Maine's Community Colleges" (S.P. 295) (L.D. 680) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, RAFFERTY of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Bill "An Act Regarding Public Higher Education Funding in the State" (S.P. 296) (L.D. 681) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock) (Cosponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, BISHOP of Bucksport)

Bill "An Act to Increase Support for Statewide Emergency Broadcast Messaging" (S.P. 309) (L.D. 692) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston and Senators: RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representative: BRENNAN of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Bolster the Maine Teacher Residency Program" (S.P. 313) (L.D. 696) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: RAFFERTY of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston)

Bill "An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Awarding Waivers of Tuition and Fees to Eligible Students" (S.P. 317) (L.D. 700) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: MOORE of Washington, DUSON of Cumberland, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Representative: DILL of Old Town)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Require Petitions for Interstate Transmission Lines to Include Provisions for Conservation Funding" (S.P. 311) (L.D. 694) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport and Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, KUHN of Falmouth)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center" (S.P. 306) (L.D. 689) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay and Senators: INGWERSEN of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, CURRY of Waldo, BRENNER of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: ZAGER of Portland, CRAFTS of Newcastle)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers by Increasing Transparency and Accountability in the Pharmaceutical Industry" (S.P. 288) (L.D. 675) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Direct the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board to Assess Strategies to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs and to Take Steps to Implement Reference-based Pricing" (S.P. 314) (L.D. 697) (Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln) (Cosponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery and Senators: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, BAILEY of York, INGWERSEN of York, RAFFERTY of York, Representative: MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Provide for the 2025 and 2026 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 293) (L.D. 678) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo) (Submitted by the Finance Authority of Maine pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine" (S.P. 315) (L.D. 698) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor, Representative GATTINE of Westbrook and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York, CURRY of Waldo, TIPPING of Penobscot, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MEYER of Eliot, GERE of Kennebunkport)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of 'Machine Gun' and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device" (S.P. 292) (L.D. 677) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn and Senators: RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, DOUDERA of Camden, SACHS of Freeport, BECK of South Portland)

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions" (S.P. 297) (L.D. 682) (Sponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo and Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York, BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: GRIFFIN of Levant, CARLOW of Buxton, QUINT of Hodgdon, PAUL of Winterport, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Authorize Department of the Secretary of State Law Enforcement Officers to Initiate a Libel Proceeding Regarding Catalytic Converters" (S.P. 305) (L.D. 688) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland) (Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Assert State Ownership over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles and Submerged Lands and Marine Resources up to 24 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast and to Direct the Attorney General to Study That Ownership" (S.P. 304) (L.D. 687) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CYRWAY of Kennebec, MOORE of Washington, Representative: SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Create a History Education and Learning Mobile Unit Within the Maine State Archives" (S.P. 287) (L.D. 674) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Support the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions" (S.P. 310) (L.D. 693) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, BAILEY of York, Representative: KUHN of Falmouth)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Laws of the State of Maine" (S.P. 312) (L.D. 695) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland)

Transportation

Resolve, to Rename the Salmon Falls Bridge Between Buxton and Hollis the Salmon Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 285) (L.D. 672) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative BLIER of Buxton and Senator: INGWERSEN of York, Representative: CARLOW of Buxton)

Bill "An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council" (S.P. 289) (L.D. 676) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: WADSWORTH of Hiram, POMERLEAU of Standish, COOPER of Windham, TERRY of Gorham)

Resolve, to Rename the Mill Pond Bridge the Sebago Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 302) (L.D. 685) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative WALKER of Naples)

Resolve, to Rename the Kezar Falls Bridge Between Porter and Parsonsfield the Kezar Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 303) (L.D. 686) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro and Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Law Governing the Minimum Indirect Financial Interest Disclosure Requirement for Liquor Licenses" (S.P. 299) (L.D. 683) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Liquor and Lottery Operations" (S.P. 300) (L.D. 684) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Following Communication:

H.P. 332

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

February 6, 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 February 6, 2025, 26 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 February 6, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convey and Release the State's Interest in Certain Real Property Located in the Town of Richmond (H.P. 320) (L.D. 491) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities (H.P. 327) (L.D. 498) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of

Dover-Foxcroft) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, WHITE of Guilford)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Secure Prosperity for Maine Families and Businesses" (H.P. 312) (L.D. 483) (Sponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services" (H.P. 306) (L.D. 477) (Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CRAY of Palmyra, FREDETTE of Newport, PARRY of Arundel, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Department of Public Safety" (H.P. 313) (L.D. 484) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act Regarding Criminal Justice" (H.P. 314) (L.D. 485) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-defense to Safely Retreat or Abstain from Performing Certain Acts upon Demand" (H.P. 315) (L.D. 486) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CARUSO of Caratunk, EDER of Waterboro, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, WHITE of Guilford)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Time Frame for Issuing a Silver Alert and to Require Silver Alerts for All Persons Missing from Certain Inpatient Facilities" (H.P. 325) (L.D. 496) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill) (Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SUPICA of Bangor)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Expand Educational Opportunities and Broaden Educational Services for Students Enrolled in Equivalent Instruction Programs" (H.P. 311) (L.D. 482) (Sponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham) (Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, HASENFUS of Readfield, MATHIESON of Kittery, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HAGGAN of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Fairly Fund School Administrative Units for Economically Disadvantaged Students" (H.P. 330) (L.D. 501) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco, Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TUELL of East Machias)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default" (H.P. 310) (L.D. 481) (Sponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, KESSLER of South Portland, OLSEN of Raymond, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Facilitate Expansion of the State's Recycling Efforts Under the Beverage Container Redemption Program" (H.P. 308) (L.D. 479) (Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn)

Bill "An Act to Protect Coastal Property by Allowing Property Owners to Protect Their Existing Dwellings" (H.P. 317) (L.D. 488) (Sponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COOPER of Windham, JACKSON of Oxford, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act to Require Rules Designed to Reduce Climate Change to Include Estimates of the Reduction in Adverse Climate Effects and of the Cost to Consumers" (H.P. 324) (L.D. 495) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHARME of Madison, FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, PARRY of Arundel, PAUL of Winterport, SMITH of Palermo, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Department of Environmental Protection" (H.P. 326) (L.D. 497) (Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering" (H.P. 328) (L.D. 499) (Sponsored by Representative SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico) (Cosponsored by Representatives: JAVNER of Chester, LAVIGNE of Berwick, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MASON of Lisbon, PAUL of Winterport, QUINT of Hodgdon, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Bill "An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers" (H.P. 331) (L.D. 502) (Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BLIER of Buxton, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, HARRINGTON of York)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain Weight Loss Medications" (H.P. 309) (L.D. 480) (Sponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, EATON of Deer Isle, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells" (H.P. 322) (L.D. 493) (Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, RANA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing" (H.P. 329) (L.D. 500) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, FLYNN of Albion, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, RANA of Bangor, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington)

Judiciary

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights (H.P. 321) (L.D. 492) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, QUINT of Hodgdon, THORNE of Carmel, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 318) (L.D. 489) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, QUINT of Hodgdon, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Provide for a 5-year Automatic Repeal of Agency Rules" (H.P. 319) (L.D. 490) (Sponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, MINGO of Calais, MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Reduce Maximum Speeds on Roads Close to Residences" (H.P. 307) (L.D. 478) (Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford)

Resolve, Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 316) (L.D. 487) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, DUCHARME of Madison, FREDETTE of Newport, MONTELL of Gardiner, MOONEN of Portland, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws" (H.P. 323) (L.D. 494) (Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GUERRETTE of Caribou) (Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

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:

H.P. 339

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

February 7, 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 February 7, 2025, 6 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 February 7, 2025, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation" (H.P. 333) (L.D. 515) (Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips) (Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, STROUT of Harrington, THORNE of Carmel, WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Health and Human Services

Resolve, Increasing Access to Maternal and Child Health Care (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 336) (L.D. 518) (Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Remove the Requirement That Individual and Small Group Health Plans Be Offered Through a Pooled Market and to Eliminate the Provision of Law Establishing a Pooled Market for Those Plans" (H.P. 337) (L.D. 519) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, OLSEN of Raymond, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Choices in Health Insurance Markets by Modifying the Provisions of Law Governing Clear Choice Design Health Plans" (H.P. 338) (L.D. 520) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, OLSEN of Raymond, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Protect the First Amendment Rights of Individuals in the State" (H.P. 335) (L.D. 517) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth)

Transportation

Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge (H.P. 334) (L.D. 516) (Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford) (Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

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. 104

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

February 12, 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 3, MRSA, Chapter 10, §227, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission*, effective immediately:

Honorable Rick Bennett of Oxford County as a member of the Senate;
Honorable Stacey Guerin of Penobscot County as a member of the Senate;
Honorable Mike Tipping of Penobscot County as a member of the Senate; and
Honorable Mark Lawrence of York County as a member of the Senate and as a member who is fluent in the French language.

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. 105

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

February 12, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under MRSA, Title 3, §231, I am pleased to appoint the following to the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission, effective immediately.

These four members of the Maine State Senate are the members who I have appointed to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission:

Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford County
Senator Stacey Guerin of Penobscot County
Senator Mike Tipping of Penobscot County
Senator Mark Lawrence of York County

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. 99

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

February 10, 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 3, MRSA, Chapter 10, §227, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission*, effective immediately:

Honorable Anne Perry of Calais as a member who is a citizen of this State;
Honorable Joyce Maker of Calais as a member who is a citizen of this State;
Honorable Christopher Kessler of South Portland as a member of the House of Representatives;
Honorable Daniel Sayre of Kennebunk as a member of the House of Representatives;
Honorable Mark Blier of Buxton as a member of the House of Representatives; and
Honorable Lucien Daigle of Fort Kent as a member of the House of Representatives and as a member who is fluent in the French language.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 101

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

February 10, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under M.R.S.A. Title 3, §231, I am pleased to appoint the following members to the *New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission*, effective immediately.

These four members of the House of Representatives are the members who I have appointed to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission:

Representative Christopher Kessler of South Portland
Representative Daniel Sayre of Kennebunk
Representative Mark Blier of Buxton
Representative Lucien Daigle of Fort Kent

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 107

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

February 19, 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 7, MRSA, Part 1, Ch. 5, §125.2-G, I am pleased to reappoint Representative William Pluecker of Warren to the Board of Agriculture, effective immediately.

Representative Pluecker will continue to serve on this board as the member of the House of Representatives who is a member of the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 109

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

February 24, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I rescind the appointment of Representative Randall Hall of Wilton from the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 106

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

February 19, 2025

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

RE: Nominations to the Finance Authority of Maine

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to serve on the Finance Authority of Maine:

- Michael J. Foley, Jr. of Cape Elizabeth as a new appointment
- Simon Ferland of Bangor as a new appointment
- William C. Tracy as a reappointment

Pursuant to Title 10, MRSA §965, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by

the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 108

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

February 19, 2025

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

RE: Reappointment of Edward S. David of Farmington to the Maine Human Rights Commission

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate Edward S. David of Farmington for reappointment to the Maine Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to Title 5 MRSA §4561, this reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 70

**STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**

January 24, 2025

Hon. Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-003

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

RE: State of the Judiciary

Greetings,

Thank you for your invitation of January 23, 2025. Please be advised that I am pleased to accept your invitation and will be in attendance to address the Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on February 25, 2025 at 11am concerning the State of the Judiciary.

Very truly yours,

S/Valerie Stanfill
Chief Justice

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 103

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

February 10, 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. Hasenfus of Readfield, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 43 An Act to Further Protect Victims from Contact
Prohibited by Probation Conditions

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 102

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

February 7, 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. Flynn of Albion, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 190 An Act to Exempt Certain Numismatic
Transactions from State Sales Tax

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Kristen Sarah Cloutier
House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, to Update Flood Mapping in the Sandy River Watershed to Federal Emergency Management Agency Standards
S.P. 291 L.D. 758

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senators: MARTIN of Oxford, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, BUNKER of Farmington, CARUSO of Caratunk, FROST of Belgrade, POIRIER of Skowhegan, ROLLINS of Augusta.

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 Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 320 L.D. 761

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill and Senators: CURRY of Waldo, HICKMAN of Kennebec,

LAWRENCE of York, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, MATHIESON of Kittery, QUINT of Hodgdon, TUELL of East Machias.

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **REFERENCE**.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites"
S.P. 321 L.D. 762

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill and Senators: CURRY of Waldo, GUERIN of Penobscot, HICKMAN of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of York, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Include Possession of Compounds, Mixtures or Substances Containing a Detectable Amount of Certain Scheduled Drugs to Prove the Offense of Unlawful Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs"
S.P. 329 L.D. 771

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Study and Oversee Water in the State of Maine
S.P. 290 L.D. 757

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Allowing Municipalities to Approve the Establishment of Overdose Prevention Centers"
S.P. 263 L.D. 755

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill and Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BRENNER of Cumberland, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, LAWRENCE of York, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, RANA of Bangor, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

Bill "An Act to Increase Patient Safety in Long-term Care Facilities"
S.P. 298 L.D. 759

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act to Improve Long-term Care by Providing Funding for Nursing Facilities"
S.P. 322 L.D. 763

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Licensing of Certain Types of Establishments and Professions by the Department of Health and Human Services"
S.P. 325 L.D. 767

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Licensing of Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities"
S.P. 326 L.D. 768

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities"
S.P. 327 L.D. 769

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Office of the Inspector General of Child Protection"
S.P. 328 L.D. 770

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Assist Nursing Facilities in the Management of Facility Beds"
S.P. 330 L.D. 772

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

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 Ban the Sale, Use and Possession of Single-use Electronic Cigarettes and to Review Extended Producer Responsibility Options for All Batteries"

S.P. 262 L.D. 754

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach and Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Establishing the Maine Common Interest Ownership Act"

S.P. 301 L.D. 760

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Protection Laws by Limiting Contact with Violent Offenders"

S.P. 245 L.D. 752

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Bill "An Act to Support an Aroostook Adult Treatment and Recovery Court"

S.P. 251 L.D. 753

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello and Senator: BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GUERRETTE of Caribou, QUINT of Hodgdon, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Creating and Sustaining Jobs Through the Development of Cooperatives and Employee-owned Businesses by Providing Tax Deductions for Certain Qualified Business Activities"

S.P. 271 L.D. 756

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland and Senators: CURRY of Waldo, MOORE of Washington, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, HEPLER of Woolwich, STOVER of Boothbay.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Issuance of Enhanced Driver's Licenses and Enhanced Nondriver Identification Cards in Maine"

S.P. 331 L.D. 773

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

At this point the Senate retired to the Hall of the House where a Joint Convention was formed.

Following the Joint Convention the Senate was called to order in the Senate Chamber by the President.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

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

S.P. 323

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec (Cosponsored by Senators: **DUSON** of Cumberland, **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 332

JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

WHEREAS, Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey into slavery in February 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. As a young man, while still enslaved, Frederick taught himself how to read and write. At 15, he educated other enslaved individuals and attempted to gain his freedom through fighting back against a "slave-breaker," but was unsuccessful. His enslaver then sent him back to Baltimore, where he met a young free black woman named Anna Murray. Murray would later become his wife, and she risked her own security to buy Douglass the train ticket that brought him to freedom in New York City; and

WHEREAS, in the same year that Douglass got his freedom, he married Anna Murray. To get further away from the danger of re-enslavement, they moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, adopting the last name Douglass. It was here that Douglass began addressing abolitionist meetings and quickly gained a reputation as an orator. He was soon being paid to speak by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, which took him on speaking tours across the North and Midwest. His fame as a speaker increased, and so did the risk of his being caught and re-enslaved, especially after 1845, when he published his first autobiography detailing his time as a slave. In order to avoid this danger, he took his tour overseas to England, Ireland and Scotland for 2 years, until abolitionists bought his freedom, which allowed him to return back to the United States as a legally free man; and

WHEREAS, after his return to the United States, he continued his work by helping those on the Underground Railroad, supporting anti-slavery political parties and, during the Civil War, helping to ensure that emancipation would be the outcome of the war, even meeting with President Lincoln to advocate on the behalf of black troops who were not receiving the same pay and treatment as white troops. He also ran his own newspaper, The North Star, and in 1855 published his second autobiography; and

WHEREAS, after the end of Reconstruction, Douglass served under five presidents as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia from 1877 to 1881, the district's Recorder of Deeds from 1881 to 1886 and Minister Resident and Consul General to Haiti from 1889 to 1891. In addition to his federal work, Douglass continued on a speaking tour schedule giving speeches for racial equality and women's rights; and

WHEREAS, Douglass's speaking engagements also brought him to Maine multiple times, both before and after the Civil War. He spoke in Bangor and Waterville in 1855, Augusta in 1857, Waterville again in 1864 and Lewiston in 1873. Douglass came to Maine in 1877 as a guest of the veterans of the First Maine Cavalry, a famous Civil War unit, at their annual reunion in Old Orchard Beach. He appreciated the progress made on race relations that enabled him to enjoy "a game of croquet with ladies and gentlemen of a different race right out in front of the hotel"; and

WHEREAS, Douglass also maintained a lifelong friendship with the founder and first president of Bates College, Oren Cheney, who was a fellow abolitionist and activist, and used his home as a stop for the Underground Railroad, helping those escaping slavery reach Canada; 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 occasion to honor the life and work of Frederick Douglass.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise today to add brief comment on the resolution on the floor.

Frederick Douglass was a true pioneer and abolitionist. As you've heard, he visited Maine in 1877, visiting the first Maine cavalry in Old Orchard Beach. My own family's military service roots date back to regiments in -- the colored troops regiments in the Civil War. Mr. Douglass noted that his visit to OOB was a sign of great progress in race relations and that he had enjoyed a game of croquet with ladies and gentlemen of a different race right out in front of the hotel. My father, Frederick Douglass **Duson, Sr.**, and my brother, Frederick Douglass **Duson, Jr.**, share part of Mr. Douglass's name and carry his legacy and impact through their own lives. I know that if the three of them ever sat down for conversation, it would last a very long time.

As we conclude this year's special tribute to black pioneers, mail carriers, civil rights movement leaders, and labor leaders, let us all recommit ourselves to celebrating and uplifting the contributions of the black community here in Maine and around the world.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by Representative ABDI of Lewiston and Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland), the following Joint Resolution: S.P. 324

**JOINT RESOLUTION
TO RECOGNIZE THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POEM
"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" BY JAMES WELDON
JOHNSON**

WHEREAS, James Weldon Johnson was a novelist, poet, songwriter, educator, attorney, journalist, diplomat and civil rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Johnson's gifts in poetry and music led him to join his younger brother's popular music trio in New York City in 1901, where he helped to write many of the trio's songs; and

WHEREAS, Johnson became a key artistic figure in the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, continuing to publish notable collections of poems and spirituals, and is known in particular for writing the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which he wrote in 1900 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the poem, written from the perspective of African Americans in the late 19th century, includes imagery that evokes the biblical Exodus from slavery to freedom and is an exhortation to all to become active participants in the struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was converted into a song by James Weldon Johnson's brother John Rosamond Johnson and became known as the Black National Anthem due to its enormous importance to African Americans; and

WHEREAS, embedded within its lyrics are stories of triumph, struggle and freedom that resonate deeply for African Americans, especially during the reconstruction and civil rights eras, and the lyrics of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" serve as a reminder for Black Americans that each generation has had to lift their voices, along with those within their community, to demand and protect their human rights; and

WHEREAS, the song was performed for the first time on February 12, 1900 in Jacksonville, Florida by 500 school children in celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday; and

WHEREAS, at the turn of the 20th century, Johnson's lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans, and, set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom, the song was later adopted by the NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, the song includes the lyrics "... Let our rejoicing rise / High as the list'ning skies / Let it resound loud as the rolling sea / Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us / Sing

a song full of the hope that the present has brought us / Facing the rising sun of our new day begun / Let us march on 'til victory is won..."; and

WHEREAS, not only do the lyrics reflect how violence has been inflicted on the Black community, but it affirms and encourages the Black collective to remain faithful in its vision despite the struggles it has endured over the centuries; and

WHEREAS, the core message of the poem is that, through strong faith and solidarity, the Black community can move forward and reimagine a world where true liberty is achievable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this occasion to recognize the 125th anniversary of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, Madam President. Just a little bit more about James Weldon Johnson because one of the things I'm most proud of is that the State of Maine now annually every June 17th recognizes his birth and will also be considering at some point during this session the place of his death, which unfortunately was in Wiscasset, Maine.

But James Weldon Johnson began his career as an educator in rural Georgia where he taught the descendants of former slaves and eventually became the principal of Stanton, a school for African American students. While working as a teacher, he studied law, becoming the first African American to be admitted to the Florida bar since reconstruction. He entered the United States Consul of Service in 1906 and served for seven years as a diplomat, beginning in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, and then, in 1909, taking a post in Nicaragua, where he successfully navigated an attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan government through skilled negotiation. James Weldon Johnson at this time was multi-lingual, he spoke French, Spanish, and English, making him one of our most premiere diplomats at that time. He became the first African American professor to be hired at New York University in 1934, and he later served as a professor of creative literature and writing for Fiske University.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" was written as a prayer to God to acknowledge that God helped release black people from bondage. It was written so generation after generation could remember God's faithfulness to his people. It's also a song that everyone needs to know. This is an example of a negro spiritual being part of the American music experience and being an extraordinary example of a spiritual because the lyrics are so prophetic and they speak universally to all of us even today. It's a melody about liberty, acknowledging that it's not a perfect freedom, it's not a perfect freedom, but one for which we all long for and still seek. It is filled with hope for future. And it was written in three specific stanza. The first stanza is a call to worship and prayer. The second one is really a reflection of the past, and the third stanza speaks directly to God. This was not a political song, it was not written for politics. This is a deeply spiritual and deeply religious song that acknowledges our painful,

trodden past, but provides a hope for our collective future. I am so proud to be able to recognize the 125th anniversary of this amazing, extraordinary hymn, this poem, this -- this prayer to God. And that it's a great feeling that this is reflective of America's experience and of America's history. Today, lift every voice and sing.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President. I am moved by the comments of my sister senator from Portland, her sharing of the history of this important person. I'm a little nervous. We had distributed to your desks the lyrics to Lift Every Voice and Sing, and I hope many of you will join me.

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty, let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling seas. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec (Cosponsored by Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 333

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN
AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS
MOVEMENT**

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania on March 17, 1912. From his grandparents, Janifer and Julia Rustin, he took his Quaker values, which, in his words, "were based on the concept of a single human family and the belief that all members of that family are equal," according to Jervis Anderson in Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen; and

WHEREAS, Rustin began advocating for desegregation when he was a football player in high school. Lore has it that he staged an impromptu sit-in at a restaurant that would serve his white teammates but not him. He continued his activism by protesting racial segregation in the United States Armed Forces throughout college; and

WHEREAS, Rustin was a member of the pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as the Congress on Racial Equity. He spoke and engaged in advocacy throughout the country, but his actions and his open embrace of his gay identity resulted in him being arrested multiple times. He even had to resign from the Fellowship of Reconciliation board; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Rustin met Martin Luther King, Jr. Rustin helped introduce King to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He

worked with King to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1956 and 1957. King and Rustin parted ways in 1960, but their paths would cross again; and

WHEREAS, Rustin was one of the key organizers of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He started planning it in 1962, with the goal of uniting the large civil rights organizations of the time. Given his past and the recognition of his homosexuality by other leaders of the movement, he was forced to serve mostly behind the scenes as deputy director, but that did not diminish his enthusiasm. Rustin and his team coordinated much of the logistics for the march, down to the manual used by bus captains to know how they should set up transportation to and from Washington; and

WHEREAS, the March on Washington was a great success. As many as 300,000 marchers showed up, and many of the great speeches of the Civil Rights Movement were given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Bayard Rustin was in the wings making sure everything went smoothly, and he read the marchers' demands to the assembled demonstrators; and

WHEREAS, from 1965 to 1979, Rustin served as the head of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations' African American constituency group. Serving alongside A. Philip Randolph until his passing in 1979, Rustin worked to racially integrate unions and promote unions among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Rustin served on several humanitarian missions to Vietnam, Cambodia and Haiti during the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1980s, he became an advocate for people with HIV/AIDS and he no longer hid his sexual orientation from others. Because same-sex marriage was not officially recognized at the time, Rustin and Walter Naegle undertook to solidify their partnership and protect their union legally through adoption: in 1982 Rustin adopted Naegle, 30 years old at the time. Other couples followed suit; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 testimony on behalf of New York State's Gay Rights Bill, Rustin stated that "gay people are the new barometer for social change." He felt that injustice everywhere should not be tolerated and must be protested. He died August 24, 1987, as a result of a perforated appendix; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan issued a statement on Rustin's death, praising his work for civil rights and "for human rights throughout the world." He added that Rustin "was denounced by former friends, because he never gave up his conviction that minorities in America could and would succeed based on their individual merit"; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2013, Rustin was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, the highest civilian award in the United States. The citation in the press release stated: "Bayard Rustin was an unyielding activist for civil rights, dignity, and equality for all. An advisor to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he promoted nonviolent resistance, participated in one of the first Freedom Rides, organized the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and fought tirelessly for marginalized communities at home and abroad. As an openly gay African American, Mr.

Rustin stood at the intersection of several of the fights for equal rights"; and

WHEREAS, at the White House ceremony on November 20, 2013, President Obama presented Rustin's award to Walter Naegle, his partner of 10 years at the time of Rustin's death; and

WHEREAS, Rustin's life and legacy live on today on the big screen in the 2023 film Rustin, which was nominated for many awards, including two Golden Globes and an Oscar. Actor Colman Domingo played Bayard Rustin, a role which earned him Golden Globe, British Academy of Film and Television Arts and Academy Award nominations for Best Actor, making him the first openly gay American actor nominated for an Oscar for playing a gay character; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the life of Bayard Rustin, his fight against injustice and his extensive contributions to the civil rights and equal rights movements.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. As you may have noticed a slight pattern, the three black Senators in this Chamber have tried to support each other's leadership in advancing historic figures and providing information about those figures for your edification and enjoyment, I guess. When Senator Hickman came forward with Mr. Rustin, he intended to be presenting this resolve. He is indisposed today, and so I've been -- I've agreed to present the resolve on his behalf. And so, I scurried to find supplementary comments which otherwise Senator Hickman would have offered from the story of Bayard Rustin. And what I've selected is a quote from him that appears on a bronze plaque outside his former home at 340 West 28th Street in New York City.

Rustin was a close associate of Martin Luther King, Jr., and A. Philip Randolph, and many of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. He was there, he was in the room when it was happening. He was an advocate for civil rights, LGBTQ rights, he was also an AIDS educator. Rustin urged people to take action and speak up, even if they were afraid. He believed that injustice should be protested and not tolerated. So, the quote I offer from him is: "We need in every community a group of angelic troublemakers."

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator BEEBE-CENTER for the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Designate the Warden of the Maine State Prison as Chief Administrative Officer of the Bolduc Correctional Facility"

S.P. 28 L.D. 17

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.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons"

S.P. 44 L.D. 123

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

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CIMINO of Bridgton
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Representative:

MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Program to Divert Youth from the Criminal Justice System and Address Their Needs"

H.P. 482 L.D. 740

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

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

Bill "An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools"

H.P. 476 L.D. 734

Bill "An Act to Improve Ferry Service Reliability by Providing Scholarships at the Maine Maritime Academy"

H.P. 478 L.D. 736

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

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for Legislation Regarding Land Development"

H.P. 477 L.D. 735

Comes 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 Improve the Efficiency of Certain Department of Health and Human Services Licensing Investigations"
H.P. 494 L.D. 764

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program"
H.P. 495 L.D. 765

Bill "An Act to Protect the Children of Maine"
H.P. 496 L.D. 766

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 Permit Telehealth Services Across State Lines Following Referral from a Primary Care Provider Based in the State"

H.P. 484 L.D. 742

Bill "An Act to Increase the Availability and Affordability of Health Care by Eliminating Certificate of Need Requirements"
H.P. 485 L.D. 743

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

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

Off Record Remarks

Bill "An Act to Make Changes to the Law Based on a Pilot Project Conducted by the Maine State Housing Authority Regarding Efforts to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Renters"
H.P. 475 L.D. 733

Bill "An Act to Increase Preparedness for Solar Power Adoption in Maine"
H.P. 483 L.D. 741

Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce Student Homelessness"
H.P. 489 L.D. 747

Bill "An Act to Increase Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Voucher Funding to Reduce the Current Partial Waiting List and Increase Housing Vouchers for Persons Living with Mental Health Challenges"
H.P. 490 L.D. 748

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding a So-called Clean Slate Initiative for Arrest and Conviction Records"

H.P. 479 L.D. 737

Bill "An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program"

H.P. 480 L.D. 738

Bill "An Act to Reimburse the City of Ellsworth for an Access Road to a New Court Facility in Hancock County"

H.P. 481 L.D. 739

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Municipalities from Barring the Creation of Homeless Shelters"

H.P. 473 L.D. 731

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Copyrights for Works of State Government"

H.P. 474 L.D. 732

Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators"

H.P. 491 L.D. 749

Bill "An Act to Require Bleeding Control Kits in State-owned Buildings"

H.P. 497 L.D. 774

Bill "An Act Requiring Voter Approval of Legislative and Gubernatorial Pay Increases"

H.P. 498 L.D. 775

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

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

Bill "An Act to Remove Certain Wharves and Piers from the Laws Governing the Current Use Valuation of Working Waterfront Land"

H.P. 486 L.D. 744

Bill "An Act to Allow a Municipality to Sell Tax-acquired Property in Any Manner Authorized by the Municipality's Legislative Body"

H.P. 487 L.D. 745

Bill "An Act to Authorize a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Municipalities and Affordable Housing"

H.P. 488 L.D. 746

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Paper

Bill "An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates"

H.P. 442 L.D. 703

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

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Report of the Chair - Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Require the Updating of Voter Registration Signatures"

H.P. 169 L.D. 266

Reported a recommendation for a **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**.

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

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Public Law

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs and Open Training Seasons" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 493 L.D. 751

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**, pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 172, section 2.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**, in concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 492 L.D. 750

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**, in concurrence.

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

Bill "An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 320 L.D. 761

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill and Senators: CURRY of Waldo, HICKMAN of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of York, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, MATHIESON of Kittery, QUINT of Hodgdon, TUELL of East Machias.

Tabled – February 25, 2025 by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland

Pending – **REFERENCE**

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.